



DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Wednesday, April 13, 2022 9:00 a.m.**

**Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
Hybrid Meeting & Virtual via Zoom**

*Historical Resources &
Cultural Arts*

2327 SALZEDO STREET
CORAL GABLES
FLORIDA 33134

☎ 305-460-5093
✉ hist@coralgables.com

| MEMBERS | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D | J | F | M | A |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 |
| Nelson de León | P | P | - | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P |
| Eugenia Incer* | | | | P | P | E | P | P | E | P | P | E |
| Adler Guerrier | P | P | - | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | E |
| Maggie Hernandez* - V. Chair | P | P | - | P | P | P | P | A | E | P | P | P |
| Dr. Jacek Kolasiński - Chair | P | E | - | P | P | P | E | P | P | P | P | P |
| Emily MacDonald-Korth | V | P | - | E | E | E | E | P | P | P | P | P |
| Manny Mato | V | P | - | E | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P |
| Marijean Miyar | V | P | - | P | P | P | E | P | P | P | P | P |
| Juan Roselione-Valadez | V | P | - | P | P | P | E | A | P | P | P | E |

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

STAFF:

Warren Adams, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director
Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist

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

The Arts Advisory Panel meeting was called to order by Mr. Kolasiński at 9:09 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 9, 2022 MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. de León and seconded by Ms. Miyar to approve the meeting minutes of March 9, 2022 and accept the absences of Ms. Incer, Mr. Guerrier, and Mr. Roselione-Valadez as excused, which was unanimously passed by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **BOTERO – PROPOSED SCULPTURE ACQUISITION**

Panel members received materials for a proposed sculpture exhibition of works by the artist

Fernando Botero. Four figurative works were presented with a recommendation to install them along Miracle Mile.

The Panel discussed briefly and expressed support, with an understanding that the artworks would have a clear maintenance plan from the owner including frequency and responsibility. The Panel commented that the agreement should include a guarantee of insurance coverage, maintenance, and a plan for removal or coverage in the event of strong tropical weather.

With no further discussion, the following motions were made:

Ms. Hernandez made a motion to recommend a temporary exhibition of sculptures by the artist Fernando Botero. Ms. Miyar seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

b. CORAL GABLES MUSEUM – ART ON THE PLAZA

The Panel was advised of a new initiative of the Coral Gables Museum to present an ongoing, rotating, temporary exhibition of sculptures on the Museum Plaza (a shared City space) with artworks related to current exhibitions and Museum programming. The proposed title of the program was noted as “Art on the Plaza.”

Panel members were enthusiastic about the program and after a brief discussion, made the following motion:

Ms. Miyar made a motion to recommend the ongoing, rotating temporary public art exhibition on the Museum Plaza. Mr. Mato seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

c. PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT – ARTIST RECOMMENDATIONS

Discussion of the Art in Public Places (AiPP) process regarding private development was deferred. The Panel briefly discussed the current pre-qualified artist list.

Ms. Hernandez asked how the pre-qualified artist list originated and Ms. Cathers responded that it was started with responses to the first Request for Qualification (RFQ) issued for the commissioning of artwork at the Segovia traffic circles. It has since been added to, she said, by recommendations of artists from developers and board members who have submitted qualifying criteria, CVs, biographies, examples of work, etc., with all developers having access to the list. Ms. MacDonald-Korth asked staff to forward the existing pre-qualified artist list to Panel members.

Ms. MacDonald-Korth asked at what stage do developers reach out to staff regarding the AiPP requirement. Ms. Cathers responded that early in the design phase, developers come to the City for feedback from the Development Review Committee (DRC), which includes staff from various City departments. She explained that the DRC provides feedback on preliminary architectural drawings, primarily regarding infrastructure. Ms. Cathers stated that she attends the meetings and states whether a project meets the qualifications triggering the AiPP requirement. If they do, she said, they are advised to meet with Historical Resources & Cultural Arts department staff if they are considering acquisition or commissioning of artwork. They are also encouraged to speak with staff prior to going to the Board of Architects (BOA) so that the artwork may be incorporated in the drawings. She stated that, in her opinion, it would save time and money because the siting and foundation work (for sculpture installation) would be approved with the construction drawings at the same time, rather than later.

Ms. Hernandez asked when Calls to Artists are used. Ms. Cathers stated that the City has issued Calls for City projects and when it is a private development project, it is up to the developer. She said developers often work with a gallerist, a consultant, or directly with a gallery. Sometime the developer is a collector, she continued, and has artists they like and want to pursue. Ms. Cathers noted The Plaza as an example of a developer that used different approaches to select artists and artwork. Ms. Cathers reviewed the Art in Public Places process overall, stating that the City used a Call for Artists for the Segovia Circles, new Public Safety Building, and the new Fire Station project.

The Panel discussed the existing pre-qualified artist list and how it can be a better resource for developers. Ms. Cathers noted that it is a list of the artist names with corresponding website links. Ms. MacDonald-Korth recommended presenting the pre-qualified artist list to developers at the DRC meeting. Mr. Kolasiński asked if developing a database would be more comprehensive. Ms. Cathers stated that there are existing databases for public art; however, these lists often do not have artists that fit the City's criteria of having work in Museum and in other prominent collections. Mr. Kolasiński suggested this as an internship opportunity.

Ms. Hernandez suggested regularly reviewing the list to keep it up to date. Ms. Miyar agreed, suggesting this as a time to take artists off the list.

The Panel moved on to the next item and agreed to continue discussion at a future meeting.

d. MOBILITY HUB – ARTIST RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Cathers briefly reviewed the City's Mobility Hub project and stated that recommendations regarding public art initiatives are requested. Ms. Cathers stated the staff recommendation to focus on acquiring artwork for the ground level where plans currently indicate a plinth (for this purpose). In addition, she said, staff discussed comments from the Panel with the City Manager regarding

the vertical cut-out on the east side of the building, including the challenges of installation, maintenance, and visibility. The City Manager, she said, suggested doing something in the location that is more kinetic or industrial, as a design feature, possibly collaborating with a university.

The current budget for public art associated with the project is estimated at \$600,000 Ms. Cathers said, with a preference to be put it toward the ground level artwork. Ms. Hernandez asked for the dimensions of the space. Ms. Cathers responded that the plinth dimensions are flexible and the ceiling height is about 15 feet.

The Panel discussed the next step of recommending how to address the opportunity, if it will be a Call to Artists, a limited selection, a short pre-curated list of artists, etc. Overall, Panel members expressed a preference to use a pre-curated short list of invited artists. Ms. Hernandez suggested each Panel member bring names for the Panel to consider and after discussion, narrow it to three artists to invite to submit a proposal. Staff encouraged artists who have work in major museums and are professional working artists.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Ms. Hernandez made a motion recommending the Panel present names at the next meeting to develop a short-list of artists to develop proposals for the sculpture opportunity at the ground level location of the Mobility Hub. Ms. MacDonald-Korth seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Panel discussed the second opportunity, to collaborate with university departments, such as architecture, design, and art, as a team to create charettes and present models of what could be placed in the cut-out area (on the East side of the building). The approach would be as a design team and ideas would be encouraged that are responsive to the use of the building and the building itself.

Panel members discussed funding. Ms. Cathers stated that the City (through the Art Fund) would pay fabrication and installation costs.

Mr. Kolasiński described the charrette process further, saying it could be a summer (or fall) course developed around the project with teams of students that would present proposals for judging (by a professional) and teams, possibly receiving awards. The Panel favored a monetary award for the design. Mr. Kolasiński recommended reaching out to the dean of architecture at the University of Miami to discuss. He continued, saying it is important that there are public presentations as a professional development and academic component.

Additional criteria were mentioned including that the final design be maintenance friendly and include lighting. It was agreed that these stipulations be included in the proposal to the university.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Ms. Hernandez made a motion recommending staff to explore a collaboration with university departments to develop artwork responding to the Mobility Hub building. Ms. Miyar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

e. ART BASEL – ARTIST RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff reviewed the previous discussion the Panel had regarding the City's Art Basel invited artist, mentioning the possibility of requesting a commission of Alan Sonfist. Ms. Cathers noted the temporary installations of existing artworks that have already been recommended by the Panel of three cast, bronze branches, and suggested requesting a complimentary land-based work by the artist. If there is not a recommendation for him, she continued, the City needs the recommendation of other artists that could provide or create work in a timely manner.

The Panel discussed the proposed location of the existing artwork and Ms. Cathers responded that she will be meeting with the artist's representative and will be looking at installing them in planting beds along Miracle Mile, close to Le Jeune Road.

Ms. Hernandez asked about the funding for the artworks. Ms. Cathers stated that the City would request that the gallery cover insurance cost with the City paying for installation and fabrication if there is a commissioned piece.

Ms. Cathers said the city usually commissions new work for Art Basel/Art Week, although the City could celebrate the existing pieces and the artist. Ms. MacDonald-Korth stated the works do not have much visual impact and questioned if it is strong enough for the Art Basel project, adding that she likes the work and the idea of a land-based work. The Panel agreed, saying they are subtle artworks but did not seem compelling enough.

Ms. Cathers reviewed the City's Art Basel program, stating that Art Basel has requested a VIP event that doesn't conflict with other Art Basel official events. She said they have approved and been supportive of the City's established early Sunday morning VIP reception with the artist in attendance, when possible, at the location of the artwork. Depending on who the artist is, she said, collectors come as well as the City's Art Basel VIP representative, with attendance ranging from 30-80 people. From the City's event, participants continue to the Coral Gables Museum, Lowe Art Museum, or the Frost School of Art. She said attendees start at the Coral Gables City event and continue to the Coral Gables Museum, University of Miami's Lowe Art Museum, or FIU's Frost Art Museum.

Ms. Cathers stated that the Art Basel budget has ranged from \$80,000 to \$200,000. She noted that Mr. Sonfist conducted a tour of the City a few years ago and was asked if any sites inspired him. She stated that a location could also be designated. Ms. Miyar stated that if Mr. Sonfist is the designated artist for Art Basel, the piece needs to have a greater impact. Ms. Hernandez recommended that the existing pieces be installed on the Museum plaza on a raised plinth. Ms. Miyar recommended Ponce Circle Park as a location for a new commission. Ms. Cathers said the existing pieces need to be located where ADA issues are not a concern and where people could not unintentionally walk into them, so they need to be in an environment that buffers them. She said the planting beds have low-level vegetation and the pieces would be visible at the pedestrian level. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Ms. MacDonald-Korth made a motion recommending Alan Sonfist as the Coral Gables Art Basel artist for 2022, including the three existing branch artworks, with the understanding that the City would like at least one additional piece at a larger scale. Ms. Miyar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

There were no further updates.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

The Panel was informed of the Commission's approval of the Vaughn Spann artwork associated with the Alexan Crafts development project and approval of the fabrication and acquisition of Julio Larraz' "Mars" sculpture.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were no further discussion items.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

There were no items from the secretary.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist