



DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING  
Wednesday, September 26, 2018 9:00 a.m.  
CORAL GABLES MUSEUM  
285 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables, Florida 33134**

*Historical Resources &  
Cultural Arts*

2327 SALZEDO STREET  
CORAL GABLES  
FLORIDA 33134

☎ 305.460.5093  
✉ hist@coralgables.com

MEMBERS	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
	17	17	17	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Herbert Brito*							P	P	-	P	E	P
Dr. Carol Damian	P	-	-	P	P	-	P	P	-	P	P	P
Dr. Jill Deupi	P	-	-	P	P	-	E	E	-	P	P	P
Lauren Hall	P	-	-	E	P	-	P	P	-	E	P	^
Jacek Kolasiński*				P	P	-	P	P	-	P	P	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez	P	-	-	E	P	-	P	P	-	P	P	P
Freda Tschumy	P	-	-	P	P	-	P	P	-	E	P	P

**LEGEND:** A = Absent; P = Present; E = Excused; \* = New Member; ^= Resigned Member;  
- = No Meeting    + = Special Meeting

**STAFF:**

Dona Spain, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director  
Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts

**GUESTS:**

Belkys Perez, Marketing Coordinator, Economic Development Department

**MEETING RECORD / MINUTES PREPARATION:** Catherine Cathers, Arts & Culture Specialist,  
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department

Dr. Damian called the Arts Advisory Panel meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AUGUST 22, 2018:**

**A motion was made by Dr. Deupi and seconded by Mr. Kolasiński to approve the meeting minutes of August 22, 2018 as presented, which was unanimously passed as by voice vote.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. MURAL PROJECT, PRESENTED BY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Board was briefed on a public art initiative from the economic development department to work with the University of Miami (UM) on a mural painting project for the two walls on either side of “McBride Plaza” located on Miracle Mile.

Belkys Perez from the economic development department joined the meeting remotely via phone. Ms. Perez described the proposed opportunity as a significant component of the City and UM development

agreement. The intention, she said, is to have painted, interactive murals in place for three (3) months, with three to four a year, and to start with an artist who has a connection to the University.

Ms. Spain stated that murals are mentioned in the code as part of the Art in Public Places program in anticipation that there may be proposals for murals in the City and, if permitted, would go through the Arts Advisory Panel review process.

Ms. Perez stated the location as 150 Miracle Mile, "McBride Plaza", and described current City programming that happens on the Plaza. She said the location has been a point of activation, a place for people to gather for events, and seems like the right fit for something on Miracle Mile to follow on the success of the Giralda Streetscape programming.

Ms. Perez stated that she met with UM's Art Department and discussed partnership opportunities to pursue. The University, she said, recommended artist Izia Lindsay, a recent UM graduate who is now a part-time professor. She stated the intent to have interactive paintings that people can take pictures with and share on social media, similar to the Umbrella Sky project.

The Panel listened attentively and said it would be nice to support a student exhibit on the university campus; Ms. Spain stated that staff had met with the University about the possibility of doing a mural on walls that are available on campus. The Panel expressed concern about having student work for a project in the high profile proposed location. They continued with discussion about the popularity of Wynwood Walls and how up close, and over time, they lack a quality aesthetic Coral Gables is known for.

The Panel asked about funding for the project. Ms. Perez stated that it would be a partnership between UM and the City, with the City providing an artist honorarium or painting materials and UM collaborating on marketing. She said there is no funding from the economic development department and that other departments would be approached to support the project.

Ms. Cathers stated that the City has a significant partnership with the University's Lowe Art Museum, collaborating on the City's annual Art Basel programming. She stated that the relationship has developed over the past two years, has been a great success, and wondered if it's part of the UM agreement. Ms. Perez said she's aware of the relationship with the Lowe.

Additional concerns were expressed by the Panel, including that the project would be a deterrent to what is happening on Miracle Miles and using murals as a destination for Coral Gables doesn't seem like a good fit outside of a permanent artwork incorporated into a project. Staff remarked that the paseos may be a better option as they are more intimate, unique, and wouldn't take away from the aesthetic of the streetscape. The Panel also discussed how content would be overseen and the overall maintenance of the project.

Ms. Perez stated that the idea is to have something similar to the umbrellas in its appeal to the masses and something the people can come and take pictures with to post on social media.

Dr. Deupi shared that the Lowe has not participated in the (development agreement) discussions; however, there is an existing, vibrant relationship with the City and the Lowe. She shared that she has

worked with the proposed artist and has great respect for him; however, she agreed that a mural by anyone would not achieve the ends presented.

Ms. Perez continued, describing using different components on the murals as interactive opportunities with numerous people at the same time. She stated that she met with the artist and UM, and presented samples of instagramable works, including images that people could pose with. She mentioned scenes of Coral Gables they would like the artist to replicate; scenes such as Merrick House where someone can look like they're sitting on the front porch steps, envisioning multiple scenes on the walls to engage multiple people.

Ms. Cathers suggested that a commissioned opportunity could be presented with outlined goals with artists responding to those goals. The Panel, she remarked, with their knowledge and experience, could help develop those goals. Ms. Spain added that the department has received two (2) separate requests from artists wanting to present Augmented Reality (AR) artworks on the (McBride Plaza) walls.

The Panel unanimously expressed no enthusiasm for this proposal and stated that beginning a project like this with student artwork is not appropriate for Coral Gables when there are other amazing artists to consider.

The Panel continued, voicing their concern about an artist being contacted, given a location, and suggestions, with no input from the Arts Advisory Panel or the Cultural Development Board.

Ms. Tschumy stated that if an enhanced experience on Miracle Mile is being sought, use of the space itself should be considered, such as adapting it as a (temporary) pocket park that could be designed as a competition for landscape architects.

Ms. Perez stated that the City has a great working relationship with the property owner; however, the owner is not interested in using the space as a park. She went on to say that both property owners bordering the plaza have agreed to let the City to use the walls for the project.

In closing, Ms. Spain offered to be part of the conversation with UM and Ms. Perez thanked her. Ms. Perez thanked the Panel for their input and left the meeting.

**b. PUBLIC ART DONATION – CIFO COLLECTION, FREDY ALZATE GÓMEZ**

The Panel received a proposal from the Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation (CIFO) for the donation of the artwork "Vacuus" by Fredy Alzate Gómez. Staff stated that the donation request came through the Mayor, who recommended that staff contact the donor. Staff went to see the work and described it as six (6) unique components placed together, created from castings of gold mine shafts and constructed of painted fiberglass. Staff noted that the edges (and interior areas) are sharp, advising that a location such as the Alhambra Circle median may work.

Dr. Deupi commented that it is a thought-provoking work and wondered if much of the nuance of the work would be lost if driving past. The Panel agreed that the piece is interesting, discussed people wanting to see the work up close, and how to keep children from climbing on it. They spoke about having it indoors or in a protected location. In terms of aesthetics and reception of the work, the Panel agreed, that the work is more appropriate indoors, in a gallery setting and would be doing it a disservice to put it

in a median. The courtyard behind City Hall was discussed and agreed that it does not provide the necessary protection.

The Panel also spoke about the challenge of maintaining the artwork due to the material and treatment of the material. Overall, the Panel as-a-whole agreed that there are concerns regarding the location, maintenance, and safety of this artwork.

The Panel reviewed the artist's background and agreed to accept him as a pre-qualified artist.

With no further discussion, the following motions were made:

**Mr. Brito made a motion confirming the artist, Fredy Alzate Gómez as a pre-qualified artist. Ms. Tschumy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Kolasiński made a motion recommending acceptance of the donation of "Vacuus" by Fredy Alzate Gómez from the CIFO Collection with a request to be involved in siting of the artwork's location in a protected environment. Dr. Deupi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

c. ART IN PUBLIC PLACES ORDINANCE

Staff presented proposed amendments to the Art in Public Places ordinance/zoning code. The amendments, staff noted, include procedures to have requests for waivers, including recommended artwork, approved by the City Commission prior to final Board of Architects (BOA) approval.

**Ms. Tschumy made a motion recommending approval of amendments to the Art in Public Places ordinance. Mr. Kolasiński seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Staff reported that a separate incentive program is being discussed for developers to incorporate galleries and artist in residence programs into new construction.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

a. PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Staff reported that of the four artists recommended by the panel to proceed with a proposal, one had to withdraw due to an unexpected change in studio staffing. The following artists have confirmed and completed their site visit: Jose Bedia, Cherrylion Studios (Martin Dawe), and Ivan Toth-Depena.

Dr. Damian reported that she attended the site visit with two of the artists. She informed the Panel that the artists walked to the project site, discussed the use and traffic patterns, including egress of emergency vehicles, and suitable locations for public art activation. Then, she continued, the artists met with the police and fire chiefs and staff. The chiefs, Dr. Damian said, were open to artwork and expressed an understanding that the artists are capable of coming up with unique ideas, including that a memorial doesn't have to be obvious and may be approached in different ways. She said she felt that the artists understood the challenges. Ms. Spain added that the artists then met with the planning director and project architect.

b. GIRALDA AVENUE, SIBYLLE PASCHE

The Panel was updated on the arrival and installation of Sibylle Pasche's artwork "Coral Forest" and "Secrets of the Sea" the week of November 19<sup>th</sup>, prior to Thanksgiving Day.

c. VENICE IN THE GABLES, CLOSING EVENT & AUCTION

The Panel was reminded of the closing event and auction for Venice in the Gables on Friday, September 28 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m, with the auction starting around 7:00 p.m. The event, Ms. Cathers said, is being sponsored by Bacardi, USA. Staff stated that some posts will remain on the street following the closing.

The Panel was invited to attend the event and then walk to the Ninoska Huerta's art gallery on the corner of Salzedo Street and Aragon Avenue for an exhibition of watercolor paintings by artists Victor Deupi, Tom Spain, and Denman Fink, among others.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Dr. Damian asked about the Mayor's comments at the public art workshop regarding Rafael Berrios. She asked what the Mayor requested and how the Panel can respond. Staff will follow up with the Mayor on this item.

The Panel discussed the vacancy left by Lauren Hall and agreed that the skill set Ms. Hall brought to the Panel as an object conservator was valuable, stating as desire for someone with similar credentials to fill the position. Staff reviewed the criteria of membership to the Arts Advisory Panel. Dr. Damian and Dr. Deupi recommended two conservators, agreeing that Emily MacDonald-Korth would be a great fit and asked that staff forward her credentials to the Cultural Development Board for consideration.

Dr. Deupi asked staff to forward an update regarding Hank Willis Thomas' temporary public art exhibition. Ms. Cathers responded that she will do so.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

Ms. Spain reported that Peter Iglesias is the new City Manager. Dr. Damian asked that he be invited to an upcoming Arts Advisory Panel Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dona M. Spain  
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director