

EXCERPT

DRAFT

CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING  
Wednesday, April 25, 2018 9:00 a.m.

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

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

GUESTS:

Ninoska Huerta; Jose Moreno, Logistics Fine Arts; Nella Daes, Logistics Fine Arts; Jorge Navarro, Greenberg Traurig; Zaba Castro, Greenberg Traurig; Jerad Graham, NP International; Jose Antonio Perez Helguera, Agave Holdings, LLC; Carlos Beckmann, Agave Holdings, LLC

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 9:04 a.m. and read the False Claims Ordinance into the record.

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NEW BUSINESS:

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a. ART BASEL MIAMI, ARTIST & PROPOSAL:

Ms. Cathers stated that Art Basel staff has consistently recommended that the City work closely with the University of Miami’s Lowe Art Museum regarding the City’s Art Basel event application. She stated that she has met with Dr. Deupi, director of the Lowe, to discuss and review artists that would work well

as a speaker for the Museum's annual lecture and who also have the experience and ability to design and execute a temporary work of art for exhibition in Coral Gables. She described the process of reviewing various artists and noted that Hank Willis Thomas was a great match to implement this year's temporary public art exhibition.

Panel members were given material referencing the artist's extensive background and initial concept. Ms. Cathers asked the Panel to consider including Mr. Thomas as a pre-qualified artist and to recommend moving forward with the submitted temporary public art proposal for Art Basel and Miami Art Week season.

Ms. Spain and Ms. Cathers informed the Panel that the artist's studio team came to Coral Gables for a site visit last week, were given a tour of the City, and were excited about the different locations along Miracle Mile and within residential areas. The studio, they said, sent an updated proposal earlier today.

Ms. Cathers described the two components of the proposal, the first being a poem presented in a series of speech bubbles and installed on light posts along Miracle Mile. One side of the street, she said, would have the poem in English, with the other side of the street having the poem translated into different languages represented by the community. This is an exhibition, she added, that has shown around the world.

Ms. Spain noted the site specificity of the work and that the artist researches each city the project is displayed in and finds out what languages are spoken there. Ms. Cathers added that although it's exhibited in other parts of the world it is unique to each community.

The second component, Ms. Cathers went on, is a companion to the project in the form of benches fabricated to look like speech bubbles. Hank Willis Thomas is proposing to design and fabricate new speech bubble benches and install them throughout the City and has identified preferred locations.

Ms. Cathers stated that the City originally asked the artist to prepare a proposal within a budget of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). After the site visit and with the addition of the bench project, the proposed budget expanded proportionately.

Dr. Damian shared her experience of a recent trip to the Boca Raton Museum where she saw an installation by the artist that took up an entire wall as a quilt that reinterpreted (the famous painting) *Guernica* with sports memorabilia. She stated that the piece was extraordinary and suggested all go see it.

Mr. Brito asked if both the speech bubbles and benches are temporary. Ms. Cathers responded that the poem is definitely temporary and it would be nice to have at least one bench as a permanent installation.

The Panel discussed the locations and all agreed that the locations are great.

Ms. Hall expressed the total cost of the project may be higher than what was anticipated; however, looking at the itemization, it's reasonable. The Panel agreed.

Ms. Tschumy asked about the material. Staff stated that it's treated steel.

With no further discussion, the following motions were made:

**Mr. Kolasiński made a motion to accept the qualifications of Hank Willis Thomas for inclusion as a pre-qualified artist. Ms. Hall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**Ms. Tschumy made a motion to recommend the temporary public art exhibition proposal by Hank Willis Thomas as presented, with the option of purchasing artwork, and as the City's applicant for Art Basel 2018. Mr. Kolasiński seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

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Respectfully submitted,

Dona M. Spain  
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director