City of Coral Gables

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 14, 2026

8:00 AM

https://coralgables.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 Sergio Gonzalez-Arias
Board Member Armando Hassun
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 8:01 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

26-1580 Cultural Development Board Meeting of April 21, 2026.

Attachments: CDB Minutes April 21, 2026 Draft

A motion was made by Mr. Fliss and seconded by Mr. Gonzalez-Arias to approve the meeting minutes of April 21, 2026.

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

B. PERSONAL APPEARANCES

Mayor Lago appeared before the Board and shared his enthusiasm for the city's cultural programs, focusing on the city's Art in Public Places program.

Mayor Lago addressed the Board's item regarding acquisition of a second Agustin Cardenas sculpture. He praised the work, the artist, and its proposed placement at the 427 Biltmore Way garden paseo.

The Mayor thanked the Board for their support of acquiring the Frank Stella sculpture and requested the Board, through staff and the City Manager's Office, to recommend acquisition of an additional major work for Ponce Circle Park. He requested that both cultural boards (CDB and AAP) be provided with the latest renderings of the park. He noted that 3 additional pedestals will be included in the park for potential rotating artworks, possibly on loan. He continued, asking for artist recommendations that would (compliment) the Frank Stella piece.

Chair Valdes-Fauli, suggested that artists and works in Ponce Circle Park be related thematically. Board members agreed. Discussion continued about acquiring quality artworks by major, world-renowned artists.

Mayor Lago went on, requesting guidance on acquiring works on loan, 20 works by 20 artists, in support of the Coral Gables Museum's planned exhibition opening in time for Art Week 2026. He shared commitments to date.

Mr. Fliss expressed his appreciation of the Mayor's focus on the economic impact of the arts, noting the large numbers of visitors coming to the city for shows, and asked about increasing funding for the grants program. He shared the Board's work regarding ideas to further support this initiative. Mayor Lago responded with news about additional funding for the expansion of the Art Cinema and his support, especially of organizations based in Coral Gables. He encouraged Board members and the Board-as-a-Whole to reach out to him with ideas.

C. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-141

C.-1. 26-1331 A Resolution of the City Commission accepting a proposal from Latin Art Core for acquisition of a sculpture by artist Agustín Cárdenas, *Untitled*, (recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel approval/denial vote: 6 to 2; and recommended unanimously by the Cultural Development Board approval/denial vote: 7 to 0); authorizing the City Manager or his or her designee to enter into an agreement with Latin Art Core; authorizing an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 amended budget to recognize as revenue a transfer from the Art in Public Places reserve, and appropriating such funds to put toward the cost of acquisition, installation, and related expenses regarding the artwork.

Attachments:
Untitled 1992 3 5 26
Agustin Cardenas 4_28_2026
AAP Meeting Minutes May 6, 2026 DRAFT
CC 05.19.2026 Agustin Cardenas
R-Draft-AiPP Agustin Cardenas_Untitled
AiPP Acquisitions Update - Cardenas 2
R-2026-141 - Signed

Board members received and reviewed a proposal for the acquisition of an existing artwork "Untitled" by Artist Agustin Cardenas, an accompanying appraisal report, and the recommendation of the Arts Advisory Panel. While Mayor Lago addressed the Board, he shared the importance of the artist and his enthusiasm about the artwork. After a brief discussion, the following motion was made.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez-Arias and seconded by Mr. Fliss to recommend acquisition of the sculpture "Untitled" by Agustin Cardenas. The motion passed unanimously.

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

D. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

E. CULTURAL GRANT UPDATES

25-8543 Cultural Grant Updates 2025-2026 / 2026-2027

Attachments: FY2026-2027 Guidelines DRAFT
Cumulative Figures

Board members were provided with updates of cultural grant recipient programs, including an increase of programming by the Friends of Miami-Dade County Public Library at the Coral Gables Branch location and notification that LADD will propose new dates due to multiple health issues of artistic and administrative staff. In response to comments from the previous month, Area Stage presented a revised letter; however, the Board requested more information to confirm that programming remained related to the original intent of the funding request.

Board members were advised of FY2026-27 Cultural Grant Applications that were denied due to missing deadlines.

F. ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES

25-8544 AiPP Active Project Lists

Attachments: AiPP acquisition update March 2026 2 per
AiPP Projects_Municipal & Private May 2026

Board members received a copy of current Art in Public Places updates.

G. CITY COMMISSION ITEMS

The Board was advised that the item recommending approval to acquire the Agustin Cardenas sculpture "Untitled" will be presented at the next City Commission meeting.

H. DISCUSSION ITEMS

the Board discussed and agreed to direct the Arts Advisory Panel to focus on major artists for permanent art acquisitions.

The Board discussed the status of the Art Fund.

I. ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY

There were no further items from the Secretary.

Brief Recess, Meeting to Resume at 9:00 A.M.

J. FY26-27 CULTURAL GRANT REVIEW & SCORING

J.-1. **26-1586** FY2026-2027 CULTURAL GRANT APPLICATIONS - REVIEW & SCORING

Attachments: FY2026-2027 Guidelines FINAL
FY26-27 Reader List

Chair Valdes-Fauli called the FY2026-2027 Cultural Grant Review & Scoring meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and welcomed guests and cultural grant applicants participating via Zoom.

Board members were introduced, and department staff, the City Clerk's office, and IT were thanked for their support.

Attendees on Zoom were requested to include their organization with their participant name.

Ms. Cathers stated that the purpose of the meeting is for the Board to discuss each Cultural Grant application and make a final recommendation on the scoring and method of fund distribution that will move forward to the City Commission.

On behalf of the city, Ms. Cathers thanked the Board for their time and the attention given to thoroughly review each grant application. It was noted that the Cultural Development Board is made up of volunteer appointees who are residents of Coral Gables and are great supporters of the arts.

Cultural grant applicants were thanked for attending and for choosing Coral Gables as a place to present the arts.

Applicants were reminded that funding is not guaranteed until the city budget is approved by October 1, 2026, and that the calculations used in the meeting will reflect a recommended funding estimate of $228,228.00 plus $50,000 dedicated to Youth Arts Programs.

The following additional comments and directions were provided to attendees:

- All meeting attendees on Zoom will be muted.
- Please edit participant name with the organization listed first, followed by the name. This is important for easily identifying the organization if a Board member has a question.
- Technical questions for staff may be entered in the chat box.

- In keeping with the grant review and scoring process, questions regarding an application itself, Board member comments, and scores, will not be addressed.
- Board members have read all grant applications and submitted scores prior to the meeting.
- Each applicant organization's name will be read out loud prior to discussion.
- A first and second reader has been assigned to give a brief overview of the grant request and offer initial comments. All Board members are welcome to follow up with additional remarks and engage in discussion.
- If a Board member has a question, a request will be made for the organization's representative to unmute.
- After discussion, Board members will be asked for any changes to their scores and will read their final overall score out loud.
- Once scores are verified, the highest and lowest scores are dropped prior to calculating the final average score of the Board for each application, which will be read out loud.
- After all scores are submitted, scores will be verified and viewed in relationship to each other on a spreadsheet, which may be viewed on the shared screen.
- The Board will be asked to make a motion accepting the scores as presented.
- The Board will then discuss how the proposed funding will be distributed and make a recommending motion for the City Commission to consider.

Staff stated that presentations and comments made to the Board are subject to the city's False Claims Ordinance, Chapter 39.

All Board members were in attendance throughout the meeting and each application was discussed.

The following applications included specific direction from the Board:

- **Dimensions Dance** - included language referencing a master class, which is not an allowable use of grant funds. Staff responded that a condition will be noted on the application not to use project funds toward classes.
- **Foundation Hijos De La Guajira -** organization is not in the payment

system of the city from the previous fiscal year and has not yet received their FY25-26 cultural grant award.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Ms. Requena that funding should not be awarded to the organization for FY25-26 if they have not registered in the system prior to the FY26-27 cultural grant allocation being presented at the Commission meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Peter London Global Dance -** application indicated a free performance which was not supported in other areas of the application.

  A motion was made by Mr. Fliss and seconded by Mr. Gonzalez-Arias for staff to review the application and remove bonus points for having a free program if not verified. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Ruta Teatral** - missing letter of commitment from venue. The application was missing a letter of commitment from the venue. Staff checked the grant platform during the meeting and confirmed to the Board that only the partner's commitment letter was uploaded. Thinking this might be an internal error, the Board initially recommended giving the applicant another chance to provide it.
  However, a post-meeting review proved that the applicant had already been notified of the missing venue commitment prior to the deadline and chose not to submit it. Because the applicant was already given an opportunity to submit it and failed to do so, no further extension was warranted.

  Based on the assumption of internal error, a motion was made by Mr. Gonzalez-Arias and seconded by Mr. Rodriguez to allow one week to produce a letter of commitment from the venue. The motion passed unanimously.

- **The New Theater Foundation -** missing letter of commitment from venue.

  A motion was made by Mr. Fliss and seconded by Ms. Requena to deny the application due to missing the required letter of commitment from the venue. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took a short break after submitting all scores.

A multiplier and percentage formula was used to adjust proposed funding recommendations proportionately and for the purpose of discussion. (It was previously noted that bonus points were added to final scores).

The Coral Gables Museum receives funding through a separate budget line item and was therefore removed from calculations used to determine potential funding for the remaining eligible applicants.

The Board was advised that they could make a motion to accept or revise the scores and propose a method of calculation. After a brief discussion, and minimal score adjustments, the following motion was made:

Mr. Gonzalez-Arias made a motion to adjust new applicants within .3 points of 80 to a score of 80. Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1, with 5 in favor and 1 opposed.

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to accept the Board's FY2026-2027 Cultural Grant application scores as presented. Mr. Gonzalez-Arias seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

After thoughtful deliberation and discussion, the following motion was made regarding the distribution of available funds:

Mr. Gonzalez-Arias made a motion recommending Cultural Grant funding allocations equally distributed based on the use of a modified multiplier taking into consideration final scores (as confirmed by staff) with any remaining balance allocated to the highest scoring applications in the CP and CGYAP categories based on the two funding tiers. Mr. Hassun seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion approving either Ms. Perez or Mr. Fliss, based on availability, to speak on behalf of the Board when the City Commission item is presented. Ms. Requena seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Motions were made as noted for approval. The motion recommending FY26-27 Cultural Grant Allocations passed by unanimous vote.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

NOTE