

# City of Coral Gables

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



## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, August 19, 2025**

**9:30 AM**

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

**Sister Cities Conference Room - Coral Gables Museum**

## **Cultural Development Board**

*Chairperson Jose Valdes-Fauli*  
*Vice Chairperson Frank Rodriguez*  
*Board Member Eric Fliss*  
*Board Member Armando Hassun*  
*Board Member Leslie Pantin*  
*Board Member Barbara Perez*  
*Board Member Amanda Requena*

The Cultural Development Board will hold its regular meeting commencing at 9:30 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.

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 9:30 a.m.

## **ROLL CALL**

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Mr. Hassun to allow Chair Pantin to participate in the meeting via Zoom due to being out of town. The motion passed unanimously.

**Present:** 7 - Board Member Pantin, Board Member Fliss, Board Member Requena, Vice Chairperson Rodriguez, Chairperson Valdes-Fauli, Board Member Perez and Board Member Hassun

## **A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

[25-9560](#) Cultural Development Board Meeting of July 15, 2025.

**Attachments:** [CDB Minutes July 15, 2025 Draft CC](#)

A motion was made by Mr. Hassun and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez to approve the meeting minutes of July 15, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

**Yeas:** 7 - Board Member Pantin, Board Member Fliss, Board Member Requena, Vice Chairperson Rodriguez, Chairperson Valdes-Fauli, Board Member Perez and Board Member Hassun

## **B. NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-300****B.-1.     [25-9489](#)**

A Resolution of the City Commission approving the concept and commissioning of a work of public art by Michele Oka Doner in conjunction with The Aurelian development project at 912 E. Ponce de Leon Blvd., in fulfillment of the Art in Public Places requirement for public art in private development (unanimously recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel approval/denial vote: 5 to 0; unanimously recommended by the Cultural Development Board approval/denial vote: 7 to 0).

**Attachments:**   [Commission Cover 08.26.2025 AiPP The Aurelian Oka Doner](#)  
[R-Draft-AiPP The Aurelian Oka Doner](#)  
[Exhibit A AiPP Submittal - Aurelia](#)

Board members were provided with a proposal for a waiver request of the Art in Public Places fee for The Aurelian development project at 912 E. Ponce de Leon Blvd.

Jose Mata and Kenneth Dupret appeared before the Board on behalf of the developer, Empira Group. They described the project and discussed the location. Michele Oka Doner was unable to attend; however, Mr. Mata walked through a PowerPoint presentation detailing previous related work by the Artist and the proposed sculpture, "The Aurelia."

Board members were provided with the Arts Advisory Panel's recommendation to recommend approval, including their comments to address the siting and lighting of the artwork.

After a brief discussion, the following motion was made.

**A motion was made by Mr. Valdes-Fauli and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez to accept the recommendation of the Arts Advisory Panel and recommend approval of the waiver request for The Aurelian as presented. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Yeas:** 7 - Board Member Pantin, Board Member Fliss, Board Member Requena, Vice Chairperson Rodriguez, Chairperson Valdes-Fauli, Board Member Perez and Board Member Hassun

**B.-2.     25-9569**

Chair and Vice-Chair appointments

**A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Mr. Hassun nominating Mr. Valdes-Fauli to serve as the Chair of the Cultural Development Board for the term of office 06/01/2025 - 05/31/2025. Mr. Valdes-Fauli accepted the nomination and the motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Fliss and seconded by Ms. Requena nominating Mr. Rodriguez to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Cultural Development Board for the term of office 06/01/2025 - 05/31/2025. Mr. Rodriguez accepted the nomination and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Yeas:** 7 - Board Member Pantin, Board Member Fliss, Board Member Requena, Vice Chairperson Rodriguez, Chairperson Valdes-Fauli, Board Member Perez and Board Member Hassun

**C. OLD BUSINESS**

**D. CULTURAL GRANT UPDATES**

Mr. Fliss led a discussion regarding updates to the Cultural Grant process. He summarized the previous year process and recommended including the Bonus Points received per application to be included in advance of the final review and included in the average score prior to final calculation. In addition, he urged greater attention to the criteria regarding project budgets vs. operating budgets. Board members agreed and staff responded that the modifications will be made along with defining the Youth Arts Program in greater detail.

**E. ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES**

[25-8544](#)

AiPP Active Project Lists

**Attachments:** [AiPP Projects Municipal & Private 2025](#)  
[McBride Murals - Spanish Consulate\\_Lalone](#)

Art in Public Places updates were provided to the Board, noting that the Frank Stella artwork has been delivered, the Cardenas appraisal is in progress, and digital scanning has begun for the Gables Go! project.

**F. CITY COMMISSION ITEMS**

Board members were advised of items being presented at the August 26 City Commission meeting:

- Art in Public Places Zoning Code amendment - second reading
- Arts Advisory Panel member appointments - on consent
- FL DOS grant acceptance for Morel Doucet exhibition
- The Aurelian development project AiPP waiver request for artwork by Michele Oka Doner (pending results of this meeting)

**G. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The Board requested that a representative of the City Attorney's Office be invited to their next meeting to discuss the Art in Public Places code.

**H. ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Next meeting: Tuesday, September 16 at 9:30 a.m.**

**NOTE**