

Extension Request: Gillie & Marc on JFK Promenade

Swimming with a flamingo and *They had a big whale of a time* (bronze and stainless steel), from Gillie & Marc's *Eat, Travel, Play, Care*, approved by the Arts Commission in August 2023. Submitted by Illuminate the Arts, October 2026, together with the proposal for *Friendship Bench*.

1. Current As-Installed Images

See attached: both sculptures in place on JFK Promenade near the Conservatory of Flowers, with the site plan showing their locations (sites 1 and 2).

2. Proposed Extension Timeline

Illuminate requests that both sculptures remain on view alongside *Friendship Bench*, for a term running concurrently with the new piece: two years from the installation of *Friendship Bench* (estimated December 2028).

3. Justification and Alignment with Original Goals

The Golden Mile was created to activate the car-free JFK Promenade with interactive public art that is free and open to everyone. These two works continue to do exactly that: they are made to be sat on, touched and photographed. Both have held up well since installation, which is why they were chosen to remain while the other two *Eat, Travel, Play, Care* pieces retire. Together with *Friendship Bench*, they form *Where Wild Hearts Meet*, a single grouping by the same artists.

4. Site Authorization

Our Rec & Park permit (attached) authorizes art installations on the Promenade, subject to Arts Commission approval. The current term runs March 1, 2026 – February 28, 2027, and Rec & Park renews it annually. Illuminate will renew the permit to cover the requested extension period.

5. Community Benefit

- BBC Travel named the Golden Mile and its Gillie & Marc sculptures in a January 2024 guide to San Francisco's best local spots.
- Gillie & Marc's pieces rank second only to *Naga* among Golden Mile works for QR-code lookups and social media tagging.
- Community support letters submitted for *Where Wild Hearts Meet* (Building 180, Jim Yager, Jaja Jackson, Micaela Wallen) cite the existing sculptures as popular, interactive landmarks on the Promenade.

6. Maintenance and Condition Report

There has been no significant damage or change since installation. The sculptures have occasionally been targets of vandalism and graffiti, which Illuminate has addressed as it occurred, in consultation with the artists. Both sculptures look great today, their stainless steel and bronze surfaces as striking as when they were installed.

Illuminate maintains both works under its Golden Mile maintenance plan: inspections at least every two weeks, volunteers on the Promenade daily, and monthly condition reviews with Rec & Park.

7. Other Updates

The two other *Eat, Travel, Play, Care* sculptures, *They believed every journey was a beautiful adventure* and *They were no master chefs but that didn't stop them making a feast*, will be removed from exhibit when *Friendship Bench* is installed.

As-Installed Images



Site Plan

1 and 2: existing sculptures (extension requested). 3: proposed *Friendship Bench*.

