

EXCERPT

DRAFT

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 9:00 a.m.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES & CULTURAL ARTS DEPARTMENT
2327 Salzedo St., Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F
	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	18	18
Silvia Karman Cubiñá^	-	P	-	-	-	E	-	^	^	^	^	^
Dr. Carol Damian	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	-	P	P
Dr. Jill Deupi	-	E	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	-	P	P
Lauren Hall	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	-	E	P
Jacek Kolasiński*											P	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez	-	P	-	-	-	P	-	P	-	-	E	P
Freda Tschumy	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	-	P	P

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

STAFF:

Dona Spain, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director
Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts
Carlos Mindreau, City Architect
Peter Iglesias, Assistant City Manager
Ernesto Pino, Assistant Director of Public Works

GUESTS:

Mark Trowbridge, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce President and CEO; Patrick O’Connell, EWM Senior VP and Chair Elect of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce; Laura Russo, Esq.; Sandra Cardona, VP of Development and Capital Planning at Hersha Hospitality; Aaron Yassin, studio of Michele Oka Doner; Jorge Navarro, Greenberg Traurig; Zaba Castro, Greenberg Traurig; Jerad Graham, NP International; Ninoska Huerta, gallerist; Nella Daes, Logistics Fine Arts

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

Dr. Damian called the Arts Advisory Panel meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and read the False Claims Ordinance into the record.

PROPOSAL FOR CARLOS CRUZ-DIEZ CROSSWALK:

Dr. Damian welcomed Ms. Huerta, who presented a revised proposal for the permanent acquisition of two of the Carlos Cruz-Diez crosswalk artworks. Ms. Huerta introduced herself and Nella Daes, a

representative of Logistics Fine Arts, the company responsible for installation and proposed maintenance of the Cruz-Diez crosswalks. Ms. Huerta emphasized the importance of the City having the crosswalks, referencing the many City's around the world having similar crosswalks. She shared the artist's background and his prominence in the art world, saying that the works bring joy, color, and excitement from the people.

Dr. Damian said that the Panel is very informed about Carlos Cruz-Diez and it's been an honor to have the work in the City; it's been a fantastic success. The question now, she said, is how to acquire the work permanently.

Ms. Spain reviewed the proposal saying the idea is to keep the two in front of City Hall, the one on Biltmore Way and Coral Way with a cost of \$180,000 for the design.

Ms. Huerta said that the artist would be selling one design for the crosswalk in front of City Hall and the second crosswalk would be a gift to the City.

Ms. Cathers clarified that the \$180,000 is for the design only, and is not permanent in the traditional sense as it requires regular painting. Ms. Spain said they have been here for about three months and need to be painted again to remain crisp. Ms. Huerta agreed, stating it was an ephemeral work. Ms. Spain said they should have already been removed and the contract was to remove the work after the exhibition.

Ms. Huerta said now the installation company is using a special primer material (in the paint) and the paint colors are the ones the artist wants to use. Ms. Daes said a primer is being added to the paint or more coats will need to be added, depending on the color. She agreed that they will need to repaint over the existing designs.

Ms. Spain continued, saying the proposal has two maintenance cost options, one for \$18,000 with Logistics Fine Arts handling everything or \$13,000 with Logistics masking the design and the City contracting the painting work. This does not take into consideration the additional expense of police, public works, overtime, lights, etc. Ms. Hall asked if this is the cost each time it needs to be painted. The answer was "yes."

Ms. Daes discussed the painting installation, saying it would take 3-4 days to paint once a year. Ms. Spain added that the City Manager said it could possibly be done during the day with the public involved. Ms. Daes said it requires painting during the day due to humidity, with the sun helping to dry faster.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez asked if it's possible to do a test area for six months or a year to see how it wears and also asked if there's a rush to do this now.

Ms. Spain commented that with the new type (of paint), it may be possible to paint it once a year. She expressed concern about the ongoing maintenance. Ms. Daes confirmed that once a year is the goal.

The Panel discussed the condition of the Cruz-Diez painted crosswalk in Wynwood and noted that it doesn't look very good. Ms. Daes responded that Wynwood is another situation and they are trying to bring that one back as well.

Mr. Mindreau asked about the streetcleaners. Ms. Cathers replied that the street cleaning team was asked to avoid them during the exhibition.

Ms. Tschumy asked if the paint manufacturer has a guarantee or history of tests they can provide? Ms. Daes referenced the specs included in the proposal packet. Ms. Cathers observed that it's the same paint that was previously used and asked if there is information about the material being added. Ms. Daes confirmed that a primer is being added. No additional information about the primer was included.

Ms. Spain asked what happens if it looks bad in six months; and if there is an additional cost to come back and repaint it. She asked if this is something that is guaranteed for a year. Ms. Daes said she needs to get confirmation. The Panel agreed that this is important.

Ms. Hall asked to verify the requirement of painting during the day. Ms. Daes said that would be best. Staff responded that it would be difficult to get consecutive days and Ms. Daes said the street could be divided and the work completed over two weekends.

Ms. Spain clarified that the proposal is for the same paint. Yes, Ms. Daes added, with a primer that would extend the life of the paint.

Ms. Hall noted the specs from the paint stating cautionary attributes of the glossy paint and read aloud: "This is a glossy paint and will get slick when wet if the surface has not already been treated to reduce slip hazard; sand or other materials should be added to this product." She asked if this is something the studio can do. Ms. Daes stated that the street should be cleaned. Ms. Hall went on, reading about the resistance to oil and grease and that oil and gasoline will soften the coating. She asked if this is the best material for the project. Ms. Huerta said it's the one the artist wants to use. Ms. Hall wondered if the same color and luminosity could be achieved with a more appropriate product. From reading the spec, she said, it does not sound like, from a durability aspect, to be the most appropriate material. Ms. Daes responded that it's the material they've been using all over the world; Ms. Huerta added it's the material that has the colors the artist likes. Ms. Tschumy expressed doubt that there is any paint that would last. Mr. Mindreau said nothing will survive the wear and tear of traffic short of embedding a material.

Ms. Spain remarked that if there is approval by the City Commission for a one-time fee of \$180,000 plus \$18,000 annually, how many coats would be applied? Ms. Daes said it depends on the color and since they're already painted, may not need as many coats.

Mr. Kolasiński remarked that if you apply paint on top of a material and don't have the proper surface, it could peel off, stating that it seems the paint should be removed prior to a new application. Mr. Mindreau agreed saying that with the layer of rubber and oil between the coats of paint, they may never adhere to each other. The Panel discussed further about whether existing paint would need to be removed prior to applying new coats. Ms. Daes said she would need to have a discussion about if it's better to remove it all, and if so, that's what they would do.

The Panel discussed the ongoing expense of the proposal and expressed their concern about covering it. There was a discussion about anticipated revenue into the art acquisition fund. Staff stated that the fund

depends on new development and developers paying into the fund and noted that there have been more developers wanting to enhance their projects with art, with fewer wanting to pay the fee. Ms. Cathers offered the option to approve the concept but not the funding source, noting that perhaps it could be paid through private funds.

Dr. Damian reiterated that the concerns have nothing to do with the art, but rather defending the cost. Ms. Spain agreed and expressed concern about the ongoing maintenance and not wanting to keep something in a deteriorated state, instead making sure it is crisp. We would love to keep it, she said, just wish there was a material that did not require so much maintenance. Ms. Cathers added that \$180,000 is a lot not to have a guaranteed piece after a year or two.

Dr. Damian asked if there is something that says the work is in perpetuity with City responsible for its maintenance through the years. Ms. Huerta commented that once a year is fine. Ms. Hall said she is not convinced that once a year is sufficient considering the amount of traffic and does not know that the addition of a primer is sufficient. Ms. Daes said of course there will be some wear over time.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez reminded that there is no proof and would like some proof. Ms. Spain asked if the primer has been used elsewhere? Ms. Daes said the crosswalks in Houston are permanent and have been there for a while. Ms. Spain asked if it's the same paint with the same primer. Ms. Daes said she was not 100%, sure but it was painted and will try to answer the questions.

The Panel agreed that they needed more answers. Mr. Roselione-Valadez commented that the cost is still prohibitive, with a considerable annual expense. Ms. Hall added the logistical concerns regarding street closures, daytime installation, and the number of factors making it complicated. Ms. Spain said the County approval is needed as well.

Ms. Daes asked about the removal of the current painting. Ms. Spain said the Commission has the ultimate authority and Ms. Huerta said they need to be removed now, because it is stated in the contract. Ms. Spain responded that this is not the final decision; however, if Ms. Huerta is comfortable with the City removing it, and the proposal moves forward without painting over it, then the City will take it off. Ms. Spain said she will not have it removed until speaking with the Mayor. Ms. Cathers asked if crosswalks in Wynwood have been removed. Ms. Huerta said no. Ms. Spain asked if there was a recommendation in favor of the proposal would (the artist) still want it removed. Ms. Huerta said yes.

The Panel discussed again whether removal of the current paint is necessary prior to re-painting

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Roselione-Valadez made a motion rejecting the proposal to acquire and maintain permanent installation of painted crosswalks by Carlos Cruz-Diez based on the cost and concerns regarding materials and application. Ms. Tschumy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dona M. Spain
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director