

DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
PUBLIC ART SELECTION PANEL
Wednesday, May 29, 2019 4:00 p.m.**

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

MEMBERS	Affiliation		
		May 6	May 29
Police Chief Hudak	POLICE	P	P
Fire Chief De la Rosa	FIRE	P	P
Fire Division Chief Barger	FIRE	P	P
Leslie Pantin	CDB	P	P
Herbert Brito	AAP	P	P
Dr. Carol Damian	AAP		P
Dr. Jill Deupi	AAP		
Emily MacDonald-Korth*	AAP	P	P
Jacek Kolasinski	AAP	P	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez	AAP	P	P
Freda Tschumy	AAP	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:

There were no guests

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

The Public Safety Building Public Art Selection Panel meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

All present introduced themselves.

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING – PUBLIC ART REVIEW, SECOND PHASE

Public Safety Building Public Art Selection Panel members were provided with revised concept proposals from artists Martin Dawe and Ivan Toth Depeña. Each Artist addressed the Panel directly and presented their proposals online via Webex.

Martin Dawe presented his proposal first and described the revisions, including a canopy design based on an officer shield. Fire Chief de la Rosa asked about the height of the column, which Mr. Dawe said was

eleven (11) feet tall. Mr. Brito asked about having the inscription of names on the ground. The artist said the names could be moved. With no further questions from the Panel, Mr. Dawe thanked the Panel, logged off and left the meeting.

Mr. Depeña entered the meeting online and presented his proposal, describing the revisions and variations of the design. Mr. Depeña spoke about the concept of the transition from earth to sky as a tangible element to symbolize what lies beyond. He went on to explain his decision to move the names off the glass to other elements and the possibility of incorporating the names as a separate element. The cuts in the paving grid of one of the designs was described as having two purposes, one to hold in-ground lighting and as a placeholder where future panels could be installed if needed. Mr. Depeña spoke about the glass panels having linear LED lights embedded for nighttime illumination. He described the two types of glass material possible for the artwork, laminated and fused. Mr. Depeña expressed a preference for using fused glass, which has greater longevity and resists color fading. The Panel had a brief discussion with the artist, who thanked them and left the meeting.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez expressed disappointment with the first proposal having officers' names on the ground. The Panel agreed that names should not be placed where they can be sat on or stood on. Chief Hudak continued, discussing the contrary image of Police putting their hands up. Overall, the Panel did not feel the submission from Mr. Dawe was favorable.

The Panel moved on to discuss the proposals submitted by Mr. Depeña. There was unanimous interest in the water element. Mr. Brito asked if enough funding was available to incorporate water. Staff responded yes, and that additional funding is available due to changes in distribution of municipal public art fees.

Panel members discussed the benefit of having a seating component. Chief Hudak stated that many people currently sit in the lobby or outdoors while waiting for others, for reports, etc.

All agreed they liked the location. The Panel discussed how to address the possibility of including additional names and agreed that it may be best if the number of elements isn't the same as the number of police and fire professionals who have passed. Ms. Tschumy noted that the first design reads as one piece and isn't necessarily seen as representing a direct number correlation to the fallen. She went on, saying the colored glass, like stained glass, evokes a spiritual sense and the names do not need to be on the glass. The Police and Fire chiefs expressed concern about the number of panels and if there are too many, someone could hide, or the work could cause safety issues if people need to leave the building quickly.

Chief Hudak expressed interest in combining a figurative sculpture with the glass panels by placing a figure in the middle of the reflecting pool that could be seen through the panels. The Panel discussed other memorials, both with figures and without, such as the 911 and Vietnam memorials. Chief Hudak stated the challenge of trying to balance a memorial which needs no explanation and an art piece that does. When people drive by, he said, he wants them to know what it is and not just that it's beautiful. Mr. Roselione-Valadez noted that an officer could be a man, woman, black, Asian, etc. and wondered how one could capture a likeness that epitomizes all. Discussion continued about other symbols that could be used such as a flame, badge, hats, or the possibility of incorporating a silhouette. The Panel agreed that it doesn't have to be a person. Mention was made of the iconic figures on the old Police and Fire Station building and interest in bringing those elements to the new building. A suggestion was made that a separate pedestal could be used.

In addition to its visual appeal, the water element was highly favored by the Panel due to its symbolic connection to Fire and as a deterring barrier to access or vandalize the work. Fire Division Chief Barger said that the water could overflow the top, separated from the back of the bench with the names on the top edge of the seating. Dr. Damian recalled other memorials and how loved ones like to touch the names. Chief Hudak added that if there is a water element, it should not make sound as the background noise would interfere with press interviews.

From a safety standpoint, Chief Hudak stated, position of lighting is crucial and cannot be up-lighting as it creates visibility issues from within the building and affects video capture. The Chief reminded everyone that the time capsule will need to be moved and incorporated into the plaza as well.

The Panel unanimously agreed to recommend Ivan Toth Depeña to continue developing the concept. Chief Hudak asked for more options with the reflecting pool and if a figurative element is included, that views from all sides be considered. The Panel preferred the first design with an iconic image incorporated such as a silhouette using three panels of glass each representing Police (blue), Fire (red), and Family (yellow, also 911 operators), names of the fallen (either within the design or as a free-standing piece), seating and a reflecting pool. With no further discussion. The following motion was made:

Ms. Tschumy made a motion recommending Ivan Toth Depeña to further develop a memorial design of public art associated with the new Public Safety Building that incorporates an iconic image such as a silhouette; using three panels of fused glass in red, blue, and yellow; incorporating a reflecting pool, seating, and names of fallen police and fire professionals. Dr. Damian seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

There were no items from the secretary.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dona M. Spain
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director