



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
March 11, 2014

ITEM TITLE:

Resolution authorizing entering into an Agreement with Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Inc. to participate in the Million Orchid Project, and to authorize the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Annual Budget Funds to support this Project.

DEPARTMENT HEAD RECOMMENDATION:

Approval

BRIEF HISTORY:

More than a century ago, South Florida trees in hardwood hammocks were blanketed with native orchids. Over time, orchids were exploited, and now they exist in extremely small numbers.

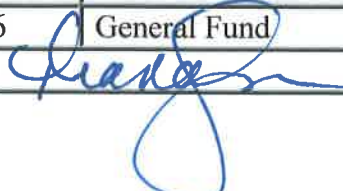
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is propagating a million native orchid plants for restoration into South Florida's urban landscapes and teaching the importance of species restoration. Their new Micropropagation Laboratory is generating large quantities of native orchid plants from seed, with the assistance of students, volunteers and the local community. The goal is to reestablish native orchids within public spaces of South Florida. A similar program at the Singapore Botanic Garden has successfully propagated and replanted native orchids to the extent that they can reproduce naturally, even on street trees.

The Fairchild project is unique in its scale and in its exclusive focus on public landscapes as well as the involvement of the local community. The City has the opportunity to partner with Fairchild in this important endeavor, by providing \$30,000 a year for five years, plus use of a bucket truck and driver, in exchange for Fairchild installing 50,000 native orchids a year in City street trees. This will be a total of 250,000 orchids in City trees. A third of the orchids will be *Encyclia tampensis* (Florida Butterfly Orchid), a third will be *Cyrtopodium punctatum* (Cowhorn Orchid), and a third *Prosthechea cochleata* (Cockleshell Orchid). (See attached photos).

The Parknership, an alliance between private citizens, corporate citizens and City government through the Coral Gables Foundation, has agreed to provide \$5,000 a year for the five years towards the City's contribution for this project.

The proposed Resolution also authorizes in the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Annual Budget \$30,000 to fund the Million Orchid Project.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: (If Applicable)

No.	Amount	Account No.	Source of Funds
1.	\$30,000	001-6130-539-31-96	General Fund
APPROVED BY: 			

APPROVED BY:

Department Director	City Attorney	City Manager
		

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Photos of Orchids
2. Proposed Resolution with proposed Professional Services Agreement