

DRAFT

EXCERPT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, July 7, 2020, 8:15 a.m.
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

MEMBERS	A	S	O	N +	D +	J	J +	F	M	A	M	J	J	APPOINTED BY:
	19	19	19	19	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	19	
Leslie Pantin	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Dr. Fernando Alvarez- Perez	E	E	P	E	P	P	E	P	E	-	-	P	P	Vice-Mayor Vince Lago
Betty Horwitz	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	-	-	P	P	Commissioner Pat Keon
Frank Martinez	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	E	E	-	-	P	P	Commissioner Michael Mena
Geannina Burgos*												P	P	Commissioner Jorge Fors
Dr. Bernice Roth Chair	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	-	-	P	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Dr. Rosa Maria Mayorga	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	Board Appointee

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

STAFF:

Kara Kautz, Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Interim Director
Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Dept.

RECORDING AND PREPARATION OF MINUTES: Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts

Dr. Roth called the Cultural Development Board meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

d. ART BASEL 2020

The Board was provided with information about the background and work of artist Kiki Smith along with a proposal to consider her for this year’s temporary public art exhibition, also in support of Art Basel and of Illuminate Coral Gables. Lance Fung of Fung Collaboratives shared a PowerPoint as he talked through the proposed concept. Patrick O’Connell and Venny Torre also attended in support of Illuminate Coral Gables.

The presentation opened with the aspects of presenting public artwork at a time when the City is requiring wearing masks in outdoor public spaces and is closing indoor dining. Benefits stated including safe access to a (free) cultural experience when people are routinely seeking this in other communities. A series of quotes were given from various community leaders in support of projects, and one specifically, that engage the community in a positive way when few other opportunities are available.

Mr. Fung presented images and details of the proposed 42 (forty-two) plus artworks by Kiki Smith. A site layout of the installation area was shown along Giralda Plaza. The artworks would be suspended, he said, within the architectural structure currently in place in the middle section of the Plaza. Each work is a large-scale image based on historical renderings of animal constellations with Swarovski crystals embedded at the locations of the key stars making up the constellation.

Mr. Fung further described the installation, saying the artworks will hang at a height where they can't be touched or pulled down; and at a height where people can easily view the imagery as if looking at the stars. Further development of the project, he said, will be the creation of an augmented reality application to function in the day and night. Mr. Fung demonstrated an example shifting from imagery of Kiki Smith's pieces to actual constellations where viewers can identify and learn about the stars.

A video clip was shown demonstrating proportion of the work and the reflective quality. Mr. Fung then showed the full-size prototype of one of the pieces, a rabbit, to get a better sense of the scale. He continued, saying a sense of scale to a real constellation is desired with enough open space amongst the trees and between each animal to support the sense of constellations (filling the sky).

The Board was provided with the enthusiastic feedback from the Arts Advisory Panel in favor of presenting Kiki Smith's artwork for temporary installation at Giralda Plaza.

The Board had a lengthy discussion about the potential of Art Basel cancelling and the current restaurant closures. It was noted that the project would be accessible for individuals, families, and small groups all using approved social distancing practices. In addition, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has stated their support to include curriculum based on the project in time for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Pantin asked if the project could be presented in 2021-2022 instead, if necessary.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez discussed the possible purchase of the artwork. The Board discussed various ways the artwork could be presented and potential partnerships with Museums.

The Board completed their discussion, supporting the artist and recommendation fully with an understanding that the project's installation could be pulled and presented the following year(s) if necessary due to public health concerns. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Mr. Pantin to recommend Kiki Smith as the 2020 temporary public art exhibition artist and the proposed project as presented, including application to Art Basel as an official event and in support of Illuminate Coral Gables with the understanding that the project be moved to the following year(s) if the social situation is not optimal to proceed. Ms. Burgos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the Cultural Development Board meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist