

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 11:00 a.m.
Economic and Cultural Development Department

Arts Advisory Panel Members in Attendance:

Members	Jan	Feb	March
	'15	'15	'15
Dr. Carol Damian	P	P	P
Dr. Jill Deupi	P	P	P
Marijean Miyar	E	P	P
John Stuart	P	P	P
Freda Tschumy	P	P	P

Staff in Attendance:

Cindy Birdsill, Director, Economic and Cultural Development Department

Jorge Casuso, Business Development Analyst, Economic and Cultural Development Department

Motion Summary:

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2015 meeting was passed unanimously.

A motion to accept a proposal by Gables by the Sea residents to install a sculpture by artist Luis Fernandez at the traffic circle at Red Road and Lugo Avenue; that the work be fully funded by the residents, including maintenance; that the preferred color be orange or red; that the base be submerged into the landscape, and that the Board qualify the artist passed unanimously.

The Arts Advisory Panel meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m.

1. Review of Minutes from February 17, 2015

Dr. Damien made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2015 meeting. Ms. Tschumy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Review of Gables by the Sea Sculpture

Ms. Birdsill informed the board that residents of a Gables by the Sea Neighborhood want to install a sculpture to be donated by artist Luis Fernandez, a local artist known as Lugufelo, at a new traffic circle at the entry of the neighborhood at Red Road and Lugo Avenue. The fabricator of the sculpture is willing to donate services and materials. Residents like the proposed design, which resembles a fish or a sail, but are still debating the color. Ms. Birdsill handed out images of the proposed design executed in different colors. Dr. Damien wondered why the project was coming before the Board when it seemed a decision already had been made and worried the Board was serving as a "rubber stamp." Ms. Birdsill said the process was similar to accepting a donation for an art work installed in a public place and that the City would only pay for the base. Ms. Miyar said she felt the residents should pay for the base and asked about the City's public art fund. Ms. Birdsill said the fund currently has \$1.1 million, most of

which will be used for the Miracle Mile and Giralda Avenue Streetscape Project, and \$54,000 to restore Jean Ward Sculptures at several public spaces. She said the estimated cost of the base was \$2,000 to \$3,000. Dr. Damien agreed with Ms. Miyar that the residents should pay for the base. Ms. Miyar said the proposed art work was “neither riveting nor objectionable.” Dr. Deupi called the work “perfectly benign. Dr. Deupi said she worried about maintenance. Ms. Birdsill noted that Public Works was in charge of maintaining art in public spaces. Ms. Miyar said the residents should pay for everything and also set aside money for maintenance. The Board briefly discussed the color and agreed it should not be purple. They noted that the use of red or orange would make it more abstract. Mr. Stuart suggested that the base be set into the landscape.

Dr. Damien made a motion to accept a proposal by Gables by the Sea residents to install the sculpture by artist Luis Fernandez at the traffic circle at Red Road and Lugo Avenue; that the work be fully funded by the residents, including maintenance; that the preferred color be orange or red; that the base be submerged into the landscape, and that the Board qualify the artist. Dr. Deupi seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

3. Discussion of Qualified Artist List

Ms. Birdsill handed out a recent list of artists who have done public art works in Miami-Dade County to be used by developers proposing public art works in the City. The list would be made available to developers, who still would have the option of proposing artists not on the list. For an artist that is not prequalified, a developer would submit the proposed artist’s resume and portfolio to the Board for consideration prior to submitting a concept design. It is the Board’s preference that the artist not attend the meeting when the Board discusses qualification, but Ms. Birdsill noted that while the request can be made, since it is a public meeting, the artist cannot be prevented from attending if they desire. The Board discussed adding artists who have not done works in Miami Dade that also should be considered. Ms. Miyar suggested that the Board add Carlos Estevez to the list. Board members asked staff to provide in an email the list of the names so they could review it before the next meeting. Ms. Birdsill said the list also could be made available on the City’s website once it has been approved by the Board.

4. Other Business

Ms. Birdsill informed the Board that the City had retained VIA Partnership and Todd Bressi, who did the City’s Master Arts Plan, to serve as consultants on the Miracle Mile and Giralda Avenue Streetscape Project. They will work with the design firm of Cooper Robertson to incorporate art into the project. The City had originally discussed creating “garden rooms” on Miracle Mile and installing overhead lighting on Giralda. The City will recommend between three and five artists for the project, Ms. Birdsill said. The proposed works should make it interesting to walk the Mile and play off of the theme of Coral Gables as a Garden City. Mr. Stuart proposed that the consultants look over the list of qualified artists the Board is compiling. Ms. Miyar said there should be a rhythm to the spaces. Mr. Stuart suggested choosing one artist and said that Coral Gables is an international destination that would draw visitors to see the art. Ms. Miyar called the project a “wonderful opportunity” to showcase the works of different world-class artists with local connections.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jorge Casuso, Business Development Analyst