

IN THE TENNESSEE MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS COMMISSION

IN RE: "IKON" SCULPTURE;

NATIONAL ORNAMENTAL METAL MUSEUM, INC.,

Petitioner.

**FINAL ORDER ON PETITION FOR PERMISSION TO RELOCATE THE
SCULPTURE "IKON" COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
OVERTON PARK PURSUANT TO TENN. CODE ANN. § 4-1-412 (h)**

This matter came before the Tennessee Monuments and Memorials Commission (the "Commission") upon the Petition of the National Ornamental Metal Museum, Inc. pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §4-1-412(h). Upon review, the Commission finds that:

1. The Tennessee Monuments and Memorials Commission has jurisdiction of this case pursuant to the Tennessee Heritage Protection Act of 2016 codified at Tenn. Code Ann. §4-1-412.
2. This Petition requests permission from the Commission to allow Petitioner to relocate the "Ikon" sculpture to a prominent location along a new sculpture walk to the south of the former Memphis College of Art building.
3. "Ikon" is a sculpture by Edwin "Ted" Rust that was installed in the east entrance plaza of the Memphis College of Art building in 2001 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Overton Park.
4. Petitioner is a Tennessee nonprofit corporation that was formally organized on March 11, 1976 to preserve, promote, and advance the art and craft of fine metalwork.
5. While the Memphis College of Art closed in 2020, the Petitioner signed a lease to renovate and operate the building in May, 2022. On October 22, 2024, the Memphis


College of Art deeded “Ikon” to Petitioner to ensure that the sculpture would remain in Overton Park and be properly maintained by Petitioner.

6. The former Memphis College of Art building is undergoing a renovation to transform the former school into a museum. The east entrance plaza, where “Ikon” is located, is being redesigned and regraded to meet ADA requirements. “Ikon” must be moved as part of the renovation of the plaza.
7. The City of Memphis has adopted a resolution consenting to the relocation of the sculpture “Ikon” by the Petitioner to a new sculpture walk approximately 175 feet to the south of its current location. A copy of such resolution is included in Petitioner’s waiver petition.
8. Petitioner’s petition was filed pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-1-412 (h), and no public notice of the petition is required under that statute.
9. Petitioner is not aware of any person or entity who has a specific interest in this matter greater than that of the general public. In addition, Petitioner is only requesting that it be allowed to move the sculpture approximately 175 feet to the south of its current location, at which location such sculpture will have the same visibility as it currently does, and it will likewise have the same access as it currently has.
10. A drawing showing the current location of the “Ikon” sculpture as well as the proposed new location for the “Ikon” sculpture is included with the petition and verifies the assertions made by Petitioner regarding relocation of the sculpture at issue.
11. The cost to relocate the sculpture will be approximately \$16,000, and Petitioner has agreed to pay any and all such costs.

WHEREFORE, UPON CONSIDERATION OF THE FOREGOING, the Tennessee Monuments and Memorials Commission, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-1-412(h), finds that allowing the relocation of the sculpture “Ikon” located at the east entrance of the plaza in front of the former Memphis College of Art building to a location along a new sculpture walk approximately 175 feet to the south in order to allow the Petitioner to renovate the building and plaza serves the purposes of the Tennessee Historical Protection Act and is in the best interests of the public. **THEREFORE, IT IS SO ORDERED.**

APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE TENNESSEE MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS COMMISSION THIS THE 22ND DAY OF APRIL, 2025.

**TENNESSEE MONUMENTS AND
MEMORIALS COMMISSION**

By:  DDS

Chair Pro Tem
Dr. Anthony Hodges