

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING  
Monday, January 11, 2010, 8:00 a.m.  
Economic Sustainability Department Conference Room  
1 Alhambra Plaza, Suite 617**

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

**A = Absent**

**P = Present**

**E = Excused**

**- = No Meeting**

**> = New Member**

**” = Arrived at 3:30 p.m.**

\* Regular Meeting + FY2008-2009 Final Reports

# Regular Meeting + FY2009-2010 Grants Workshop

\*\* Regular Meeting + FY2009-2010 Cultural Grant Applications  
Review & Scoring

- - Special Grants Board Meeting

**Staff In Attendance:**

Cynthia Birdsill, Economic Sustainability Director

Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist

**Guests:** Steven Eisenberg, Matthew Maffai

**Motion Summary:**

**Minutes of the November 18 and November 23, 2009 Cultural Development Board meetings were unanimously approved.**

**A motion was approved to approve the request to change the Greater Miami Youth Symphony grant program event number from five to four events.**

**A motion was approved to rename Washington Park located in the Golden Gate Subdivision in Coral Gables to William Alexander Cooper Park.**

Chair Dr. Matalon-Roth called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**I. Review and approval of Cultural Development Board Minutes of the November 18 and November 23, 2009 meetings:**

**Mr. Garrigó made a motion to approve the November 18 and November 23, 2009 meeting minutes.**

**Ms. Jochem seconded the motion, which passed.**

Mr. Garrigó formally recognized and thanked Dr. Damian on behalf of the board for her leadership as the previous Chair of the Cultural Development Board. All Board Members concurred and expressed their appreciation.

**II. FY2009-2010 Cultural Grantee Programs and Events updates:**

The Board discussed and reported on cultural programs and events they attended in Coral Gables including: GableStage, Momentum Dance Company, Sunday Afternoons of Music, Miami String Project, Miami Children's Chorus, Merrick Festival, Actors Playhouse, Friends of Chamber Music, and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

Ms. Cathers advised the Board of a written request from the Greater Miami Youth Symphony to change their granted program from five events to four events due to less funding received than requested. Information was distributed via email to the Board prior to the holidays. Ms. Cathers advised that they received the same amount as last year, \$3,000.

**Mr. Garrigó made a motion to approve the request to change the Greater Miami Youth Symphony grant program event number from five to four events. Ms. Litt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Ms. Cathers reported on the status of GableStage and their plans to relocate to the Coconut Grove Playhouse sometime between the 2012-2013 & 2014-2015 Seasons. The Board concurred that this is a non-issue at the moment.

Mr. Garrigó requested an update on the return of funds requested from the Miami Childrens Theatre and Kiwanis Club of Little Havana. Ms. Cathers will give a report at the next Board meeting.

**III. Proposal to rename Washington Park in Honor of William Alexander Cooper:**

Dr. Matalon-Roth presented the proposal request to rename Washington Park located in the Golden Gate Subdivision to William Alexander Cooper Park. The Board received a copy of the proposal request and City Resolution No. 30314-A regarding the naming of public spaces, which requests a recommendation from the Cultural Development Board to the City Commission.

Ms. Cole shared the fine attributes of Mr. Cooper and how he contributed so much to the City of Coral Gables with limited resources. The Board warmly agreed.

**Ms. Litt made a motion to approve the proposal to rename Washington Park located in the Golden Gate Subdivision in Coral Gables to William Alexander Cooper Park. Mr. Garrigó seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**IV. Melt, Leadership Miami project presentation:**

Mr. Steven Eisenberg and Mr. Matthew Maffai addressed the Board and spoke about Leadership Miami and previous successful projects. Looking back and wanting to build on this success, Leadership Miami, through their Alumni group, decided to select best projects and reintroduce them to the community.

One such program is the production of the play, *Melt*. Mr. Eisenberg gave background on the content of the production and how it addresses diversity, tolerance, understanding, and assistance between groups ~ and specifically how it relates to Miami history and the communities represented here.

The concept has expanded to "One Community, One Play" and Leadership Miami is now presenting it at the Actors Playhouse in February with related programming including "talk back" panels following each performance. Approximately half of the tickets will be given away to area high school students and community groups.

Leadership Miami is seeking assistance from the City of Coral Gables and through the Cultural Development Board for outreach to help spread the word about this worthy program. Ms. Cathers reported that information about the

program has been sent to the City's public affairs department and she is following up on other means of outreach through the City.

Mr. Eisenberg and Mr. Maffai thanked the Board for their time and assistance.

**V. New Theatre discussion regarding change of location:**

Mr. Steven Eisenberg, Chair of the New Theatre Board, discussed New Theatre's plans for a change of location. They are currently spending \$60,000 a year in rent. With the current economy and cuts in funding, the organization is re-assessing how best to move forward. The Theatre cut expenses, yet continues struggling to cover costs. In spite of the challenges, Mr. Eisenberg stated that the organization is fiscally sound.

New Theatre is pleased with their location; however, the landlords have plans to redevelop the space and are not interested in dividing the space, offering it with a charitable deduction, having New Theatre take over the mortgage, or reduce the rent. Therefore, after 25 years, New Theatre is actively seeking a new location. They are happy in the Gables and would prefer to stay. In the meantime, they are looking at options throughout Miami-Dade County and have specifically reached out to Coral Gables developers. The New Theatre Board's goal is to be in a new location by end of the season.

New Theatre is seeking assistance from the Cultural Development Board with ideas on new locations and how best to proceed. The Board made recommendations including seeking collaborations with existing local theatre groups.

Mr. Eisenberg thanked the Board for their time, updated them on the next New Theatre performance and requested their continued thoughts on this matter.

**VI. Cultural Grant document revisions:**

Due to time, Dr. Matalon-Roth recommended a dedicated meeting to address this item. The Board agreed to meet on a Thursday, late afternoon sometime within the next month. Ms. Cathers will contact the Board with date options.

**VII. City Website Update:**

Ms. Birdsill gave the Board an update on the progress of the City's website. Ms. Birdsill advised that the goal is to make it easier to use and have a cleaner look. The City is looking into hiring a consultant with allocated funds from the City's advertising budget. The calendar feature will be a comprehensive calendar with the ability to sort by topic.

**VIII. Status Reports:**

**Art Cinema:** Ms. Cathers reported on the status of the Art Cinema and advised that the Coral Gables Cinemateque continues to seek funds for completion. A brief discussion followed regarding the organization's grant application and encouragement for their success.

**Art in Public Places & Public Art Master Plan:** The Art in Public Places Ordinance amendment presented to the City Commission on December 15, 2009 passed on first reading and will be presented to the Planning and Zoning Board on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. With their approval, it will move forward to a second reading at the City Commission meeting Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Damian has graciously agreed to attend these meetings.

The Public Art Master Plan consultant finalists will make presentations through an RFP process to the selection committee on Friday, January 22. Ms. Cathers advised that upon contract of a consultant, there will be additional meetings called for by this board and the Arts Advisory Panel. She also reported that \$12,500 of the Florida State Culture Builds Florida grant toward this project has been received by the City.

**Jean Ward Sculptures:** All Jean Ward sculptures are now installed and the new installations in Ingraham Park have been painted. Dr. Damian reported that the new installations look fine and has discussed the color and installation with Parker Thompson (original presenter of the sculptures to the City of Coral Gables on behalf of Jean Ward's family). Mr. Thompson agreed that the color and installation are appropriate.

Dr. Damian reported that The Jean Ward sculptures located at the Coral Gables library need to be re-installed on bases and painted with primary colors.

**IX. Additional Board business:**

**National Arts Marketing Project (NAMP):** The NAMP workshop series begins at the end of the month and is part of the City's partnership with the Arts & Business Council with scholarships available to Cultural grantees. Ms. Cathers commented the content quality and networking opportunity from the previous year. Ms. Cathers will forward a copy of the flier to Board Members.

**Goals & Objectives:** Dr. Matalon-Roth advised Board Members to prepare to discuss Cultural Development Board Goals & Objectives for the February CDB meeting.

**General City Update:**

**Coral Gables Farmers Market:** Begins this Saturday!

**Pisa AD 1064, The Square of Miracles, a millennium of culture:** Pisa, Coral Gables Sister City, will be honored with an Architecture and art exhibit at the University of Miami, School of Architecture, February 12 – February 26. The Mayor kindly forwarded information regarding the exhibit and Ms. Cathers will forward it to the Board.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

**Next Meeting: Monday, February 8, 2010, 8:00 a.m., Economic Sustainability Department Conference Room.**

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Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Cathers  
Arts & Culture Specialist and Secretary to the Board  
City of Coral Gables