

# **City of Coral Gables**

*405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
[www.coralgables.com](http://www.coralgables.com)*



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, May 29, 2025**

**8:30 AM**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88687811677>**

**Police and Fire Headquarters, Community Meeting Room**

## **Cultural Development Board**

*Chairperson Leslie Pantin  
Vice Chairperson Jose Valdes-Fauli  
Board Member Geannina Burgos  
Board Member Ray Corral  
Board Member Eric Fliss  
Board Member Amanda Requena  
Board Member Frank Rodriguez*

The Cultural Development Board will hold its regular meeting commencing at 8:00 a.m. Board Members and City Staff will be physically present. All interested persons may be heard via the Zoom platform used by the City for live remote comments.

The Board's Annual Cultural Grant Review & Scoring meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Members of the public may join the meeting via Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88687811677>.

A dedicated phone line will be available so that any individual who does not wish (or is unable) to use Zoom may listen to and participate in the meeting by dialing: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 886 8781 1677.

To speak on an Agenda Item, please "Raise your Hand" or send a message to one of the meeting hosts using the Zoom Platform. If you joined the meeting via telephone, you can "Raise your Hand" by pressing \*9.

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m.

## ROLL CALL

**Present:** 6 - Chairperson Pantin, Board Member Burgos, Vice Chairperson Valdes-Fauli, Board Member Fliss, Board Member Requena and Board Member Rodriguez  
**Excused:** 1 - Board Member Corral

## A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A.-1. [25-9028](#) Cultural Development Board Meeting of April 7, 2025.

**Attachments:** [CDB Minutes April 7, 2025 Draft CC](#)

A motion was made by Mr. Fliss and seconded by Ms. Requena to approve the meeting minutes of April 7, 2025 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**Yeas:** 6 - Chairperson Pantin, Board Member Burgos, Vice Chairperson Valdes-Fauli, Board Member Fliss, Board Member Requena and Board Member Rodriguez  
**Excused:** 1 - Board Member Corral

## B. NEW BUSINESS

- B.-1. 25-8931** A Resolution approving the launch of “Intervals”, a Coral Gables Art Series as part of Miami Art Week and for an application to Art Basel for an official event, further approving funding up to \$110,000 from the Art Fund toward the program and marketing materials (unanimously recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel approval/denial vote: 6 to 0 and Cultural Development Board approval/denial vote: 6 to 0); and authorizing an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Operating Budget to recognize the transfer of funds from the Art in Public Places Reserve and to appropriate such funds to put towards the cost of the project.

Board members discussed options for this year's Art Basel programming and received a recommendation from the Arts Advisory Panel to pursue a project in partnership with hotels and/or other locations that are accessible and open to the public. the project would be designed following the successful "No Vacancy" format on Miami Beach. Artists would be sought who are represented by galleries exhibiting at Art Basel Miami Beach and invited to submit installation proposals for exhibition up to two months.

The Board discussed the benefits of the project and accepted the recommendation of the Arts Advisory Panel to pursue up to 5 locations and offer artists a project fee of \$15,000.

**A motion was made by Mr. Fliss and seconded by Ms. Requena to accept the recommendation of the Arts Advisory Panel to develop a project for Art Basel 2025 in partnership with up to 5 locations, and provide artists a project fee of \$15,000 to develop their installations.**

**Yeas:** 6 - Chairperson Pantin, Board Member Burgos, Vice Chairperson Valdes-Fauli, Board Member Fliss, Board Member Requena and Board Member Rodriguez

**Excused:** 1 - Board Member Corral

## **C. OLD BUSINESS**

## **D. CULTURAL GRANT UPDATES**

## **E. ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES**

Board members were updated on current Art in Public Places projects and reminded to attend the unveiling of Janine Antoni's artwork "Whispering Through a Stone" on June 1st.

### **25-8544**

AiPP Active Project Lists

**Attachments:** [AiPP Projects Municipal & Private February 2025](#)

**F. CITY COMMISSION ITEMS**

The Board was advised of the City Commission's approval to acquire Frank Stella's sculpture "Puffed and Inverted Star II".

**G. DISCUSSION ITEMS****H. ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

There being no further business for the regular Board meeting, Members took a short break before starting the Cultural Grant Review and Scoring meeting.

**I. CULTURAL GRANTS**

- I.-1.      **25-9106**      A Resolution of the City Commission approving Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Cultural Grant recipients and setting in place a funding mechanism contingent on the City's approved budget. (Unanimously recommended by the Cultural Development Board approval/denial vote: 6 to 0).

Chair Pantin called the FY2025-2026 Cultural Grant Review & Scoring meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed guests and cultural grant applicants participating via Zoom.

Ms. Cathers stated that the purpose of the meeting is for the Board to discuss each Cultural Grant application and make a final recommendation on the scoring and method of fund distribution that will move forward to the City Commission.

On behalf of the city, Ms. Cathers thanked the Board for their time and the attention given to thoroughly review each grant application. It was noted that the Cultural Development Board is made up of volunteer appointees who are residents of Coral Gables and are great supporters of the arts. Board members were introduced, and the City Clerk's office and IT were thanked for their support.

Cultural grant applicants were thanked for attending and for choosing Coral Gables as a place to present the arts.

Applicants were reminded that funding is not guaranteed until the city budget is approved by October 1, 2025, and that the calculations used in the meeting will reflect a recommended funding estimate of \$228,228.00 plus \$50,000 dedicated to Youth Arts Programs.

The following additional comments and directions were provided to attendees:

- All meeting attendees on Zoom will be muted.
- Please edit participant name with the organization listed first, followed by the name. This is important for easily identifying the organization if a Board member has a question.
- Technical questions for staff may be entered in the chat box.
- In keeping with the grant review and scoring process, questions regarding an application itself, Board member comments, and scores, will not be addressed.
- Board members have read all grant applications and submitted scores prior to the meeting.
- Each applicant organization's name will be read out loud prior to discussion.
- A first and second reader has been assigned to give a brief overview of the grant request and offer initial comments. All Board members are welcome to follow up with additional remarks and engage in discussion.
- If a Board member has a question, a request will be made for the organization's representative to un mute.
- After discussion, Board members will be asked for any changes to their scores and will read their final overall score out loud.
- Once scores are verified, the highest and lowest scores are dropped prior to

calculating the final average score of the Board for each application, which will be read out loud.

- After all scores are submitted, scores will be verified and viewed in relationship to each other on a spreadsheet, which may be viewed on the shared screen.
- The Board will be asked to make a motion accepting the scores as presented.
- The Board will then discuss how the proposed funding will be distributed and make a recommending motion for the City Commission to consider.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli was not present during discussion and scoring of the Coral Gables Museum application, otherwise all members were in attendance throughout the meeting.

A multiplier and percentage formula were used to adjust proposed funding recommendations proportionately and for the purpose of discussion. (It was previously noted that bonus points were added to final scores).

The Coral Gables Museum receives funding through a separate budget line item and was therefore removed from calculations used to determine potential funding for the remaining fifty-one (51) applicants.

The Board took a short break after submitting all scores.

The Board was advised that they could make a motion to accept or revise the scores and propose a method of calculation. After a brief discussion, and minimal score adjustments, the following motion was made:

**Ms. Burgos made a motion to accept the Board's FY2025-2026 Cultural Grant application scores as presented. Mr. Fliss seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

After thoughtful deliberation and discussion, the following motion was made regarding the distribution of available funds:

**Ms. Requena made a motion recommending Cultural Grant funding allocations equally distributed based on the use of a modified multiplier taking into consideration the scores and requested amounts with a higher percentage provided to the Coral Gables Core organizations. Mr. Fliss seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**Ms. Burgos made a motion recommending any balance in the CGYAP category to be given to the top scorer. Mr. Fliss seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**Ms. Requena made a motion recommending any balance in the CGC and CP categories to be given to the top two scoring applicants in the CP category. Mr. Fliss seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Ms. Burgos made a motion to accept the Board's FY2025-2026 Cultural Grant application scores as presented. Mr. Fliss seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Requena made a motion recommending Cultural Grant funding allocations equally distributed based on the use of a modified multiplier taking into consideration the scores and requested amounts with a higher percentage provided to the Coral Gables Core organizations. Mr. Fliss seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Burgos made a motion recommending any balance in the CGYAP category to be given to the top scoring applicant. Mr. Fliss seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Requena made a motion recommending any balance in the CGC and CP categories to be given to the top two scoring applicants in the CP category. Mr. Fliss seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Yeas:** 6 - Chairperson Pantin, Board Member Burgos, Vice Chairperson Valdes-Fauli, Board Member Fliss, Board Member Requena and Board Member Rodriguez

**Excused:** 1 - Board Member Corral

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **NOTE**