

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-1
October 22, 2024
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Melissa Castro

Commissioner Ariel Fernandez

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Manager, Amos Rojas, Jr.

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Arts and Cultural Coordinator, Catherine Cathers

Public Speaker(s)

Carlos Beckman

Agenda Item G-2[2:59 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission approving the exhibition of a mural by artist Eduardo Kobra on private property at The Plaza, 2950 Coconut Grove Dr. (unanimously recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel approval/denial vote: 7 to 0; unanimously recommended by the Cultural Development Board approval/denial vote: 7 to 0).

Mayor Lago: Give me G-2.

City Attorney Suarez: G-2 is a Resolution of the City Commission approving the exhibition of a mural by artist Eduardo Kobra on private property at The Plaza, 2950 Coconut Grove Drive.

Arts and Cultural Coordinator: So, Mr. Clerk, if you can see if either Ms. Garcia is on Zoom, otherwise Mr. Beckman, Carlos Beckman, if either one of them are, then I will run the slides for them, and they will do the talking.

City Commission Meeting
October 22, 2024

City Clerk Urquia: I have someone with the last name Beckman on Zoom.

Arts and Cultural Coordinator: Mr. Beckman, are you on the call.

Mr. Beckman: I am Catherine, thank you. Can you all hear me.

Arts and Cultural Coordinator: Yes. Okay. If we can put the presentation back up.

Mr. Beckman: Mayor, Commissioners, thank you so much. I apologize if I stutter a little bit here, I'm actually pitching in for Isabel from Bradesco, who is really the force behind the mural, but I think Catherine and I have done this a couple of times before, so we'll try to run through the presentation quickly and efficiently for everybody so that you all can go to lunch. For those of you familiar with Kobra, obviously, he's a contemporary artist from Brazil. Having a mural in this location at the wall facing the porta-cache, right next to the porta-cache of the Lowes Coral Gables. Actually, started many, many years ago, we have an empty white wall currently there. At one point we wanted to do a mural there as part of the general Art in Public Places program for The Plaza. We all chose the sculptures and pieces that you are familiar with and at that point, obviously the funds were exhausted, so we never got to do the mural. Working together with one of our anchor tenants here, Bradesco, who has the top three floors of the south office tower, and just before Art Basel later this year, the idea came to finally realize something on that space, white wall space and do a mural. So, this is the proposal we got from Eduardo Kobra himself. What you see on the screen is Tom Jobim, very famous Brazilian bossa-nova artist that did some work together with Frank Sinatra, to the left, and as they are playing and recording music, you can see the famous color scheme, triangular figures that Kobra is famous for. The piece is 100 percent sponsored by Bradesco and the intention is, obviously for The Plaza Coral Gables, to take any additional expenses for the creation of the mural itself, and maintenance, as need be. I would like to thank Catherine for helping us run through this really quickly, because if we really want to get this before Art Basel later this year, obviously a quick review and approval process was needed and I think we are still on time to get this done in the next three to four weeks, five weeks, and have a good event unveiling event just during the Art Basel week that will bring a lot of people and visitors and it will be another attraction to The Plaza Coral Gables.

Arts and Cultural Coordinator: So, just to continue on and give a little bit more context and again go through the review and recommendation process that we used. So, where the yellow star is, is the location of the mural, so you can see it is just to the left if you are facing the entrance of the Lowes Hotel, which is on a one-way street. Again, it went through the Arts Advisory Panel and the Cultural Development Board with unanimous recommendations on October 2nd and on October 15th. These are just some specifications about the piece. So, it is a newly commissioned work that would be completed in 2024, hopefully in time for Art Basel. It is a painted mural that it should take about a week, a little less than a week to complete. Right now, the intention is to stay up for approximately five years, could be less, depending on how well it weathers. It is in, again a kind

*City Commission Meeting
October 22, 2024*

of protected area, so we think that it would do well there. And just as an aside, I actually saw the piece, I don't know if any of you saw it down at the Adrienne Arsht Center, I was down there, downtown last night and there is a beautiful piece by his on the wall of the Adrienne Arsht Center of a ballerina. So, you could see some of his other work from around the world. That's it. If you have any questions for Mr. Beckman or myself.

Commissioner Castro: To avoid any possible future conflicts, I'm going to go ahead and recuse myself from this and step out.

City Attorney Suarez: Okay. It's because you have or had a business relationship with the entity that's paying for this piece, right.

Arts and Cultural Coordinator: Bradesco.

Commissioner Menendez: I think its very fitting, timing is great, unless there are other comments, I'll make a motion.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I just had a question. You talked about a limited time period for it to be up, is the applicant going to paint over it, be responsible for painting over it at that point?

Arts and Cultural Coordinator: Carlos could you respond to that, because its really is on the developer's property, its on their private property.

Mr. Beckman: Yes Commissioner, the timeframe for the art piece is around five years, that's the expectation we have. Since this is a north facing, a well-protected area, I think it may be longer, but what we heard from the artist and from the studio was that normally after five years, it would really require a major redo, a repair work or redo, and in some cases on other properties, the owners have decided to just paint over it, either do another mural or go back to the current condition which would be like a wall, white stucco finish. So, we're ready, obviously to do maintenance as required to keep it as long as possible, and when the time comes, we would probably advise the city and go back to the current location and hopefully we can, you know for a forthcoming Art Basel or something else, we can come up with something else from Kobra or another artist, give another artist an opportunity to do something on that specific location.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, if those conditions are included in the motion, I'll second it. You need to make a verbal response for the court reporter.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes, amended, absolutely.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Okay. Thank you. They are not going to be able to hear your nodding on the tape.

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

*City Commission Meeting
October 22, 2024*

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 4-0)

Mayor Lago: See you in 30 minutes.

Mr. Beckman: Thank you.