



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR ANDY GARDINER
President

April 12, 2016

Mr. Jeff Howell
Law Offices of Phipps and Howell
201 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Mr. Howell:

Thank you for your interest in the "Five Flags of Florida" mural located on the 5th floor observation deck of the Senate Chamber. We are in the process of reaching out to those who have expressed an interest in taking possession of the mural to inform them of the Senate's existing plan for removal and preservation and to offer interested parties the option to take ownership of this historic mural.

As you may be aware, the mural has been displayed in the Senate since the late 1970s and is beginning to show signs of age that must be addressed if the mural is to be preserved. With a commitment to ensure the protection of this work of art, the Florida Senate has a removal plan in place through an existing contract with All State Construction. The contract provides sufficient funds to conjointly remove the mural and wall and to relocate these pieces to the Senate archives maintained by the Historic Capitol.

Once removed, the Senate may elect to turn over ownership of the mural to a private entity for preservation. If you are interested in pursuing ownership of the mural, please contact our Senate Secretary, Ms. Debbie Brown at your convenience to discuss the next steps. Secretary Brown can be reached at (850) 487-5270.


As you consider this option, the Senate is providing two bids from art preservation specialists who offer alternative suggestions for removing the mural. Those bids are attached as examples for your reference, should you wish to pursue a preservation strategy beyond the plan described above. Any services beyond those included in the Senate's existing contract with All State Construction would need to be covered with private funds.

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The Senate intends to give first preference for private removal and relocation to the family of the artist, and we appreciate your assistance in sharing this information with them.

Again, we would like to extend our gratitude to all those who have expressed an interest in taking ownership of the "Five Flags of Florida" mural. We look forward to discussing the options outlined above in further detail.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Gardiner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Andy Gardiner
President

CC: Debbie Brown, Senate Secretary
Reynold Meyer, Chief of Staff

Enclosures