

DRAFT

EXCERPT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Wednesday, December 08, 2021 9:00 a.m.**

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

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

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 9:04 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

b. 427 BILTMORE WAY – CITY PROJECT

Staff provided an update on the status of the 427 Biltmore Way City construction project and initiated discussion about the method moving forward for installing artwork at the site. The Panel was advised that Mayor Lago has proposed a sculpture by the artist Zilia Sanchez for consideration and were provided with information about the artist and the artwork.

As Ms. Cathers shared an image of the proposed artwork and a book about the artist's work, she stated that the artist is a Cuban born, Puerto Rican artist currently living and working in Puerto Rico, who has exhibited throughout the world. She advised that the Panel could make a motion approving her as a pre-qualified artist as a first step.

The artwork, Ms. Cathers continued, was installed at Art Basel Miami Beach. She stated that the representing gallery was contacted by staff for additional information about the artwork, which was designed in 2019 and is a two-piece, painted bronze sculpture. Ms. Cathers noted that the artwork is in Miami, packed up, and that she could arrange to see it if Panel members are interested.

The Panel began discussion about options for installation of artwork at the 427 Biltmore Way location, including whether the proposed artist and artwork would be a direct selection, have the piece included on a short list with other pieces or artists to consider, or consider another selection method altogether.

Mr. Guerrier asked for the cost of the sculpture. It was stated that the gallery has provide an estimate of about \$550,000 dollars.

Ms. MacDonald-Korth asked if the opportunity is for multiple pieces or one piece. Ms. Cathers stated that there isn't a lot of room at the site for more than one piece.

Mr. Kolasiński stated that the scale is about 2 meters tall and noted that the Panel talks about site specificity with pieces made for the site instead of brought from an assortment of existing work that is retrofitted to existing conditions. He suggested inviting artists to visit and see the space to propose something that addresses its vernacular.

Mr. Guerrier responded that Zilia Sanchez is a great artist who does not have a lot of work in South Florida. A sculpture by her would be welcome, he said, although not sure if it's the right piece for the site. Mr. Guerrier expressed concern that the color may get lost in the landscape where the green and shaded space may overtake it. He added that the central line inside the sculpture is lovely indoors and not sure it will be seen outdoors. He stated that he likes the artist and the artwork.

Ms. MacDonald-Korth asked if the artwork could be put on a short list. Staff responded that it is an option.

The Panel briefly discussed an overview of the site for artwork, reviewing that it is on the opposite side of the 427 Biltmore Way building, about 10 feet from the sidewalk. Ms. Cathers showed the rendering of the site with the landscaped area, stating that the artwork would replace the large tree as a free-standing sculpture that could be on a raised plinth.

Mr. Kolasiński asked the Panel for comments regarding the material. Ms. MacDonald-Korth responded that anything painted comes with issues. She stated that the white may stand out against the shade and trees as it is the most reflective of all colors.

Ms. Miyar stated that (the installation site) is close enough to the sidewalk to see and interact with it. Ms. MacDonald-Korth said it is about half the height of the primary trunk of the rendered large tree. The Panel continued discussing the stature of the sculpture with Ms. Incer stating that it is a small piece for the site.

Mr. Kolasiński summarized that there is great enthusiasm about the artist and asked the Panel to discuss how to move forward.

Ms. Miyar asked if the City could ask the artist and gallery about other pieces. Mr. Guerrier noted that there aren't many sculptural works by the artist, and she is in her 90s. He suggested that they revert to considering a larger pool of artists or create a call to artists, noting the significant fee available that would attract other artists.

Ms. Incer commented that it is a beautiful piece and echoed the concern about the color. She said it would need to be continuously maintained and would be in a location with a lot of off-gassing from the street. She supported recommending the artwork if the City is willing to put it on a maintenance schedule. Ms. Cathers responded that the gallery stated maintenance would be required 2x/year for cleaning and waxing.

Ms. MacDonald-Korth stated that there may be human interactions with unforeseen damage. If it was on a plinth, she said, it would change the landscape of the garden but is an option that would keep it away from people touching it, which is the biggest danger next to weather. She continued, saying that on a plinth it would appear larger. Ms. Miyar responded that it may change the nature of the art. Ms. MacDonald-Korth said it could be something the artist could approve if it didn't fundamentally change the work. Mr. Kolasiński noted the potential of vegetation staining the work. Ms. Cathers responded that a revised landscape plan could be done. Ms. Incer suggested moving the plants back as much as possible to avoid irrigation water from landing on the base and artwork.

Mr. de León remarked that it sounds like the piece wants to be indoors, saying part of the beauty of (artwork) being outdoors is the weathering and suggested that maybe the artist has a piece that is designed to weather. Mr. Kolasiński concurred, questioning how best to serve the lifespan of the piece and protect it from weathering.

The Panel circled back and discussed whether other pieces by the artist are available. Mr. Guerrier described the artist's main body of work, which is formed, painted canvases. He went on to state

that this work was designed in 2019, fabricated recently, and is an edition of 3 with this being the only one in the series produced to date.

Staff showed images of the artwork on site at Art Basel Miami Beach. The Panel agreed that it is a beautiful piece and discussed if there is another location that could be considered. Ms. Cathers responded that the site at 427 Biltmore Way is an intimate space and could be designed to showcase the work. Street views from Google Maps were looked at to provide greater context and perspective. Set back from the street, Ms. Cathers said, it has an outdoor room feel to it. Ms. Miyar agreed that with landscaping, a space could be created that is compatible with the piece and enhances it. Ms. MacDonald-Korth agreed, adding that a barrier could be created to see over to the work rather than raising it on a plinth, which might change the feeling and perhaps be too classical for the space.

Mr. Kolasiński said it sounds like there are an array of ideas, and the Panel needs to articulate a direction. Ms. MacDonald-Korth was in favor of short-listing the piece. Mr. Guerrier asked how solid the site plan is. Ms. Cathers stated that it could be changed. She said the landscaping is set to go in last and may need to be retro designed with the piece in mind. (The City), she continued, could work with the current landscape designer addressing the concerns of watering, access, and respond to the recommendation to raise it, keep it at a pedestrian level and if so, how it is accessed or not. Mr. Kolasiński expressed his feeling that the consensus was to look at different pieces for the location.

Ms. Miyar discussed making a motion to approve the artwork in principle, and would like to see an area created to receive the sculpture that creates an intimate setting for the artwork and not just place it on the ground without anything around it, giving prominence to the art. She re-stated the concern about the sculpture appearing too small in the space.

Mr. de León asked if the artist would be engaged to look at the location for feedback. Ms. Cathers responded that it would be unlikely as the artist is not travelling but would be consulted.

Ms. Incer asked if the artwork was created to be outdoors. Ms. Cathers said she will ask the gallery.

Ms. MacDonald-Korth said if the piece was going to be recommended, information is needed about exactly how it was made, as there are a lot of ways the material could fail over time with the most important consideration being the layering between the bronze and paint. She said it is important to know what the layering structure is, what kind of paint it is, and that if it isn't made to hold up outside, it's going to be a lot of trouble. Ms. MacDonald-Korth stated that maintenance of the surface can be treated, but if the area of failure is between the bronze and paint layer, it can never be fixed and will keep failing.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Ms. MacDonald-Korth made a motion recommending conditional acceptance of the artwork pending receipt of more specifications about the materials and installation options. Ms. Miyar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist