

DRAFT

EXCERPT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:00 a.m.**

**Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
Hybrid Meeting in City Commission Chambers & Virtual via Zoom**

| MEMBERS | M | A | M | J | J+ | J | A | S | O | N | D | J | F |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 21 |
| Nelson deLeón | - | - | - | P | P | E | P | P | - | - | - | V | P |
| Dr. Jill Deupi | - | - | - | P | P | P | P | P | - | - | - | V | V |
| Adler Guerrier* | | | | | | | | P | - | - | - | V | P |
| Maggie Hernandez* | | | | | | | | | | | | V | P |
| Jacek Kolasinski | - | - | - | P | P | P | P | P | - | - | - | A | P |
| Emily MacDonald-Korth | - | - | - | P | P | P | E | P | - | - | - | V | V |
| Manny Mato | - | - | - | P | P | P | P | P | - | - | - | V | V |
| Marijean Miyar | - | - | - | P | P | P | P | P | - | - | - | V | P |
| Juan Roselione-Valadez | - | - | - | P | P | P | P | P | - | - | - | A | P |

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

STAFF:

Warren Adams, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director
Kara Kautz, Assistant Historic Preservation Officer
Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist
Edward Hudak, Police Chief
Marcos de la Rosa, Fire Chief

GUESTS:

Leslie Pantin, Cultural Development Board member

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

Dr. Deupi called the Arts Advisory Panel meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING – ARTIST PROPOSAL REVIEW & RECOMMENDATION

Members of the Public Safety Building (PSB) Review Panel were recognized including all members of the Arts Advisory Panel, Police Chief Hudak, Fire Chief de la Rosa, and Cultural Development Board member appointee Leslie Pantin.

Staff provided a brief review of the proposals presented in the previous PSB Review Panel meeting by artists Jim Hirschfield and Norman Lee. It was noted that discussion was brief and tabled until this meeting. Ms. Cathers summarized comments from the previous meeting including questions regarding Mr. Hirschfield's proposal regarding structure, form, context, and color and feedback regarding Mr. Lee's proposal to eliminate the seating and increase the height.

Chief Hudak and Chief de la Rosa addressed the Panel with Chief de la Rosa commenting that the preferred proposal presented by Mr. Lee is the one that captures what Police and Fire wanted to see in the artwork. Especially with the benefit of the completed plaza, he said, it fits well within the space and is significant for the public as well as those who reside in the building. He continued, saying there is existing seating on the plaza and agreeing that the sculpture should be higher.

Chief Hudak said that both proposals were very nice; however, the proposal presented by Mr. Lee is a moving piece for law enforcement, capturing the aspect of being a memorial and a testament to (first responders) while also being a beautiful piece of art. He added that if taller, it can also be seen from inside the building. Chief Hudak expressed excitement about the piece, the benefit of it being easy to understand, and a compliment to the plaza.

Mr. Pantin agreed with the Chiefs and stated that it was a better fit for the space and commented on the symbolism of the flame.

Ms. Miyar asked if they were o.k. with the color of the glass. Chief Hudak responded that if the red, blue, and yellow colors associated with the divisions were used, it may be too much; adding that color may be incorporated (on occasion) if colored LED fixtures are used. Chief de la Rosa said that the proposed color offers enough of a contrast to the building without overtaking it or looking out of place. Ms. Cathers offered to request a sample of the material.

Discussion continued about how to include etchings or other graphics to recognize (the separate divisions of) police, fire, and communications. Mr. Kolasinski suggested communicating the intent with the artist to develop options. Chief Hudak expressed a desire to incorporate the history of the City into the piece and referenced the historic police and fire station sculptures. He suggested incorporating a faceless police officer, fire fighter, and representation of communication operators that ties them together, possibly positioned toward the top of the flame.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez brought up how gender may be represented, and Chief de la Rosa agreed on a non-gendered approach with symbols that are easy to identify such as the fire fighter helmet and police officer's five-pointed hat. He said there wasn't a strong preference for whether it was on the flame or the base. Ms.

Miyar responded that if it's on top, it may look like the figures are being consumed by the flames. Mr. Roselione-Valadez suggested incorporating this element on the base.

The Panel discussed other types of imagery. Chief Hudak expressed concern that using (the shield) symbols may appear like a sign more than art and agreed that if silhouettes are used, they could be placed on the base. He suggested the use of a boom microphone to represent communication operators.

Dr. Deupi said if (the graphic) it's meant to be read as a face it's going to have some elements resembling one gender or other, or even one race or another, and there is a need to be sensitive to diversity and pluralities. An abstract symbol, she said, may work better whether it's for each of the divisions, or the artist may come up with something that is allegorical. She emphasized that (a figurative depiction) will look like somebody and therefore, not like somebody, and not feel inclusive. Chief de la Rosa responded that the thought is to use an outline with no character to the face and the same color as the material. He offered to provide examples of symbols or images.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez stated that when approaching the sculpture, it would be nice not to have anything on it to scale it by. He explained that when there are no images, it can be read as larger or smaller and asked that (any images) be on the base with an angled slope for easier readability and to maintain the flame as purely symbolic.

Ms. Hernandez commented that the flame is a universal symbol; people view a flame different ways and the flame itself speaks to greater majority of people. If putting symbols on it, she said, it becomes less of a piece of art. Mr. Roselione-Valadez said something needs to be incorporated to mark the profession it's tied to.

Ms. Cathers noted the artist's previous work where they placed the seal or another symbol next to each fallen officer's name. She asked if the Chiefs had a preference of whether to separate the names by division or have them integrated and if a symbol next to the name would work. Chief Hudak said either way was o.k. and would look to the artist for the best approach. He noted that more police officers have died and that sadly there needs to be space to add names if necessary. He said that the sculpture should stand alone and be held in high regard as a piece of art and not be branded.

Chief Hudak commented that a three-fold flame would indicate the three divisions.

Dr. Deupi strongly cautioned against figurative elements and wondered if the solution could be text based to also avoid using the shields. She stated that it would be effective and quite elegant, adding that the piece is refined and would preserve the quiet spirit (of the memorial).

The Panel agreed that perhaps the artist could present both options. Overall, it was agreed to pass these comments on to the artists and have them work on a solution to address recognition of the different divisions.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Mr. Kolasiński recommending acceptance of the proposed concept for the Public Safety Building presented by Norman Lee with direction to remove the seating element, raise the base, and increase the height of the sculpture. Mr. Guerrier seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist