

DRAFT

EXCERPT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, June 04, 2019 8:30 a.m.
Coral Gables Museum
285 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables, Florida 33134**

MEMBERS	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	D	J	F	M	M	A	A	J	APPOINTED BY:
	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	
Leslie Pantin	P	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Dr. Fernando Alvarez- Perez	E	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	Vice-Mayor Vince Lago
Betty Horwitz	E	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Pat Keon
Frank Martinez*										P	P	E	P	P	E	Commissioner Michael Mena
June Morris*															P	Commissioner Jorge Fors
Dr. Bernice Roth Chair	P	-	-	-	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Dr. Rosa Maria Mayorga	P	-	-	-	P	P	P	A	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	Board Appointee

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

STAFF:

Dona Spain, Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Director
Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Dept.

GUESTS:

There were no guests

RECORDING AND PREPARATION OF MINUTES: Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts

Dr. Roth called the Cultural Development Board meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. **PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING – PUBLIC ART PROPOSALS REVIEW & RECOMMENDATION**
Staff gave a brief overview of the Public Safety Building public art opportunity, reminding the Board that the intent of the artwork is to serve as a memorial to fallen officers and honor current public safety professionals. A PowerPoint was presented to review the four concept proposals submitted by artists Jose Bedia, Martin

Dawe with Cherrylion Studios, Ivan Toth Depeña, and Robert Lazarrini. Staff reviewed the structure of the selection panel consisting of members of the Arts Advisory Panel, Police Chief Hudak, Fire Chief de la Rosa, Fire Division Chief Barger, and Cultural Development Board appointee Leslie Pantin.

Staff reported that the Selection Panel asked artists Martin Dawe and Ivan Toth Depeña to respond to comments and submit a revised proposal. Ms. Cathers read aloud the Selection Panel comments that were provided to the artists as follows:

The selection panel has asked you and one other artist to submit a revised drawing responding to the following comments:

- Further consider the various audiences: Police and Fire professionals viewing the artwork daily; individuals seeking assistance or responding to directives from public safety professionals; pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
- The plaza and its elements will regularly be the backdrop when responding to media inquiries.
- The artwork should connect in an emotionally meaningful way with officers and fire fighters.
- There is a desire to incorporate the names of the fallen officers and fire fighters within the project (not necessarily on the art).
- The artwork and its elements should be easily maintained and replaceable should any vandalism occur.
- There is a desire for the artwork to have an iconic look that individuals readily identify with.

Comments specific to Martin Dawe proposal:

- There may be additional funds available to sculpt fully formed figures. Provide a sketch of what this may look like and the additional cost.
- If this is not the desire of the artist, provide a further explanation of the figures encased in the pillars.
- Request to incorporate seating within the design. The names may be incorporated into this element.
- Consider one canopy rather than three separate canopies.
- For the three pillars, theme as: Police, Fire, Citizenry

Comments specific to Ivan Toth Depeña proposal:

- There may be additional funds available for this project.
- Another shape is requested that is not a seating element of the artwork itself; however, the consensus is still to have seating within the overall design.
- General concern about fading of the colors.
- General concern regarding how the artwork would respond to vandalism.

Mr. Pantin commented on the helpful comments from Advisory Panel members in the process.

Board members received the revised proposals of both artists, which were projected and discussed. Mr. Pantin reported favorably on the Selection Panel process and the positive discussion held between all present. He pointed out that Mr. Depeña responded well to the comments provided and the Panel was impressed with the revisions. He further commented on the concern of the Police Chief about the bronze figures (artist Martin Dawe) having raised arms (hands) and about everyone's concern about having names on the ground or seating elements.

The Board responded positively to Ivan Toth Depeña's piece. Staff reported that the Panel asked for the names to be inscribed on the top of the seating component or possibly on a separate piece. It was also recommended the artist use fused glass, rather than laminate, to maintain the saturated colors. The colors, the Board was told, represent different roles within public safety. The Board noted appreciation of the colors, the spiritual quality implied through the color and form, and the reflecting pool/water element.

Ms. Spain reported the Panel's recommendation to work with Ivan Toth Depeña and further develop the concept. She shared the Panel's discussion regarding the specified number of panels representing those who died in service and what would happen if more need to be added. The final recommendation, she said, was to ask the artist to revise the concept to three panels with one each representing Police (blue), Fire (red), and Family (yellow, also 911 operators). In addition, she said, the Police and Fire Chiefs asked that a figurative or iconic representation be added to the work.

The Board discussed and agreed that the work should move away from a finite number of elements. However, the Board did not agree with the Panel about limiting the number to three and incorporating a figurative form. Mr. Pantin shared the concern from Police and Fire that if there are too many panels someone could hide, or the work could cause safety issues if people needed to leave the building quickly. The Board further spoke about how a figurative form could represent diversity and discussed using an outline, silhouette, or other symbol representing public safety roles. Dr. Alvarez-Perez commented that the figurative or graphic element doesn't align with the artist's work. Ms. Cathers stated that the artist was informed and said the same; however, she said, he responded favorably saying he thought another solution could work through continued discussion.

The Board was advised of the Police Chief's preference for a sculptural figure in the middle of the pool, with the glass panels positioned to look through them. The Board-as-a-whole stated that a figure in the middle of what was presented would not be appropriate. Mr. Pantin mentioned the figures on the old Public Safety Building as most iconic.

Ms. Horwitz stated that the people seeing the work every day are essential to the success of the project. The Board agreed and discussed having more involvement from the people who will be working in the building. Discussion continued about various contemporary memorials and how they respond to the survivors, those who may be added, those who are physically affected.

Conversation shifted to the structure itself, its maintenance, and the requirement to have it structurally sound to withstand extreme weather conditions.

Overall, the Board agreed that they like Ivan Toth Depeña's revised proposal design no.1 the way it is. Dr. Mayorga stated, and the Board agreed, that it's important to further include the people who will interact with the art daily and give them the opportunity to speak with the artist. Ms. Cathers suggested holding a workshop with the artist and police and fire professionals. Dr. Alvarez-Perez supported this as a way for the artist to further explain the concept and discuss design revision options.

The Board continued discussion and Ms. Morris suggested the use of a separate, free-standing element to include an explanation of the work. Ms. Horwitz added that it could include the figurative element desired by the Chief.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Dr. Alvarez-Perez made a motion recommending artist Ivan Toth Depeña to design a public artwork memorial associated with the new Public Safety Building; conduct a workshop with Coral Gables' public safety professionals; explore options for a figurative representation; and include an interpretive element that may be free-standing. Mr. Pantin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the Cultural Development Board meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dona M. Spain
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director