



CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Wednesday, March 30, 2016 11:30 a.m.
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts, Conference Room
2327 Salzedo St., Coral Gables, Florida 33134

*Historical Resources &
 Cultural Arts*

MEMBERS	A	M	J	J	A	O	N	D	J	F	M
	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	16	16	16
Silvia Karman Cubiñá*											E
Dr. Carol Damian	P	-	-	-	P	P	-	-	-	P	P
Dr. Jill Deupi	P	-	-	-	E	P	-	-	-	E	P
Marijean Miyar	P	-	-	-	P	P	-	-	-	P	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez*											P
John Stuart	P	-	-		P	E	-	-	-	P	P
Freda Tschumy	E	-	-	-	P	E	-	-	-	P	E

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

STAFF:

Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts

GUESTS:

Maria C. Longo; Fernando E. Menoyo; Maria de la Guardia; Rosario Marquardt, R & R Studios; Roberto Behar, R & R Studios; Jenny Ducret; Jorge Ortiz; Cesar Molina

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

Ms. Miyar called the Arts Advisory Panel meeting to order at 11:44 a.m.

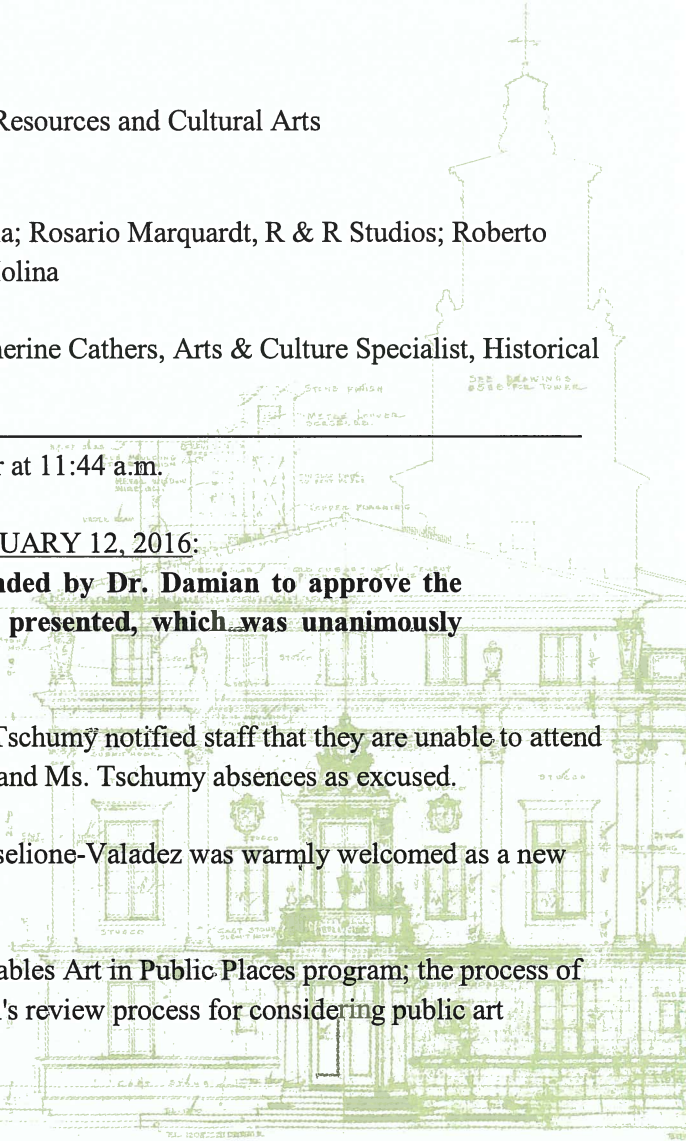
APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 12, 2016:

A motion was made by Mr. Stuart and seconded by Dr. Damian to approve the meeting minutes of the February 12, 2016 as presented, which was unanimously passed by voice vote.

Ms. Cathers informed the Panel that Ms. Cubiñá and Ms. Tschumy notified staff that they are unable to attend the meeting. The Board-as-a-Whole accepted Ms. Cubiñá and Ms. Tschumy absences as excused.

Panel members and guests introduced themselves. Mr. Roselione-Valadez was warmly welcomed as a new member of the Arts Advisory Panel.

Ms. Miyar provided background on the history of Coral Gables Art in Public Places program; the process of acquiring funds toward public art; the Arts Advisory Panel's review process for considering public art



proposals; and the recommending process of the Panel to the Cultural Development Board, who then makes a recommendation to the City Commission.

Ms. Cathers advised the Panel that the donation proposals being presented today are artworks by artists on the Panel's pre-approved list of qualified, professional artists.

DEVELOPER PROPOSAL FOR DONATED ART PLACED AT BALBOA PLAZA, WITH ARTIST (ACTION):

Ms. Cathers gave a brief background of the Panel's previous recommendation and City Commission approval to combine Art Acquisition fees from the two development projects of Beatrice Row and Valencia Townhouses, combining those monies to be used toward a proposed waiver of the Art in Public Places fee in lieu of donation of an artwork to be placed within Balboa Plaza. She further explained that the proposal being presented will require review from additional City departments and Boards.

Artists Rosario Marquardt and Roberto Behar with R & R Studios thanked the Panel and architects for the opportunity and began their presentation to the Panel. Mr. Behar led the presentation, noting the artist's history of bringing art and architecture together through previous work and discussed the relationship of their work to each site, its community, and their own personal aesthetics.

Mr. Behar continued with his introduction of the proposed donation installation titled "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and showed images, including inspirations that led to the proposal. A map was presented with the proposed location within Balboa Plaza. Mr. Behar described the artwork as what appears to be an over-sized sofa, thirty (30) feet long, over four (4) feet high, designed in scale to the existing banyan tree behind it and with two large scale lamps on either side of the sofa, also designed by the artists, aligned with the fountain located in the plaza and made of oolite stone, furthering a connection to Coral Gables. The artists are proposing to include trees planted along the east and west edges of the plaza to give a sense of enclosure.

Mr. Behar described the artist's work as "social sculpture" driven by concepts of participation in everyday life. The sofa takes the shape of a conventional sofa, symbolizing a shift of indoor to outdoor, using the sofa as place of encounters, meetings, a place for photographs, a stage. The artists went on to say that while the sofa appears gigantic, using details to make it look oversized, it is designed to human scale and is easy to interact with.

Dr. Damian asked for clarification of the materials. Ms. Marquardt stated that Josh Billig with Rockers Stone will be the contractor in charge of the artwork's fabrication. The artists clarified that they are in the process of determining the method used for the construction and went on to say that it will not be solid; it will be pieced together, possibly with blocks of stone. At this time, the artists stated, the proposed method is to fabricate the bench using a thick stone veneer, filling it with another stone rather than concrete, which is not suitable for this project.

Dr. Deupi asked about the site and its current use. She mentioned the wide streets surrounding the site and questioned how people get to the space. The artists responded that the area is fairly large and the boundaries (of the plaza) are being expanded as part of the architecture of the project. At this time, there is no seating within the plaza.

Mr. Menoyo stated that affected residents have maintained a priority to increase the area's green space, feeling that the plaza is currently too small. In response to that intent, the present boundaries are being increased.

Ms. Miyar commented on the relationship of the plaza to downtown Coral Gables and the area becoming increasingly more pedestrian. She shared her observation of people walking along the golf course and noted the compelling interaction between the urban and residential areas.

Mr. Stuart added that the proposal welcomes families and activates the space in an interesting way. He asked how infrastructure within the space could be further developed, suggesting the addition of electrical plug-ins for computer use, Wi-Fi access, and consideration of trash receptacle placement so as not to make the space appear cluttered.

The artists and Panel members discussed how the space will appear at night and the possibility of illuminating the trees.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez asked about sofa surface pitch, allowing for run-off, and encouraged the artists to include this within the engineering. The artists concurred.

Discussion continued amongst the Panel, artists, and developers regarding the types of trees, with the Panel stating an interest to incorporate native plants within the design.

Ms. de la Guardia provided further information regarding pedestrian traffic in the area. She stated that due to the difficulty of crossing Biltmore Way, pedestrians currently use the plaza as their crossing point. She noted significant features of the site, including: a natural transition between the urban/commercial and residential areas; the introduction from multi-family residences to single-family homes; a great meeting and stopping place; the banyan tree within the plaza acting as an end point of Biltmore Way and introducing the greenery of the neighborhood. Ms. de la Guardia spoke about the consideration and decision to place the sofa framing a green view, including the mushroom topped banyan trees on the golf course.

The Panel continued its discussion, appreciating the sense of permanence and balance between nature and man-made elements. Further discussion revisited the issue of technology availability, park furniture placement so as not to conflict with the artwork, and how best to keep the site clean and well kept.

A brief discussion included the Panel's concern about how the cross walks will be addressed, with a recommendation to use safety methods other than a traffic light.

Discussion concluded and the following motion was made:

Mr. Stuart made a motion to approve the artwork as proposed, moving it forward with a recommendation to consider (street, sidewalk, and on site) lighting, electrical, and infrastructure (concepts discussed) as the City considers appropriate. Dr. Deupi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Panel thanked the developers and artists, who thanked the Panel and left the meeting.

DEVELOPER PROPOSAL, FOR DONATION OF ART PLACED AT GABLES WATERWAY, WITH DEVELOPER (ACTION):

Mr. Ortiz, with Gables Waterway, began his presentation to request a waiver of the Art in Public Places fee in lieu of donation of an artwork by Alberto Cavaliere to be placed on the right of way of Caballero Street in the front of a thirteen (13) unit residential development.

Mr. Ortiz provided packets to Panel members with images of the proposed sculpture *Cronos* and went on to describe how the development project interacts with the art, why the piece was selected, and further information about the project site. Mr. Ortiz introduced the architect on the project, Cesar Molina. A small replica of the sculpture was brought as a representation for the panel to see. Panel members were invited to inspect it to get a better sense of the material and form.

Further description was given about the sculpture including dimensions, material, and a description of how the work would be mounted and installed within a pedestrian round-about with benches and incorporated plantings and lighting.

Mr. Ortiz spoke about the property as the only Coral Gables multi-family property with access to the ocean and noted its location importance across the street from Jaycee Park and near South Dixie Highway. The site currently does not have a sidewalk, he said, and spoke about plans for pedestrian access to the Metrorail and Underline. Mr. Ortiz stated that the proposed pedestrian round-about and sidewalk are included in the design to attract people to the artwork and that the next phase of the site is to connect the residential with commercial properties.

Mr. Stuart pointed out that there is no existing sidewalk for the proposed sidewalk to connect to at this time. He went on to comment on the sculpture itself and how it relates to the area's long history of wrought iron work.

Dr. Damian commented on the aging, patina, and maintenance of the sculpture. Mr. Ortiz described the maintenance schedule and Ms. Cathers noted that pieces of similar material have been known to stain concrete stating that consideration should be given to its base and surrounding elements.

Dr. Deupi asked about responsibility for the maintenance and expressed concern about irrigation water and fertilizers affecting the artwork. Mr. Ortiz responded that an irrigation plan is being incorporated into the project along with plans allowing the condominium association to take care of the artwork.

There being no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Dr. Damian made a motion to (accept the public art donation as presented and) move the proposal forward for consideration. Mr. Stuart seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Panel thanked the Mr. Ortiz and Mr. Molina, who thanked the Panel and left the meeting.

Dr. Damian excused herself from the meeting and the meeting resumed with discussion items.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROJECT UPDATES (DISCUSSION):

Ms. Cathers distributed a handout to Panel members listing the current and pending Art in Public Places projects along with updates as follows: Maintenance of existing public art; Alice Aycock sculpture fabrication in progress; Miracle Mile & Giralda Avenue Streetscape proposals due by April 22; Jean Ward sculpture renovations scheduled to begin at the end of the month; *Vessel* sculpture installation moving forward; *Spinnaker* sculpture installation moving forward.

ADDITIONAL PANEL BUSINESS:

Ms. Cathers confirmed with the Panel the next meeting, scheduled for Friday, April 22 at 2:00 p.m. to review the Miracle Mile and Giralda Avenue Streetscape artist proposals.

The Panel briefly discussed donation and commission proposals on the City's public right of way with no action taken.

The Panel briefly discussed current maintenance policies with no action taken.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

There were no items from the secretary.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dona M. Spain
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director