

DRAFT

EXCERPT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, June 30, 2021, 9:00 a.m.
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
Hybrid Meeting in City Commission Chambers & Virtual via Zoom**

MEMBERS	A	S	S O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	APPOINTED BY:
	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	
Leslie Pantin	P	P	P	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Vince Lago
Frank Martinez	P	A	P	-	-	-	P	P	E	E	P	P	Vice-Mayor Michael Mena
Frank Rodriguez*												P	Commissioner Rhonda Anderson
Ray Corral*												P	Commissioner Jorge L. Fors Jr.
Jose Valdes- Fauli*												P	Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez
Dr. Bernice Roth Chair	P	P	P	-	-	-	V	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Dr. Rosa Maria Mayorga	P	E	P	-	-	-	V	V	V	E	P	P	Board Appointee

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
Kara Kautz, Assistant Historic Preservation Officer
Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist

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

Dr. Roth called the Cultural Development Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

e. ILLUMINATE CORAL GABLES, PUBLIC ART - ARTIST APPROVAL & FUNDS

Patrick O’Connell, co-founder of Illuminate Coral Gables (ICG), appeared before the Board via Zoom and provided an update regarding the project. He stated that he met with the City Manager and gave him a status of fundraising and secured sponsorships.

The Board was advised that the previous year they made a recommendation to the City Commission to approve the proposed artists for ICG. This year, the Board is being asked again to recommend proposed

artists and to recommend funding of \$200,000 from the art acquisition fund toward ICG 2022. They were informed that the Arts Advisory Panel has reviewed the artist list and presentation and made a recommendation to the Cultural Development Board to approve the proposed artists.

Mr. O'Connell presented a PowerPoint outlining the project, proposed artists, and projects for Illuminate Coral Gables 2022.

Mr. Martinez asked if all the artists are confirmed. Mr. O'Connell responded that all artists have confirmed their interest and commitment to participate. He said the goal is to have them under contract by this summer so fabrication can start.

Staff advised the Board that at the previous City Commission meeting, the Mayor expressed concern about artists who may have political connections to countries that violate human rights, no specific artists were named. Dr. Roth asked if anything would change if a recommendation was made not to fund artists affiliated with countries accused of human rights offenses. Mr. O'Connell responded that ICG is seeking clarification before any decisions are made.

Mr. Corral asked about the barricade artwork at Merrick Park. Ms. Cathers clarified that ICG is purchasing the barricades this year. Mr. O'Connell confirmed, saying the lights from last year are being used with purchased barricades being welded in a slightly different, more impactful way to create a new large-scale work.

With no further questions from the Board, Mr. O'Connell thanked the Board for their time and support and left the meeting.

Dr. Roth asked what the \$200,000 would be used for. Staff responded that the City Manager's office requested use for general expenses; it was stated that this could be artist fees, fabrication expenses, event production, banners (signage), marketing, etc. Dr. Roth expressed concern about art funds being used for temporary rather than lasting items, noting that eventually there will be an end to large contributions and will affect the art acquisition fund.

Mr. Pantin asked how funds were used the previous year. Ms. Cathers responded that last year \$100,000 was used from a marketing fund (through economic development) and \$200,000+ was used from the art acquisition fund for the temporary exhibition of Kiki Smith's "Blue Night", which supported the ICG exhibition. She said the budget for ICG is over \$800,000.

Mr. Martinez commented that given the current context, contributing factors mentioned, and since the City has dedicated resources in the past to temporary work, he sees this as a viable use of the fund and asked the Board to consider what it wants to do regarding future planning.

Dr. Roth wondered if this is going to be an annual line item and if ICG will be seeking additional funds to replace funding requests from the art fund. Staff responded that the request is for this year only. Dr. Roth said it would be good to know, based on 2019 business, what kind of increase in business there was and encouraged support from the economic development department. Ms. Cathers noted additional funds may come through the economic development department. Mr. Pantin referenced reports of a great increase in

parking revenue. Dr. Roth suggested looking at other City departments benefiting from the project and not rely on the art in public places fund.

Ms. Cathers confirmed that as staff, per the City Attorney's Office, her participation with ICG presents no conflict.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli recused himself from this item due to his affiliation as a Board member of ICG and left the room during discussion and voting.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Pantin made a motion accepting the recommendation of the Arts Advisory Panel and recommend approving the proposed artists as presented for Illuminate Coral Gables 2022. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Martinez commented that there was not enough information regarding the nature of the Mayor's concerns and that the City Commission will ultimately make the final decision.

Mr. Pantin make a motion recommending funding of \$200,000 from the art acquisition fund toward Illuminate Coral Gables 2022. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist