



DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, May 15, 2018 4:00 p.m.  
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department  
2327 Salzedo St., Coral Gables, Florida 33134**

*Historical Resources &  
Cultural Arts*

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MEMBERS	J	A	S	O	N+	D+	J	F	M	A	M	M	APPOINTED BY:
	17	17	17	17	17	17	18	18	18	18	18	18	
Leslie Pantin *				P	P	P	-	P	E	P	P	P	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Betty Horwitz	-	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor Pat Keon
Dr. Fernando Alvarez-Perez	-	P	P	E	P	P	-	E	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Vince Lago
Alfonso Perez	-	E	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Michael Mena
Geannina A. Burgos	-	P	P	P	E	P	-	P	E	P	P	P	Commissioner Frank C. Quesada
Dr. Bernice Roth Chair	-	E	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Dr. Rosa Maria Mayorga	-	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	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

**GUESTS:**

None

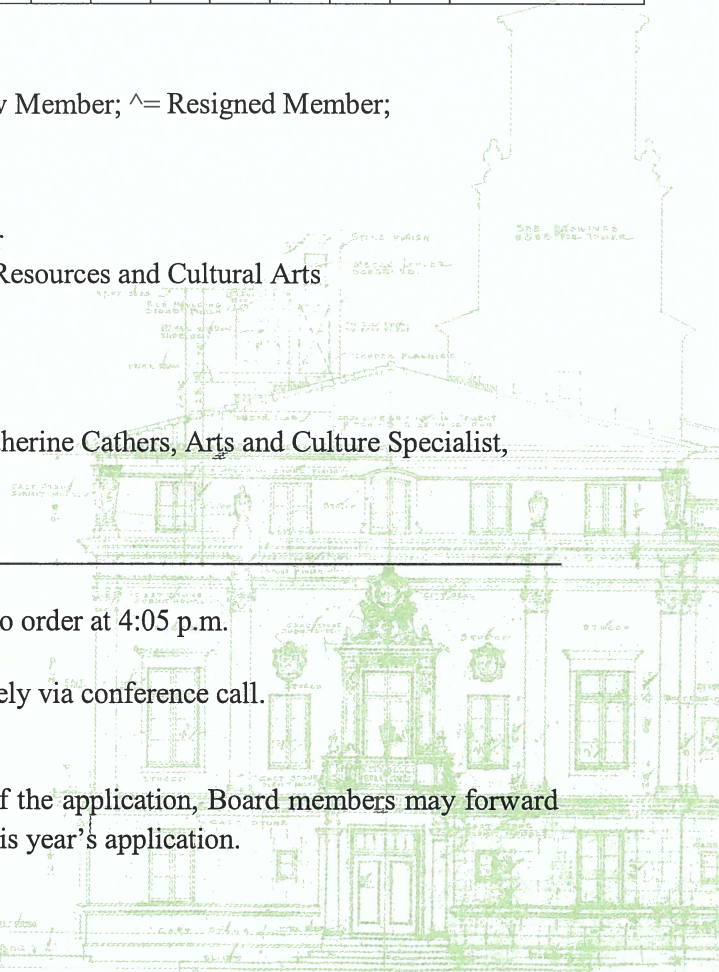
**RECORDING AND PREPARATION OF MINUTES:** Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts

Dr. Roth called the Cultural Development Board meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Ms. Horwitz and Dr. Mayorga attended the meeting remotely via conference call.

**DISCUSSION OF CULTURAL GRANTS:**

Dr. Roth opened the discussion and stated that in terms of the application, Board members may forward written comments directly to staff for incorporation into this year's application.



She went on to lead a discussion on items to discuss with Commissioners regarding the cultural grants. The Board thoroughly discussed the importance of maintaining or increasing funding to support Coral Gables based cultural organizations that provide year-round funding. It was noted that the maximum request is currently \$10,000 in this category and was previously \$15,000. The Board agreed that these organizations are especially important to the cultural fabric of the City, provide credibility to other funders, and are in need of the funds.

Staff reviewed the three current cultural grant categories and presented a draft resolution outlining the Board's proposed recommendation to increase the funding cap to the Coral Gables Based organization category.

Staff provided a breakdown of how funds were allocated between the different categories last year. The Board expressed concern about funding outdoor festivals having a strong commercial, rather than cultural, component. It was suggested that festivals such as these could be eliminated from allowable use of cultural grant funds. The Community Grant category was discussed and whether it made sense to keep it as a separate category and whether applicants in this category could be transferred to Parks & Recreation. Staff stated a concern that there is no funding to transfer with it if moved. Dr. Alvarez-Perez suggested updating the language defining "cultural" and revising the Cultural Series category. The Board continued speaking about the nuances of cultural events, programs, series, and agreed to revise the category to Cultural Programs and re-state the criteria for "groups that produce series and events with cultural significance."

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**Ms. Burgos made a motion to eliminate the Cultural Grant Community category; to rename the Cultural Series category to Cultural Programs and revise the definition; to eliminate Festivals as an allowable use of grant funds; and to increase the maximum grant request for Coral Gables Based organization from \$10,000 to \$15,000. Dr. Alvarez-Perez seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.\***

\*This item was approved at the City Commission meeting of May 22, 2018.

Mr. Pantin suggested giving additional scoring points to organizations that offer Coral Gables' residents free or reduced tickets. Ms. Spain noted that these types of incentives affect other grant funding sources that require programs to be inclusive and accessible to all. In addition, it was noted that many applicants do provide free programming. Concern was also stated about how it may affect the quality of programs offered in Coral Gables. Ms. Cathers stated that the County offers youth and older adults free or reduced tickets through their Culture Shock and Golden Ticket programs.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez asked about organizations that may not have two years' experience and how the City can support them. Staff responded that they may apply through a fiscal sponsor. Board members commented that the experience requirement helps assure quality programs. It was also noted that funding sources outside of Coral Gables are required for the City's grant. Ms. Horwitz commented on the challenge of organizations that don't have other funding sources, or say they do and then they don't. Dr. Roth referred to the section of the application requesting whether funding is secured or pending. Also, she

said, if they have had prior funding, it's a good indicator of future funding. It was agreed that Board members should notice these areas when scoring applications.

The Board spoke about the City's grant application compared to other municipality grants. It was agreed that the information requested is similar to other grants and easy to complete.

DISCUSSION OF BILTMORE STAGE:

Dr. Roth began the discussion by sharing her experience of attending a recent production at GableStage (theater at the Biltmore Hotel), reflecting that it would be a shame if, with GableStage's departure, Coral Gables would have one live theater left. She added that the City owns the building and would like to recommend that the current theater remain dedicated to non-profit live theater.

Dr. Roth stated that the space is already set up for small scale theater productions at reasonable rental rates. She also noted that the stage itself is not deep enough for large scale productions and that GableStage also hosts music and school programs.

The Board discussed other theater companies who have left or are leaving, such as New Theater, that left the area after being unable to find a suitable location and rent; and Area Stage (seeking a new venue due to demolition of their current space), and their need for a larger venue that can support their successful conservatory program.

The Board agreed that a non-profit theater organization with year-round programming would be a good fit and recommended a resident company that could keep the space active.

Mr. Pantin asked if there are legal restrictions to how the space can be used. Staff responded that the City Attorney would be consulted.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**Mr. Pantin made a motion recommending sole use of the theater space at the Biltmore Hotel as a live theater or performance venue for a not-for-profit organization. Dr. Alvarez-Perez seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.\***

\*This item was presented and deferred at the City Commission meeting of May 22, 2018. It was discussed at the City Commission meeting of June 12, 2018 and filed.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board was updated on the Venice in the Gables project, stating that the bases were installed in the morning, the posts will be installed the next day, and the opening will be on Friday. Details were provided about the event and sponsors. Staff shared that the City has received numerous calls from artists wanting to be involved after seeing how wonderful the post form is. Ms. Cathers stated that the project exemplified a broad range of styles and artist backgrounds. She went on to share that eight artists worked in the pop-up studio on Miracle Mile, drawing curiosity and interest from pedestrians. Ms. Spain

discussed the challenge of engineering and fabricating the concrete bases necessary to hold the posts, commending the great work of Gal Bensaadon with Red Door construction. Further details regarding the number of posts, the commissioning process, and sponsorship were given to the Board, who expressed great enthusiasm for the project.

The Board discussed next steps for Venice in the Gables and what to do with the remaining posts. Ideas included running the program again at a later date or auctioning off artists to commission designs for the remaining posts.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Dr. Roth reminded Board members to speak to Commissioners regarding the cultural grants and asked Board members to attend the Commission meeting in support of the resolutions being prepared, including those for the cultural grants, GablesStage, and Art Basel artist Hank Willis Thomas. Ms. Spain advised the Board that Hank Willis Thomas will be attending the Commission meeting to present his proposal.


ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

There were no additional items.

**A motion was called by Mr. Perez to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Mr. Pantin.  
The motion was unanimously approved.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dona M. Spain", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Dona M. Spain  
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director