

DRAFT

EXCERPT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Wednesday, March 9, 2022 9:00 a.m.**

**Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
Hybrid Meeting & Virtual via Zoom**

MEMBERS	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	22	22	22
Nelson de León	-	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Eugenia Incer*					P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P
Adler Guerrier	-	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Maggie Hernandez* - V. Chair	-	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	A	E	P	P
Dr. Jacek Kolasiński - Chair	-	P	E	-	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
Emily MacDonald-Korth	-	V	P	-	E	E	E	E	P	P	P	P
Manny Mato	-	V	P	-	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Marijean Miyar	-	V	P	-	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez	-	V	P	-	P	P	P	E	A	P	P	P

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

STAFF:

Warren Adams, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director
Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist

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

The Arts Advisory Panel meeting was called to order by Mr. Kolasiński at 9:03 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

c. AIPP WAIVER REQUEST, ALEXAN CRAFTS – VAUGHN SPANN

Panel members were provided with proposal materials from the Alexan Crafts development project for a waiver of the Art in Public Places fee in lieu of commissioning and donating artwork by the artist Vaughn Spann. Ms. Cathers introduced Jorge Navarro, who joined the meeting via Zoom as the developer’s representative, who also joined. David Castillo, acting as the developer’s art consultant, joined via Zoom to provide details about the artwork. Panel members were given hard copies of optional site plans to supplement the materials that were previously sent.

Mr. Navarro greeted the Panel and stated that the development project received direction and guidance from the Mayor as they re-designed the project that allowed the creation of a public park, including working with Commissioner Anderson on the relocation of 3 large specimen oak trees to provide a large tree canopy. Continuing, he stated they wanted to create a signature focal point to the park with an area to display a world-class piece of art and worked with David Castillo to commission a sculpture by Vaughn Spann that will be part of the artist's "rainbow" collection. The idea, Mr. Navarro said, is to display the artwork in a location where it is visible and un-obstructed by different angles from the street, allowing it to be prominently displayed for everyone to enjoy.

David Castillo introduced himself and addressed the Panel about the specifics of the artwork. Ms. Cathers referenced the Panel's familiarity with Vaughn Spann and informed the development team that the artist has been pre-qualified and is approved. Mr. Castillo gave brief biographical information about the artist, noting that he is one of the most sought-after artists today and there is extensive interest in his work by private collectors, the art market, and museums, including those in Asia, Europe, and the United States. Mr. Castillo said to date, the "rainbow" body of work has been created for interior spaces at various scales and very few times. This piece, he said, would be the first and a unique work in the "rainbow" body of work that the artist does not intend to make many of, despite extensive international waiting lists. Mr. Castillo spoke about the artist's consideration that goes into each project and what it is for. This body of work, he said, is specifically about including people that traditionally are not included, this idea of the bands of the colors of the rainbow.

Mr. Castillo spoke about the materials and the importance of using ones that withstand the test of time. He said they will work with a fabricator that has made works for many internationally acclaimed artists. The piece, he continued, will be Corten steel, powder-coated aluminum, a steel structure and stainless-steel fasteners. The material, Mr. Castillo said, exists in sculptures throughout South Florida and is widely used by international artists. The aluminum components, he said, are the same as used for automobiles; the work overall being intended for outdoor installation in various weather and climate conditions. Mr. Castillo ended by saying it will require very little maintenance and re-stated that the artwork is a first monumental work by the artist translated after one of his most sought-after images and would be a gift from the developer to the City of Coral Gables.

Ms. Hernandez said she loves the work and it has a place in the City and in the collection; this is the kind of work the City should be looking at and installing. She asked where the budget is coming from. Ms. Cathers responded that is part of the Art in Public Places program related to private developers who have a requirement to contribute 1% of their aggregate project value into the City's art fund or request a waiver by purchasing or commissioning artwork. In this case, she said, the developer is requesting a waiver to commission artwork, install it on (what will be) City property,

and donating the work to the City. It was clarified that the developer would be responsible for purchasing the artwork, packing, shipping, permits, installation, etc. Ms. Cathers stated that as part of their (agreement), the developer submits invoices and receipts showing proof of payment for how the funds were spent. Anything above and beyond the (1%), she said, is the responsibility of the developer. She also stated that there are allowable and not-allowable expenses. The Panel briefly discussed to greater understand the code provisions.

Ms. Hernandez asked if consultant and design fees are an allowable expense. Ms. Cathers responded that there is an allowable percentage that may be used for a consultant.

Mr. Kolasiński asked Ms. MacDonald-Korth if there are concerns about the materials or construction, noting that it is a very complex construction. Ms. MacDonald-Korth responded that there are a lot of pins which could be a point of failure, but they specify they are all stainless-steel, which is the best one can hope for. In that sense, she said, the materials listed sound good and other than it being a complex structure, she doesn't have any inherent concerns about the material and hopes they will age nicely with one another. Mr. Castillo stated that weather conditions do vary, and it would be constructed to the code and standards required. He added that (the materials) reflect the artist's work and will be recognizable to an international audience that comes to Coral Gables, saying: "Oh, my goodness, that's a Vaughn Spann!). Ms. MacDonald-Korth noted that the materials selected are probably going to look wonderful; and it's still very hard to predict the marriage of the materials over time. Which, she said, is true about many works of art.

Ms. Incer said that working with the University of Miami's sculpture collection, Corten steel has been a material they are careful of because they have seen the physical and brutal deterioration resulting from the South Florida environment over time. This, she said, is for works that have been on campus for 30-40 years. Rust is a significant concern, Ms. MacDonald-Korth agreed. Mr. Castillo said that it is intentional because the piece is supposed to have the texture of the (artist's) paintings; so the actual rust, if you look at his painting work, that texture is what he wants to achieve in 40-50 years. Ms. MacDonald-Korth said it will start changing in less than 40 years and will have a continued evolution. Mr. Castillo referenced the Panel noting other Corten steel pieces in Maimi and they do rust and do bleed. He reiterated is part of the texture the artist wants to achieve and what makes it look more like his work.

The Panel discussed the powder-coating treatment, which was likened to a car finish; however, it would not require polishing and waxing like a car Mr. Castillo said. The material itself is the protection, he added.

Returning to the Corten steel, Ms. Hernandez asked about the bleeding of the material and how it would look on the base. She suggested a darker color concrete so the rust stains can't be seen. It was noted that power-washing will not remove rust stains. Mr. Castillo responded that there will

be a basin, so the rust won't ever be on the base. This was brought up by staff, he said, and the developer is open to putting in a kind of basin where the rust would filter in. He agreed that no matter what color the base is, it will get dirty. Ms. MacDonald-Korth asked that it be illustrated in the drawings and said it is a good idea, but it may look like a large, dark oval in the center of the plinth underneath the work. Mr. Castillo said that he is sure they will provide a rendering and his role is with the art, whereas the footer is up to the developer to build per specification of the code and whatever the committee decides is best for the longevity of the piece and maintenance. Ms. Cathers asked the Panel for other recommendations, saying that it needs to be addressed.

Mr. de León brought up the plan options and asked if the artist located the work. Mr. Castillo responded, saying the artist had an opinion along with the developer and as the Panel will, with the ultimate placement being whatever is recommended. Mr. de León asked if there is a preferred option. Ms. Cathers reviewed the two plan drawings and where the large specimen trees are. Mr. de León noted that both versions would have the art in shade part of the day and the one in the corner would probably be in shade all day because it's close to a tree and there is a large canopy. Mr. Navarro said the current preference is where the artwork is in the center of the park. He said they are still working on the walkways, where the pavers and seating areas are.

Mr. Navarro said it is intended as a passive park. The Panel discussed the sight lines and best visibility. Mr. Navarro said right now (the sculpture) is best viewed from Catalonia and could be oriented to provide visibility to both streets; they are open to direction from the Panel. Mr. Guerrier asked how tall the building is. Mr. Navarro said it is 75 feet high and drops to 68-65 feet in the middle; however, the portion of the building to the south is at 75 feet.

The Panel briefly discussed the structural integrity. Ms. MacDonald-Korth said the number of pins gives some confidence but there are concerns in other areas. Mr. Guerrier noted that the building will shield a lot of wind on the ground level around the sculpture. The piece being hit by branches was noted as a concern and Ms. Incer mentioned leaf litter and layers of humidity in the nooks and crannies, which is seen at the University's collection; maintenance needs to be regular. Ms. MacDonald-Korth noted that every hole for the screws are openings for problems to happen. She noted that it doesn't deter from recommending the piece, but they are real concerns that everyone needs to be aware of.

Ms. Hernandez stated that the City will have to maintain the piece and clean it on a more frequent basis than maybe other works of art. She asked if the City is able and willing to do that. Ms. Cathers said it would be a condition of accepting the artwork. Ms. Incer noted that frequency of maintenance should be considered and the impact it has on the budget. Ms. Cathers said a maintenance plan is required to be submitted with acceptance of the artwork.

Ms. Cathers asked Mr. Castillo if there is a title for the artwork. He responded and said it will be determined by the artist when the piece is finished, which is how he works with all his artwork. He said although it hasn't been titled, it is (likely) to have "rainbow" in it and something specific to Coral Gables or the residents.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez had to leave the meeting prior to full discussion about this item and expressed his support before departing.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Ms. Hernandez made a motion recommending approval of the waiver request for the Alexan Crafts development project to commission and donate artwork by the artist Vaughn Spann. Mr. de Guerrier seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Castillo and Mr. Navarro thanked the Panel and left the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist