

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-1
July 1, 2025
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Melissa Castro

Commissioner Ariel Fernandez (Absent)

Commissioner Richard D. Lara

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Arts and Culture Coordinator, Catherine Cathers

Public Speaker(s)

Adler Guerrier

Agenda Item G-1 [11:40 a.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission approving “Intervals”, a Coral Gables Art Series as part of Miami Art Week and for an application to Art Basel for an official event, further approving funding up to \$110,000 from the Art Fund toward the program and marketing materials (unanimously recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel approval/denial vote: 6 to 0 and Cultural Development Board approval/denial vote: 6 to 0); and authorizing an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Operating Budget to recognize the transfer of funds from the Art in Public Places Reserve and to appropriate such funds to put towards the cost of the project.

Mayor Lago: Item G-1 which is time certain for 11 a.m., I apologize.

City Attorney Suarez: G-1 is a Resolution of the City Commission approving “Intervals”, a Coral Gables Art Series as part of Miami Art Week and for an application to Art Basel for an official

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Arts and Culture Coordinator: Good morning.

Mayor Lago: Good morning.

Arts and Culture Coordinator: Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioners, Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Coordinator for the city. We do have a presentation, if it can be brought up. So, the Cultural Development Board is making a recommendation for the Commission to approve developing the project “Intervals” for the city’s annual Miami Art Week Project an application to Art Basel for an official event, although this will continue on beyond that. So, the Cultural Development Board through the Arts Advisory Panel, historically recommends city participation Miami Art Week and more specifically an affiliation with Art Basel Miami Beach, was recognized the city program since 2016. It is also the time of year that we do promotion of the city through its Art in Public Places Program and Regional and National Publications. So, “Intervals” features five established artists presenting installations in five public places. On May 7, 2025, the Arts Advisory Panel discussed various options for the city’s annual program and panel member Adler Guerrier, who is also here today to speak on behalf of the boards, presenter-proposal develop a program similar to one that is on Miami Beach titled, “No Vacancy” and is also a program that is presented throughout the country in different programs, in different cities and municipalities, and to call ours “Intervals.” So, on May 29th, the Cultural Development Board discussed the Panel’s recommendation and voted unanimously to recommend it to the City Commission. Funding for the project is being requested and recommended for it and related expenses and marketing through the Art Fund, which is funded through private development projects. So, this is just some basic concepts to go along with it. The places would be site responsive installations, they would all be open and publicly accessible, programmed in partnership with hotels and potentially other public spaces and in partnership with the galleries that are represented at Art Basel Miami Beach, and this is something that we would have open to professional artists only. So here are a couple of examples of installations that are part of the “No Vacancy” project on Miami Beach last year. Just to give you a little quick peek of the range of artwork that may be presented. And it could certainly be something more conventional as we’ll see towards the end. In this case, the site on the left is a piece by Julius Zorrilla, who presented a multi-media installation, multi-channel videos and photographs that were hung on the walls of the restaurant lobby in the Avlon Hotel. The configuration of the videos resembled morse code, adding an additional layer to the installation

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and encompassed all the walls of the restaurant, including the reception area of the hotel. On the right is a piece by artist Phillip Decay, who presented interactive installation using specialized tape on the floor of the Royal Palms Hotel lobby and the design references way-finding maps and is meant to reconsider an overlooked architectural...of flooring. So, you can see it can be more installations with objects and paintings or something that's really thinking outside of the box. So, these are some of the potential locations that we would consider; The Plaza, Biltmore, Hotel Colonnade, Hyatt Regency, Aloft, Courtyard by Marriott, and some of the public spaces perhaps the branch library, City Hall, or the Adult Activity Center. I would like to say that The Plaza we've already spoken to them, and they are definitely on board and very excited about the possibilities of this. Here's a map that just shows the configuration of the different sites in relationship to each other. As part of the programming, we would also try to schedule a couple of trolley tours. It is walkable, but it's a little bit of a – you are really a great walker. So, this is an indoor-outdoor gallery that already exists at The Plaza, and this is the space that they have agreed to let us use. We could also potentially reach out to the Lowe. And then a list of the potential partner galleries. So, these are galleries that were working with Art Basel Miami Beach last year; David Castillo, Central Fine, Piero Atchugarry, Fredic Snitzer Gallery and Spinello Projects, and again we've reached out at least to David Castillo so far, who is also very supportive of this and has offered his support. And finally, a sample of what our Art Basel VIP Event proposal may look like. It's basically just again, reiterating the project overall and The Plaza has also agreed to host this annual event. So, we have Adler Guerrier here to speak on behalf of the boards and to answer any questions.

Mr. Guerrier: So, the discussions we had on the advisory panel had to do with offering programming that is more local centric by the participant, either by artists, galleries, and also geographically in Coral Gables versus the rest of Miami, and a program that also lasts more than a week that outlast a week of Art Basel. So, this was the program. It will hit many fine points. This first year we will aim with the galleries to help us find the artists, next year we can open it up as an open call, but that's pretty much it.

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much. Mr. Clerk, do you have any public comment.

City Clerk Urquia: No, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: We'll close the public comment. If I may. First of all, I love this idea. Its an opportunity that will bring many people to the community, will draw people here, art-lovers, not only during Art Basel, but it would be, hopefully a destination where people can then interact with our incredible public sculptures and our museum, maybe visit Books and Books, maybe catch a movie, or maybe go to the theater or the cinema, make it a cultural experience, and I think this is going to be a driver that when you look at the benefits for the business community, the restaurants. I think you'll see an uptick for sure in parking revenue and I think it's an opportunity to really

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showcase what the city again is leading in regard to the arts. So, I'm in favor. I think this is great. Of course.

Commissioner Lara: So, thank you very much for this great presentation. You know I've been speaking recently to business owners, small business owners here in Coral Gables, and in particular restaurant owners who tell me that it's more and more difficult for them to keep profitable, because they want to drive more foot traffic, they want more than just a Friday night or a Saturday night. They want to find a magnet, a lightning rod to bring people who typically wouldn't maybe come to Coral Gables to see our city. I went for the very first time, I'm almost embarrassed to say, to Art Basel, you know last year, and I was blown away, you know. So, if we're not a part of that, you know, if we're not in that mix, we're leaving behind tremendous opportunity to showcase our city, to promote the arts, and as the Mayor said, to drive economic activity, which we all would benefit from, and agreed, there should be increase in parking revenue. I'd like to see people getting to know the amazing opportunities to dine and to shop and to play in Coral Gables. So, I'm a big supporter and I think what you have here is a wonderful opportunity for us.

Mayor Lago: Madam Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Through the Mayor. I'm also in support and I'm going to add to the comments already made. Some of the decisions that businesses make on whether to come to Coral Gables is from the input of their employees and they weigh in heavily, based upon the amenities that we have here, and having the art, and having the culture, and having the restaurant mix that we have, and all the other amenities that we have as well, the trolley service, the amazing employees. I could go on and on and on. Absolutely in support of this. I'll move it. We need to move something.

Mayor Lago: Yes, if you move it, anybody else.

Commissioner Lara: Second.

Mayor Lago: Okay. And I want to add one last thing, also just for the record. This is not coming out taxpayer revenue, correct.

Art and Cultural Coordinator: It is not. It is coming out of our private development fees.

Mayor Lago: Our private development fees, I think, is important, because you have people who are super passionate about the arts and certain people say, why are we spending money on art, we need infrastructure. This money has to be used for Art in Public Places, and this is a great opportunity. So, I want to congratulate you all on this effort. Thank you, Adler. Thank you to your team. Mr. Clerk, we have a motion and a second.

Commissioner Lara: Yes

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Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 4-0)

(Commissioner Fernandez: Absent)

Mayor Lago: And by the way just so you understand, you have worldclass galleries that are involved. These are galleries that are not only in the City of Miami, these are galleries that are all over the world, from New York, art fairs to Paris art fairs, to Art Basel and Basel Switzerland, to Suno Marco, to Freeze Art in London. These are galleries that we are blessed to have in our backyard, but again, at the end of the day, also have serious international reach, so they'll be able to highlight whatever artist is chosen and really push out with their own social media, with their own emails to say, go visit Coral Gables, go visit Coral Gables. So, you are talking about some serious galleries, amazing, amazing galleries.

Art and Cultural Coordinator: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Thank you for your hard work. Don't leave yet item G-2.