

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 3, 2008, 8:00 a.m.
City of Coral Gables Development Department
95 Merrick Way, Suite 450, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	A	M	J	J	A#	S	O*	O**	N	D	J	F	M	COMMISSIONERS
José R. Garrigó	E	P	P	P	-	P	P	E	P	-	-	P	P	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Bobbi Litt	P	P	P	P	-	E	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Bernice Matalon-Roth	P	P	E	P	-	P	E	P	P	-	-	E	P	Commissioner Maria Anderson
Carol Damian	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	Commissioner Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Beatriz Pereira		P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	Commissioner Wayne "Chip" Withers
Andrea Cole	E		-		E	P	P	P	-	-	E	P	Board Appointee	
Appointee Pending					-				-	-				City Manager David L. Brown

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

- = No Meeting

* Regular Meeting and FY2006-2007 Final Reports

Regular Meeting + FY2007-08 Grants Workshop

** FY2007-2008 Cultural Grant Applications Review & Scoring

Staff In Attendance:

Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, Development Director

Recording Secretary:

Nancy C. Morgan, Coral Gables Services, Inc.

Guest: Christine Rupp, Director of Operations, Coral Gables Museum

Chair Carol Damian called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Mr. Garrigo requested a moment of silence in memory of Florence Dawson, an 18-year, valued member of the Development Department and a person who provided superior service to the Board. Florence passed away February 25, 2008.

I. Minutes of February 4, 2008:

Mr. Garrigo made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2008 meeting as presented. Ms. Pereira seconded the motion, which passed.

II. Coral Gables Museum Update: Christine Rupp

As the newly-appointed Director of Operations for the Coral Gables Musuem (and newly-resigned member of the Cultural Development Board), Ms. Rupp stated her objective to gain the Board's support and enthusiasm for the museum. She reviewed the historical timeline of the project, initiated by Commissioner Withers in 1999. With public support, funds were raised and, in 2003, the Coral Gables Museum Corporation was formed as a public private partnership with the City. The City applied for grants from Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida, garnering approximately \$1.5 million to restore the historical structure. New gallery space will be added as a separate building behind the museum in addition to a public plaza, creating a cultural complex and resource center, as well as public meeting space. The entire building will be LED-certified, construction and architectural services are funded, with Jorge Hernandez as the project architect. The official groundbreaking will be held in June 2008. The Coral Gables Museum Corporation is responsible for funding the new building, the public plaza and museum operations. The museum will have its own website.

During discussion of exhibits and current inventory, Ms. Rivenbark suggested that an empty Miracle Mile storefront may be suitable for storing museum objects, and could also be used to publicize the museum. Ms. Rupp will contact BID Executive Director Mari Molina.

Ms. Rupp also reviewed the history of the City's museum curator position, now eliminated as a position in favor of adding an archivist to City staff.

In closing, Ms. Rupp described lectures, exhibit viewings and other events to feature and promote the museum, stating she would send a listing of all events and inviting everyone to participate.

III. Recap and discussion of cultural grants process:

Ms. Cole distributed and reviewed suggestions to alter grant application, grant guidelines and grant application workshop review with applicants, with additional ideas also provided by other Board members. At the conclusion of discussion, Dr. Matalon-Roth, in recognition of her expertise, was appointed to gather and incorporate comments from all Board members, and to "redline" the application and guidelines for Board review.

IV. Discussion of proposal by Arcoart Visual Art Promoters:

In the absence of Carlos Hidalgo, Director of Arcoart, the discussion was deferred.

V. Board discussion:

- a. Use of paper: In an effort to be more responsible about paper use/waste, the Board requested to receive meeting minutes and agendas via e-mail and agreed to print and bring their own agendas.
- b. Board member orientation was discussed as valuable instruction, and is required in Miami-Dade County boards. Dr. Damian suggested implementing annual orientation, beginning with the pending new Board appointee.

VI. Consideration of Dance Now! request:

Ms. Rivenbark referenced a letter from Dance Now! Ensemble, written to maintain compliance with a provision of the grant that requires formal notification of changes. In addition to the educational component of the program, for which they will not use grant funds, they will provide a free public performance at the Coral Gables Library on April 19, 2008, reflective of the Board's direction. The letter requested Board approval of this change.

Mr. Garrigo made a motion to approve Dance Now! Ensemble's request to change the location of the performance. Dr. Matalon-Roth seconded the motion, which passed.

VII. Status Reports:

- a. Art Cinema Update: Ms. Rivenbark reported that the item was on the March 11, 2008 City Commission agenda. The \$250,000 City funds have been matched through the Coral Gables Community Foundation Perrin fund. Staff reached conceptual agreement on the lease, and met with City boards as lease reviewers for this type of City project. Ms. Rivenbark reviewed key terms, provisions and features, and also compared the facility with similar programs in other cities. She said the agreement would be revised to stipulate that performance reviews be conducted by the Board, which would then recommend to the Commission. Both Mr. Garrigo and Dr. Damian said they would e-mail their support to be read into the record at the March 11 meeting.
- b. Art in Public Places Program Update: deferred to the next meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

**Upcoming Meeting: Next regular Board meeting: Monday, April 7, 2008, 8:00 a.m. –
Development Department Conference Room**

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Swanson Rivenbark, AICP, CecD
Development Director and Secretary to the Board