

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Virtual Meeting
Agenda Item H-1
July 14, 2020
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
Arts and Cultural Specialist, Catherine Cathers
City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Lance Fung
David Chung
Mark Trowbridge
Vinny Torre
Patrick O’Connell
Leslie Pantin
Mark Schechner

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A Resolution approving a public art exhibition by Kiki Smith, and for application to Art Basel and Miami Art Week, extending through winter, 2020-2021 (unanimously recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel approval/denial vote: 7 to 0, and the Cultural Development Board approval/denial vote: 7 to 0).

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And now we go to H-1, time certain again, 12 o’clock. A resolution approving a public art exhibition. H-1.

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City Attorney Ramos: I'll read it, Mayor while they unmute. A Resolution approving a public art exhibition by Kiki Smith, and for application to Art Basel and Miami Art Week, extending through winter, 2020-2021

Arts and Cultural Specialist Cathers: Hello Mayor and Commissioners, we were trying to get Kara Kautz on the line. She is here so she was just going to introduce the item and then introduce me. Catherine Cathers Arts and Cultural Specialist for the City. The Cultural Development Board has historically recommended City participation in Miami's Art Week and more specifically, in affiliation with Art Basel. Since 2016, the City has received recognition support from Art Basel for our annual and temporary exhibition. While it is understood that Art Basel may present itself in a different format this year, and they still are intending to move forward, it's important for the City to maintain quality program, programming for its residents for its residents and visitors to confidently and safely experience the arts within the City Beautiful. The partnership with the curatorial team of fun collaboratives and to further the new arts initiatives that will illuminate Coral Gables, the City requested a proposal for a temporary exhibition of artwork by renowned artist Kiki Smith. The artist met numerous times with Fun Collaboratives and City Staff focusing on a proposal for artwork at Giralda Plaza. The Arts Advisory Panel met and voted unanimously to recommend Kiki Smith as this year's temporary exhibition artist. The panel further recommended creation of new work as proposed. The Cultural Development Board was presented with and accepted the recommendation, of the Arts Advisory panel and also voted unanimously in support of the proposed work by Kiki Smith. Building on the established relationship with Art Basel, should it occur, the City proposes to submit an Art Basel VIP event application to celebrate the exhibition. As an outdoor public art installation with multiple benefits for our residents and the City, this project is not dependent on whether Miami Art Week or Art Basel happens in the traditional sense. The proposal allows people to experience the artwork using safe social distancing, it's being designed with multiple layers that are sensitive to the current and future situation including an outdoor public access both in the day and night. The ability to visit... to view the artwork as an individual, as a family or in small groups following safety guidelines, virtual access through an online dedicated webpage and augmented reality, access to a printable activity and coloring book, and this is also in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public School District as a project offered to students County-wide whether students and families are using online or in-school learning models. The curriculum will be accessible virtually including the printable activity coloring book and through the AR App. Funding for the exhibition and related expenses up to \$250,000.00 is proposed through the Art Acquisition Fund, which is generated from monies collected from private development projects and is dedicated by code to Art in Public Places. I would like to introduce Lance Fung who will provide background about the artist and specifics of the project. Lance Fung is the Chief Curator for Fung Collaboratives, an organization that conceives and realizes art exhibitions around the world. Lance advises, consults, and creates public art master plans as well as their full implementation. He has been curating small-and large-scale public art exhibitions for decades after closing his successful New York City gallery in 2005 to pursue his curatorial practice. Mr. Fung recently curated a large-scale exhibition for the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia and transformed vacant lots in Atlantic City into much needed park system through his exhibition "Atlantic" highlighting commissioned artwork by Robert Berry, Peter Hutchinson, Leah and Amelia, Coacov, Kiki Smith and more. With his unique curatorial eye, Mr. Fung has curated internationally recognized exhibitions such as the "Snow
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Show” in multiple years. He also curated, right now he is currently curating the Art Kiosk monthly, in Redwood City which has continued on, actually, they just opened a new exhibition and he is a member of the International Association of Curators Contemporary Art and the International Counsel of Museums.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That is... Catherine, excuse me, excuse.

Arts and Cultural Specialist Cathers: Now, I will turn it over to Lance. Yes, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I was going to say that Mr. Fung has been introduced to us several times.

Arts and Cultural Specialist Cathers: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go ahead. Let him on.

Arts and Cultural Specialist Cathers: Yes, Okay.

Mr. Fung: Hello Everyone, Mr. Mayor, Commissioners, and staff. Thank you for giving us time to present our really exciting and what we believe museum quality public artwork for the City of Coral Gables. I believe the City has our PowerPoint, so, I don't know if that's on view. Great, so, thank you. Wait a second, sorry. Alright, if you could advance to the second slide, please. So, these are some, and you have to probably click one more time please. These are some of the words that Kiki use as some of the inspiration for her work for Coral Gables. We began the collaboration in October when we first invited her to consider doing a project in Coral Gables. What's amazing is, as you will see, Kiki Smith is an extremely well known and talented artist and typically does not engage in a proposal-based project. Normally, her procedure is, she is invited to do a project with the budget in hand and then will commence work and over a couple of years to develop a project. In this case, she is so committed to Coral Gables and this very inventive theme of hers that she has been working and meeting with us weekly to advance her ideas. If we could have the next slide, please. A lot of things are changing, certainly all of us and our lifestyles and how we see our role in the world is different. What's very important for us is, the maintenance of Kiki's project and the larger umbrella of Illuminate has remained the same from the onset through staff support and our advisers and partners of the BID and Chamber and Coral Gable Community Foundation, and we were given the right guidance of what was valued and needed in Coral Gables, pre-pandemic which actually becomes even more and more important now. So, in continuing our discussions with our partners, what we are realizing is, Kiki's project is valued and needed now more than ever. So, we reached back out to our partner at GMCVB, John Copeland, unfortunately he could not attend today's meeting, letter of support, and also explain to us how their organization is starting to promote the region and how they see public art exhibitions...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mr. Fung, excuse me. We are sold on the need for projects at Giralda. Could you concentrate on showing us Kiki Smith's project versus giving us endorsements?

Mr. Fung: Yes, I would love it.

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, please.

Mr. Fung: Okay, if we can advance two more slides forward, or three. Now, I think all of you have the PowerPoint, so you have seen this part.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Show it to us, collectively, and do without the endorsements.

Mr. Fung: Of course. One more slide, please. Okay, so, to cut to the chase quickly, Kiki Smith, the location we have identified is Giralda Plaza, and as Catherine mentioned, we would like to open-up in December and go through mid-February, this year and typically for your Art Basel Miami project, the commission is up for one year, but we would like to offer the opportunity to reinstall Kiki's work the following year, so that we have the widest audience this year and in the next year when we hope to have a wider sense of travel. If we could go to the next slide, please. Just to put faces to the project, Kiki Smith is obviously the woman below working with Catherine and me during our weekly Zoom meetings. Next photo. So, Kiki, for those of you who are unfamiliar with her, is one of the most important female artists in, in the world in fact. She is represented by PACE Gallery. In our initial interest in doing a project during Art Basel Miami, Catherine spoke with the Fair and mentioned the artist that we were hoping to go forward with. They happily welcomed her as one of their projects and VIP program, and once the official application process is open, we will apply, but at this stage they very much look forward to this collaboration. As you can see in the last bullet point, there are many different museums included in this bio where she is shown around the world, Venice Biennales, Time, museums, private collections and so forth. Next slide, the next... thank you. This quickly just goes more quickly than anyone can read, but that was just a running list of her solo shows not including all of her group shows and her lesser known shows. But Kiki is shown around the world and is revered as one of the most important artists, and so, that is one of the agendas of Coral Gables as well as the Art Fair, is bringing in world renowned and emerging, very quality and talented artists to your town. This is your location which you are very familiar with. And the next slide, please. So, when working with Kiki, she realized, and if you can click advance one time please, that the City has an incredible asset with great expense where you have already where you have already erected a permanent structure where there are poles and lighting that is in the middle of your beautiful Giralda Plaza area. So, rather than reinventing the wheel, she wants to work off of that structure by suspending over 42 individual artworks that are visible in the daytime and at night. Something that was very important to the Arts Advisory Panel and the Cultural Development Board was the realization that Kiki is committed to this project and has been working on it and will continue to its completion. She is creating over 42 individual artworks, but what's exciting here is, they are individual artworks, as a grouping they are an art installation and, in your context, it would be a massive and interactive public artwork. So, it's appropriate here, it's appropriate to travel to museums. And so, in between the years, of exhibition during the January and February time period the works could be displayed in additional locations throughout Coral Gables if desired. Next slide. Thank you. Her work is coming from Constellation, she wanted to do a site-specific new work for Coral Gables, so it's not a plug and play, it's something that existed in her notebook or something in her studio where that... they could be brought out into Coral Gables, rather, she really wants to make a new work. She has worked with a theme of Constellations in the past, and

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she wanted to bring it into Coral Gables because of the site and the gorgeous canopy of trees she wanted to create an environment that would sort of amplifies that energy and also request viewers to walk by and see the artwork at a distance and also pause and look upward. Next slide. And so, she focused on animal Constellations, also because she recognizes the animals that live around Coral Gables and wanted to actually bring them into the Downtown area. Next slide. And we can go through all of the drawings quickly because of the issue of time. These are some of the drawings that she has been working on, she is about halfway through right now and every day and fulltime she is just creating these different drawings based on animal Constellations. The way we will transform them into a large public artwork of which reaching out to journalists, this is good here, around the world and to different museums and curators. They all have seen this as a really interesting departure for Kiki and a way to enlarge her work and also make a super family friendly instagramable museum quality installation in Coral Gables. Our first effort was translating her drawings. This is the head of the Lion Constellation into something that would be four feet by four feet. So, how does one increase the scale but still maintain the aesthetic refinement and sort of holographic like quality. And also, how could you do something that is outdoors in the sun, in the day and the night, in the rain and all of the elements. The next slide please. So, our first prototype, that's the "Head of the Rabbit" Constellation. The entire Constellation will be made, out of sheets of plexiglass within mirrorized printing through vinyl on the surface. If you could go to the next slide. It's just the same image of the head, but how it actually interacts with the space. So, it will be anchored so it, they won't be rotating, they will be way above head because those poles are 20 feet tall, but they will be close enough so that people can actually see them and walk around and through and underneath them. But what's great about the quality of the printing with the mirrorized lines is that as you can see, it is very reflective in light, and also, very reflective with sun and movement with the viewer. The next slide please. So, this is a full-sized rabbit prototype. Our prototypes also are installed outside in California weather which it can get extremely hot. So, the average temperature in summertime is 90 to 100 degrees full sun. So, although the materials are tested, plexi will last up to 10 years fulltime use and the printing will last three years fulltime use. Of course, your use is only for two months for the first two years. We still wanted to make an artwork for Kiki that would be permanent and that would really last the test of time. And so, what's interesting too is, since it is an installation and sculpture, even though it's a flat panel one might think it is almost like hanging paintings or posters, but these sculptures really have a sculptural quality when they are installed, and you are able to walk around and underneath them. The next slide please. So, this is an additional element, Catherine named a number of them. The first thing is the artwork will be made out of plexi with the mirrorized image and then where the stars are that denotes the actual Constellation would be embedded crystals, so they will have sort of a blingy reflective, colorful quality, something that really sparkles and looks unique, and if you can click it one more time, please. It's not too clear, there you go. We are working on an augmented reality component. So, although the artwork was conceived and we have been working on it since October, we are realizing how valuable an artwork like this is, people can see it at day time, they can see it at nighttime, and then we are also adding technology which then helps enforce our educational outreach making it a family friendly piece. Can you click one more time?

The idea is that people will come to see the artwork many, many times, because there will be over 42 different constellations each of which will have their own augmented reality which will show Kiki's work and kids and families and adults can learn about astronomy, they can learn about constellations and most importantly, revisit Giralda Place time and time again. Can you click one

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more time which is the last image. And so, Catherine sort of mentioned educational ideas that we have. One that we are working on through a private foundation is to help fund a coloring book. The coloring book would be distributed to all the school children in Coral Gables. We would then have additional loose sheets, that could be distributed around town and through the businesses on Giralda Plaza so that families when they are dining outside, can sit outside, have a good activity in coloring but also an educational opportunity. We are working with FIU and also as Catherine said, Miami-Dade County Public Schools. They are embedding our projects within their curriculum both remote and in any other form that is deemed appropriate. They plan to bring in busses of children from the nine different districts to see this project. Of course, because of social distancing, rather than putting many children per bus, they are able to put eight to nine children...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mr. Fung, please concentrate on the art, not the kids that are going to be bussed in. How big are these figures, size?

Mr. Fung: So, the figures are approximately four feet by four feet and when you look at the pole distance which is 30 feet, that allows us to do about four animals between pole to pole. They won't be going perpendicular to the poles, the poles will be using the diagonal lines, but basically it will be fulgent and very full. Kiki determined this size because she wanted it large so that people could see them from the ground, but not so large that they become garish. She wanted them also to relate to the scale of an actual constellation and the placement of these would also relate to ...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let me say something. If they are not impressive, when viewed from the ground then you know, they are worthless. We have had several worthless exhibits in Giralda, exhibits that weren't very elegant. I am thinking of the "tears" or you know the golden...

Commissioner Keon: Streamers.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Eh?

Commissioner Keon: The streamers.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And, they were barely visible from the ground. We want them to be seen from the ground and be impressive from the ground that was the whole point of our beautiful, fantastic "Umbrella" activity. So, you know, don't try to be modest with the size as too garish, some people call the umbrellas garish and it was a huge success. Please continue, I interrupted you, but I want it to be seen and not to be boring. This is a very important street for us. We owe it to the merchants and to our residents to bring in specific exhibits and you know, it's... I am concerned about the impressiveness of the exhibits, as great an artist Kiki Smith is, this is a very difficult project in that it is a public street project to be seen below what, 25, 30, 35 feet above and I want it to be visible.

Mr. Fung: And so, Mr. Mayor, we have taken that into account both with the Arts Advisory Panel, the Cultural Development Board and certainly with Kiki from the onset. These will not be 20 feet in the air, it's just the poles are 20 feet high. These will probably be ten feet off the ground, and with our prototyping which we also will be sending out to Catherine's office, the scale is quite

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large and impressive. It is part of the reason we decided to add the actual crystals, Swarovski crystals onto the panels where the stars are to give it even more of a visual presence. But they are quite large, they are completely recognizable, they are not subtle at all, but they are not overwhelming. It's in tandem with over 42 of these that encompass the space that the piece will be quite impressive on, that I would guarantee you. In fact, in looking at the successful and previous projects that you have done in that same location, the scale is kind of commensurate. So, the scale of each animal is about the open span of an umbrella and so as these are suspended rather than horizontally or vertically, it will be quite visible from the ground, so to speak.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Mr. Fung: You are welcome.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, I have a... Are you finished with your presentation?

Mr. Fung: Yes, yes, yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I have a question in the timing. The success of the "Umbrella" Project, and other successful projects, was that it was there for four, five, six months. It was installed by the business, and it was there through April, I think it was, and the more people liked it, the more they brought other people to come. We are not looking for a two-year project. This is not an illuminate project, and I heard that illuminate has been cancelled this year and you keep referring ... Reference has been made to illuminate which was cancelled for a year. Only two months. For us to spend \$200,000.00 for only two months, I think is not worth it. I would like it to stay for what you have explained, if you can keep it up there for four or five months so that people will come like it and go bring other people and they will not be disappointed that we took it up in mid-February. They won't even be up there for two months or if it is, barely two months, and I don't like that. Frankly, I don't think it's worth our investment and if you can make a significant, not a very difficult change in keeping it up for four or five months, then that would be great.

Art and Cultural Specialist Cathers: I think that is completely possible, Mr. Mayor. This is Catherine. We just did it for the two months because that's what we had traditionally done with our other Art Basel exhibitions. There is no reason that it cannot stay up longer than that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, but our Art Basel exhibitions, I am looking at the values, I am looking at the crosswalks. In Giralda, it has not been two months, it has been four and five months and this is a public art. It's good that it is also for Art Basel, but let's leave it up for a few more months. It's \$200,000.00.

Art and Cultural Specialist Cathers: We can certainly do that.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mr. Mayor, if I could also add a quick question. You know, obviously a very well respected, world class artist, and I commend our team for putting it together, unfund collaborative. Just a few questions, the drawings that are being used to come up with the ideas for

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the installation could those be incorporated, maybe sold to raise funds to make the installation larger or to potentially purchase the installation? It is my understanding that we will not own this installation, that it will be returning back to the artist. You know, I am not 100 percent sure that I am in favor of that. You know, we are making a significant investment, and what I also want staff to do is make sure, because I have gotten several calls from restaurant owners who are obviously concerned during this COVID-19 crisis now, we are spending this money... We need to explain to them, which I did already, both via email and telephone, that these monies are monies that are allocated and cannot be used for anything else, but for art acquisition or for repairs or for temporary art projects. I wanted to hear some of my colleagues and see if they agree that we, you know... I would like to see what it would be to purchase these items because I think it is a pretty significant sum of money for such a short term.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And, I have a comment on that, Vice Mayor in that the best thing that we have ever done for Giralda, the best thing by far, was the Umbrellas. They had attracted so much traffic and so much publicity that the restaurants were at full capacity, you know, whenever they were opened, and this I view as something similar and that's why I want it to be there for a longer than just barely two months.

Vice Mayor Lago: I agree with you.

Commissioner Mena: I have a question that dovetails what you guys are talking about. I didn't totally understand the request that was referenced for it to be for two years. You are saying to do it, put it up this year and then put it up again the following year when you do Illuminate? Is that what I understood?

Art and Cultural Specialist Cathers: Yes.

Mr. Fung: Ah, yeah, so, we were... The two months, doing it more than two months, Mr. Mayor, we would love. Kiki and all of us are not working around the clock on this project just to have it up for a brief time. We are in complete agreement there. We just have to work with the weather and the structural engineering to make sure then, they are secured properly.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, we will take it down for hurricane season, yeah.

Mr. Fung: Yeah, yeah. We are totally, we agree with you two hundred percent. And, we agree with Vice Mayor and the other Commissioners that we want people to see this, we want this to be first and foremost a museum quality art work for Coral Gables, and secondly, equally, an economic driver. So, the more it's up, the more people see it, the more people come back with kids to color in the coloring book, to look at the augmented reality and theoretically shop in Coral Gables and in Giralda Plaza. So, that's why we said we would like it, we would extend the opportunity of having it for two years Mr. Commissioner.

Commissioner Mena: So, so...

Mr. Fung: Normally, it's only for a one-year period.
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Commissioner Mena: Right, right.

Mr. Fung: So, yes, if...

Commissioner Mena: I have a question.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: If we have it for four months or five months, then you know, that would be very good for our merchants... quality and would attract a lot of people as the Umbrella did and next year, we will have something else.

Commissioner Mena: So, here is my question. First of all, I love the concept, I love the idea. I like that it is interactive and everything about it, but if I could just... I would like to just address the elephant in the room which is the pandemic that we are dealing with right now. The entire purpose of these installations particularly and as it has been discussed now is to drive traffic to this area in addition to the artistic purposes but, from an economic development perspective is to drive traffic which, (a) We don't know if we are going to be in a position to really responsively have traffic, in the area, large crowds. Let's assume the best-case scenario, alright, which is, is that it is as popular as Umbrella Sky. We can't have those crowds there until things significantly change, and so my point is, I am hearing a request that, if I am reading between the lines between what Mr. Fung is saying, it sounds like this was partly envisioned to be in tandem with Illuminate and to have it come back next year, and so, this might be an unpopular thing to say but my question would be, does it make sense to approve this for next year and potentially not have an installation this year that is geared toward generating foot traffic and economic development in an area where we may not have any, if we are being honest with ourselves right now? That's my concern. I love the project; I love the idea. Under normal circumstances, its... I think it's great. My concern is, is it more responsible to say hey, we love it, it's great. We have a better chance of success in doing what we want it to do would push it to next year. Hopefully, by then, you know we are in a better place from a traffic perspective and hopefully, it will be in conjunction, at least in part with Illuminate project. So, I am just throwing that out there for discussion, because I do have concerns about approving a project, responsibly approving a project in July for a few months from now that's going to generate foot traffic. That's concerning to me.

Art and Cultural Specialist Cathers: May I address that?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

Art and Cultural Specialist Cathers: A couple of thigs. When we spoke to the GMCVB they were speaking, and I have experienced this, and I am not sure most people have experienced this. People are looking for experiences that are outdoors. They are looking for places that they can go that are, you know, getting them into new communities. There has been a lot of day tripping and people going to new communities and visiting cultural sites and they are looking for reasons to do exploring different communities, new communities, and in this case our own community. We are not encouraging massive crowds. We are encouraging people to come and view it on their own,

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in small groups, with their families. We will not plan unless we are in Phase II, Phase III any sort of public events that would encourage groups, large groups of people.

Commissioner Mena: But in doing so, you sort of, even if that is the stated goal, and I appreciate that, I really do, but it's still undermines one of the objectives which again is to generate significant traffic to the area, economically, and I would just add I don't really love the idea of having an installation twice, so, my question to you all would be and to Mr. Fung, yourself etcetera. If we said, you are going to only have it up once, all things considered, would your preference be for it to be up this winter or next winter? That, because to me, it would seem preferable to have it during a time that hopefully we think it's going to be better for crowds, and again may line up better with the Illuminate project, but... Because I don't like the idea regardless, frankly of putting something up and bringing it back the next year just because, you know ...the whole idea with these things, they are innovative, they are fun, people clam to them, then you take it away then you bring it back. I don't know if it is going to have the same sort of appeal, but I am just brain storming with you guys because I don't want to be in a situation where no matter what Catherine your goal is, where people do like it, it is generating crowds because people are looking for outdoor activities and now we are the Commission that approved a public art installation in a location with a history for driving significant traffic to such installation in the middle of a pandemic. I just, I think we have to have a real honest conversation about this. I appreciate that a lot of work has gone into this and I don't like to come in and kind of throw a grenade into the discussions...

Art and Cultural Specialist Cathers: Sure.

Commissioner Mena:... but I think it's an important discussion. I am just trying to be honest about it.

Art and Cultural Specialist Cathers: Absolutely, and the reason for bringing it up now is because this type of installation does require time for it to be realized. So, if it is approved now, we can move forward, we can always say, listen we can't put it up if it now if it comes to December and the social situation has changed or the same as it is now, we could certainly hold off on putting that up, but we do need the lead time in order to have it fabricated and installed. The...

Commissioner Mena: Do we, do we receive the right, just to make sure I am understanding what you just said, if we... let's say we approved to have it go up and let's say, I don't know what my colleagues think about it, going up once versus going up twice. But, let's say we approve for it to go up once, do we reserve the right if in two or three months, given the way things are with the pandemic, to basically continue it to the following year? That would be part of my... that would give me some peace of mind, that at least we can make that call a little closer to that date and see where we are at that point.

Art and Cultural Specialist Cathers: And yeah, that's actually one of the points that the Cultural Development Board brought up and they did agree with that point, so we could certainly apply that.

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioner, I fully agree with you that I don't like the two years, it depends on our exhibits. The Umbrellas for example, depended on innovation, and the attractiveness of something new, something very different, that's why I mentioned in the beginning that I would consider this, and that I would be very, very much in favor of this if it was up for four or five months, so it would attract crowds. This is an outdoor exhibit. We can have tables outside; we can have more tables in Giralda than what we have today and hopefully the closing of the restaurants will end sometime in the next two or three months if we behave responsibly. I agree with your points and whether if we don't go through with it, it could be postponed but I would speak for it, if we can leave it up for five, six months, four or five months whatever, okay, and not make it into a two-year project.

Commissioner Mena: I agree with you on the longer period of time as well, I think is fine. I am with you on that so... Yes, so my, again my proposal would be let's approve it for a longer stay and then let's reserve the right to make a final call whether it's happening this year or next year as we get closer to the date. That would be my recommendation.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, and at some point, we have to start.

Commissioner Mena: No, I am saying, approve it now, hope that it can happen this year for an extended period of time, but as we get closer, you know, I want to be transparent with Mr. Fung, with the artist and with everybody that there may be a scenario where we pull the plug on it for this year but, we will commit to you that we would do it next year. You know, I don't want anybody to engage in all the work associated with this and just have the rug pulled out from under them with no assurance that it is going to happen eventually. I think you guys understand the situation we are in, and you know... and so, I just want to make sure everybody is okay with that approach. I think that's the responsible way to handle this.

Mr. Fung: Yeah, we agree with you, 100 percent. We will lean on you for the decision on when it's shown and whether it's one or two years. We will, we can certainly later on give you our ...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: We don't want two years. We want five or six months. We don't want a two-year.

Mr. Fung: Yeah, I understand.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay,

Commissioner Keon: Maybe you can come back during Illuminate for a short period of time. I don't think there is anything wrong with seeing an exhibit a second time. I mean, I go to museums, every time I go to New York. You know, there are certain rooms in certain museums that I go look at every time I go. I mean, every three months I go look at them because they are like such great works of art you know that you really like.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: There is a big difference Commissioner, between...

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Commissioner Keon: It doesn't bother me at all.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: ... Mona Lisa and Kiki Smith with her exhibits.

Commissioner Keon: Well, it's a sculpture, it could be anything.

Commissioner Mena: Like what is the cost per.... Can I ask what the cost is to bring it back a second time? Obviously, you already created it, you have done it the first time, to bring it back a second time what would be the cost associated with that, do we have an idea on that?

Art and Cultural Specialist Cathers: The initial cost that has been presented was for the City to still have it for the two years.

Commissioner Mena: No, but I am saying to bring it back for a second time, if... What's just the cost associated with the second time?

Art and Cultural Specialist Cathers: Just the installation cost.

Commissioner Mena: Right, what's the general, do you have a ballpark on that? I have no idea of...

Mr. Fung: Yeah, that number we are still working with because we have been waiting for approval to then work with the engineer who will then determine the actual technical end, like how thick the cable, where we are attaching it and what not. But it is not a very significant cost.

Commissioner Mena: Okay.

Mr. Fung: Yeah, so I...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioner Mena, you want to make a motion?

Commissioner Fors: Mr. Fung. Mr. Mayor, I have a brief comment. Question for Mr. Fung and a message to relay from a restaurant owner who was not able to make the meeting, was here but had to leave. Mr. Fung, are there any logistics or cost concerns with the situation where we move forward and its ready to go, but then we say let's push it off for another four months to let things clear up with the pandemic, are there going to be storage costs or anything of that nature?

Mr. Fung: Nothing significant. We would be able to handle that.

Commissioner Fors: Alright, because I think that is one of the most important things we discussed here, because I think that is a very real possibility that we could be forced to push it off to a long amount of time.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

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Commissioner Fors: Finally, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go ahead.

Commissioner Fors: Mr. Mayor, Stephen Bradley, the owner of Clutch Burger had been on the meeting for quite some time, and eventually had to leave, but he sent me a personal message, asked me to relay a message from him to the Commission, stating Clutch Burger is a restaurant at Giralda that they are seriously or they sincerely appreciate the Commission considering this installation and that this is a light at the end of the tunnel for some of the restaurants on Giralda and leaves some hope, something for them to look forward to. He wanted to let us all know they are already practicing all the newest CDC guidelines, and obviously, it goes without saying they are in strong support of this installation.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, you want to make a motion?

City Attorney Ramos: I just wanted to chime in and let the Commission know the only thing you are approving today is the public art installation as an Art Basel event and the funding of \$250,000.00. How many times, how long it lasts all of those things have to be worked out in the agreement and we will take into account all the things that you have said.

Commissioner Mena: I will make the motion.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Is there a second to Commissioner Mena's motion.?

Commissioner Keon: I second it. I second it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll please.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, before you vote, there is... members of the public who would like to speak.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, we are not going to recognize any speakers. This is not a public hearing. Call he roll. Hello.

City Clerk Urquia: Okay, so in that case. Commissioner Fors.

Commissioner Fors: Yes.

City Attorney Ramos: Billy, if I may just a second. Even though it is not a public hearing, sir, because the Commission is taking final action today, you might want to hear from members of the public to make sure we are complying with State Statute.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay then, members of the public who wish to speak. Billy, how many?

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City Clerk Urquia: We have four, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, two minutes.

City Clerk Urquia: First, we have Mr. David Chang.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What?

City Clerk Urquia: Sorry, sir.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Go ahead.

City Clerk Urquia: Okay.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes, sir.

Mr. Chang: Yes, good afternoon. My name is David Chang, I am a professor and Chair of the Department of Art and Art History at Florida International University and I think, what I have been hearing these discussions I think of people's suggestions of prolonging, making it a longer duration for the exhibition is very exciting. I can only speak to the visual art aspect of this project. I think the installation is going to look stunning even though it is above any regular height of any pedestrian and the impact will be tremendous and as a professor and chair of one of the largest art departments in Florida I know our students will gain invaluable professional experience. Many of them live in Coral Gables and work in Coral Gables and it will provide them with research opportunities, engage with prominent artists and learn about our dynamic community. You know with all this uncertainty in the world today, this project would provide hope and celebrate the artist. As we celebrate the arts, we celebrate our humanity and I am very happy and proud to be part of this collaboration. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Chang: Thank you.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, we have Mark Trowbridge next.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Mark.

Mr. Trowbridge: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. The Chamber will just stand in support and say thank you for your affirmation of this project. We have been part of the Art Basel program in the City for the last five years, and we look forward to continuing that effort. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

City Clerk Urquia: Vinny Torre is next.

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Mr. Torre: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, thank you Commissioners, thank you for supporting this great initiative. Just to let everybody know, Illuminate Coral Gables is in fact coming forward, it's in full motion, the support has been incredible. During the last month, we have been able to raise a substantial amount of money and this project that we are looking at today will be a big piece of this Illuminate project come next year if we safely can put it up as we all are discussing today.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

Mr. Torre: We thank you for the support and the Miracle Mile and Giralda definitely need this project to initiate the recovery when it happens. Thank you.

City Clerk Urquia: Next, we have Mr. Patrick O'Connell.

Mr. O'Connell: Yes, I am also a part of the Illuminate Coral Gables. I just want to echo what Vinny Torre said. We are optimistically going forward right now with Illuminate, if possible, and we would very much like for this installation to be one of the prominent displays should Illuminate go forward as we are hoping. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, you have Leslie Pantin who would like to be heard.

Mr. Pantin: I want to mention that the concerns the Commissioners have are exactly the same we had at the Cultural Board even more because when we met last Thursday, outdoor dining was not allowed. So, in the contract that we do, it was specifically said that we have the option to postpone it for next year, if conditions are not right with the virus, or if we don't think doing this without Art Basel is right. So, that is a specific requirement of the approval by the Cultural Board.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. All right call the roll.

City Clerk Urquia: The last thing, the last thing Mr. Mayor, we have a gentleman, his name is Mark, but I don't have a last name for the gentleman.

Mr. Schechner: High, my name is Mark Schechner [phonetic] representing several of the restaurant tenant's real estate investors on Giralda Plaza and we, my business partner and I are in full support of this project. Obviously, the timing is something that is beyond our control, but the Illuminate project and the installation on Giralda Plaza will be very meaningful and impactful to the rejuvenation of our eleven restaurant tenants, businesses hopefully... specifically coming out of the detriment of the virus, but in general as we saw with the Umbrella project and other art installation projects on the street. And to another point that was made, I think in the past there has been a lot of desire for a return to the Umbrella project because of the benefit that it had for the businesses throughout the Downtown area, and so, we certainly are not opposed to this project being used in multiple years. I think that the benefit that it derives will be what sort of drives the

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future demand for it and obviously we cannot know that yet, but if it is as successful as we hope, we very much may want to see it return. So, we appreciate your time and we are certainly... on behalf of our tenants and our investors cast our full support in working with the City to bring this project to life.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Mr. City Clerk, will you call the roll, please.

City Manager Iglesias: Mr. Mayor, if I may say one quick thing. I have heard, Mr. Mayor, I have heard the concerns of the Commission and we will address all those concerns during the contract negotiations.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: All right.

Vice Mayor Lago: And Mayor, I... Mayor, before we take a vote, I never gotten a response and I don't expect to get a response but... at this meeting, but if Mr. Fung could provide just the overall cost, if we were to purchase this installation. I just, I would like to know to see what renting it for two years versus actually owning the product, because if it is a success, I would like to make sure we get the money, the cost upfront for what it would be.

City Manager Iglesias: We would ask for that, Vice Mayor.

Commissioner Keon: You know, I thought that they said in their discussion about it that those plexiglass panels have a lifespan and I thought they said it was six years. Is that?

Art and Cultural Specialist Cathers: Yes, actually ten years on the plexi, the three with the drawing transfer on it and that is if it's up 24/7, and you know, in full sunlight. So, yes, we think that the average lifespan would be about six years.

Commissioner Keon: Okay, so it's... so, yeah, it doesn't have a long, long lifespan ... the purchase... [inaudible]

Art and Cultural Specialist Cathers: One of the things we also talked about is that if we do... part of that negotiation or discussion would be the right for the City to reproduce the work and to replace any pieces. You know reproduce any pieces. [phonetic]

Vice Mayor Lago: That is what I was about to say. So, I was thinking that Commissioner Keon knows, because she visits a lot of museums. You know with a lot of conceptual art, what you have is the right to reproduce that work, like Felix Gonzales-Torres. So, even though this product, this piece may only have a ten-year life shelf, you can reproduce it in perpetuity because you actually own the rights to that installation. So...

Commissioner Mena: Can I? One more comment, just a thought I had previously. I apologize, and I will be quick. The drawings, I don't know if it's the sketches or the drawings, whatever the underlying drawings is, maybe there is an opportunity to have those displayed. If not, in conjunction with the museum at the same time, maybe. The other thought I had was if there is an

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empty space on Giralda, I don't know if you can have people inside, that's going to be... but, setting aside the COVID considerations, which are important but, maybe if there is an empty space on Giralda, you can have some sort of temporary gallery in there or something to that effect.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And, Commissioner Mena...

Commissioner Mena: ... have the drawings...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Well Commissioner Mena... Commissioner Mena, we had that with the photo exhibits on Miracle Mile. I think it was very successful.

Commissioner Mena: Right.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It doesn't necessarily have to be on Giralda, it could also be on Miracle Mile.

Commissioner Mena: Great.

Commissioner Keon: Right, but I think that they are doing that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay folks, let me... Will you call the roll, please?

City Clerk Urquia: Commissioner Fors.

Commissioner Fors: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.