

EXCERPT

DRAFT

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING

Wednesday, May 23, 2018 9:00 a.m.

CORAL GABLES MUSEUM
285 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	18	18	18	18	18
Herbert Brito*											P	P
Dr. Carol Damian	P	-	P	-	P	-	-	P	P	-	P	P
Dr. Jill Deupi	P	-	P	-	P	-	-	P	P	-	E	E
Lauren Hall	P	-	P	-	P	-	-	E	P	-	P	P
Jacek Kolasiński*								P	P	-	P	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez	-	-	P	-	P	-	-	E	P	-	P	P
Freda Tschumy	P	-	P	-	P	-	-	P	P	-	P	P

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

STAFF:

Dona Spain, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director
Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts

GUESTS:

Mercy Perez, 100 Miracle Mile; Jorge Navarro, Greenberg Traurig; Jerad Graham, NP International

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

Dr. Damian called the Arts Advisory Panel meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and read the False Claims Ordinance into the record.

The Panel was advised that Dr. Deupi is out of town and respectfully asked to be excused. The Panel-as-a-whole accepted Dr. Deupi's absence as excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD APRIL 25, 2018:

A motion was made by Mr. Brito and seconded by Mr. Kolasiński to approve the meeting minutes of April 25, 2018 as presented, which was unanimously passed as amended by voice vote.

Dr. Damian read aloud the False Claims Ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. DEVELOPER AIPP PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR GABLES STATION – ARTURO BERNED:

Ms. Cathers introduced the project and the developer's request for a third artwork as part of the waiver request of the Art in Public Places fee. The developer, she said, is proposing the acquisition and siting of artwork by the artist, Arturo Berned, who was previously approved as a pre-qualified artist by the Panel. The Panel was provided with an updated proposal packet to reference during the presentation.

Mr. Navarro greeted the Panel and began by responding to the Panel's previous comments regarding the materials and artwork. The artist, he said, provided different material choices including: corten steel; a lacquered, varnish finish similar to car paint; or stainless steel. In addition, three different sizes were presented ranging from 7 ½ to 15 feet in height. Mr. Navarro spoke about wanting a larger work at the premier corner to enhance the location.

Regarding the material and maintenance concerns, Mr. Navarro stated that location, sprinkler placement, and the base, were all considered and the artist stated that corten would be the easiest to maintain. He went on to say the color finishes would require re-painting approximately every five years to maintain the quality.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez asked for clarification that the artist's preference is corten steel, to which Mr. Navarro said yes. Ms. Hall indicated that corten steel is difficult to maintain in a marine environment and expressed appreciation for the consideration given to sprinkler locations and landscaping. She emphasized that corten is not maintenance free. Mr. Navarro stated that the artwork will be installed on a concrete platform and Mr. Graham noted that the landscape will be similar to that of the underline with natural plantings that are maintained naturally and require little watering. Ms. Hall further advised that corten is finicky to maintain the even, patinated finish proposed and is more challenging to maintain than stainless steel, referencing her experience working with similar works at UM. In addition to the sprinklers, she said, and because of the dimensionality of the piece, some of the pieces could collect moisture on the underside with temperature also affecting it. Mr. Navarro stated that the area will be maintained regularly due to the prominent location and a crew could be familiar with the pieces in particular. Mr. Graham stated that (elements of) the piece pulls apart and can be put together again quite easily.

Ms. Tschumy shared her experience as an artist working with corten. She referenced her piece at the UM Metrorail section, noting that a section is painted with poly-urethane, has been practically maintenance free, is mounted on concrete, does not sit in water, and leaves do not collect around it. Years ago, she said, it was tagged (with spray painted) and recovered nicely.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez said the corten is the best choice aesthetically. Panel members agreed.

Ms. Spain read aloud the portion of the development agreement regarding Art in Public Places as follows:
The Art in Public Places program shall incorporate features in the ground level of the project and the Underline public space that recognize the contribution of Bahamian families to the history of Miami and Coral Gables.

Ms. Spain asked if this is being done through the Blessing Hancock (proposed) piece.

Mr. Navarro, stated that the condition is being satisfied with the two Blessing Hancock pieces (that are in the process of being recommended to the Commission). Ms. Spain asked if the words on the piece will respond to the directive. Mr. Graham stated that the artist is working with the Lola B. Walker Homeowners Association and the Lola B. Walker Foundation and that a meeting is being held that night and the artist will be (in Coral Gables) for the next few days. Ms. Spain stated her concern that the artist is meeting with the residents prior to Commission approval. Mr. Navarro stated that the Commissioners are aware of the meetings and some may be attending. Mr. Graham shared that the artist is intending to collect information to further develop the concept so when it goes to the Commission, she will have ideas ready to speak with them about, what the community has asked for and what she themes are proposed. Mr. Navarro stated that the artist followed a similar process for a project in Minneapolis where she met with the community a few times, collected lines (of verse) and incorporated them into the sculpture.

Ms. Spain stated her disappointment that this proposal isn't with an African American artist, noting that it was discussed previously with staff. Mr. Navarro said they studied the best way to grasp the heritage and impact of the African American and Bahamian community in this area and didn't feel that necessarily choosing an African American artist would do that. He continued, saying that the way Blessing Hancock has worked in other communities, it would exemplify (the directive) and present something that people could read, look at, and appreciate. Mr. Navarro continued, saying (the development team) thought about it and at the end of the research, and following the input of their art consultant, they felt that Ms. Hancock was the best way to achieve that (goal). In the end, he said, it's going to be a fantastic piece. Mr. Navarro also stated they wanted to have the buy-in from the community before the final decision.

Ms. Spain shared the great response for Hank Willis Thomas at the last Commission meeting, the African American artist being used for the Art Basel approved (Miami Art Week) artist. Dr. Damian commented that one of the works (artist designed benches) will be sited in the MacFarlane neighborhood, adding that he's one of the great American artists and once the benches are here, it would be nice to keep them. Ms. Cathers stated the artist's intent to place the benches in green spaces, primarily residential areas.

Ms. Spain clarified that she was not speaking about having the benches in the development project, rather suggesting another work of more monumental stature. Ms. Cathers mentioned that Mr. Thomas is doing a monumental work in the County and while in Coral Gables for the Commission meeting, he toured the City and expressed interest in the Gables Station project.

Mr. Navarro mentioned the North Ponce project and the possibility of incorporating his work in the City Park. Dr. Damian noted that the artist will be here in December for Art Basel, and will be speaking at the Lowe. Ms. Cathers added that Mr. Thomas will here in the next months for another project as well.

Mr. Navarro stated that he felt the section of the development agreement was to capture the inspiration of the community and that's what Ms. Hancock's work will do.

He went on to say that Arturo Berned was selected for his outdoor large sculptures. He said the building is set back and wanted something really grand to create sense of place. Ms. Cathers clarified that the previous discussion was regarding consideration of this piece and not the Blessing Hancock piece, which the Panel agreed was an appropriate work.

Mr. Brito asked if the painted finish was varnish or lacquer. Mr. Navarro said it is similar to what is used for cars and is painted over the corten. Ms. Tschumy said that it's a special type of enamel that is very durable, doesn't fade or flake off. Mr. Navarro stated that the proposed colors of red or white would require repainting every five to ten years. Mr. Brito stated that the red would fade the most.

The Panel discussed concern about how the stainless steel would affect traffic. The developers stated their preference for the corten, but wanted to present other choices for the Panel to consider. Ms. Hall the corten is her preference aesthetically as well; however, the developers have noted no further maintenance is required and that is not true for any sculpture. The other thing to consider, she said, is to be careful with pressure washing corten as it can damage it. Mr. Navarro said that once the material is selected they can work with the management team and artist to come up with a detailed plan. Ms. Hall recommended using a conservator to establish the maintenance plan and to train staff, especially considering the number of works being incorporated on the property.

Mr. Kolasiński commented on the landscaping and how certain overhead trees may affect the artwork. Mr. Graham said they will determine the landscaping based on the artwork.

Mr. Brito asked about the developer's preferred size for the sculpture. Mr. Graham stated their preference for the mid-size piece and that the budget reflects what the project has to spend on the art, regardless of the size. The Panel discussed the various sizes and location considerations. Mr. Brito referenced the importance of the scale to the trees and the view from U.S. 1.

With no further questions or comments for the developers, Mr. Navarro and Mr. Graham thanked the Panel and left the meeting.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez expressed his appreciation for Mr. Spain's comments, stating that it shows the limitations of some art consultant services.

The Panel continued discussion and reviewed the budget. Ms. Cathers stated the importance of the Panel weighing in on the budget and whether it's realistic for the scope and scale of the work. There was some question about how one budget could accommodate the various sizes and treatments. All agreed that the larger work is preferred and more prominent. Mr. Brito added that it responds to both the pedestrian and vehicular traffic. With no further discussion, the Panel made the following recommendation:

Mr. Brito made a motion recommending approval of the waiver request to incorporate artwork as presented by artist Arturo Berned into the Gables Station development project, further recommending the artwork in corten steel and at the largest size proposed. Mr. Roselione-Valadez seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dona M. Spain
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director