

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-2
July 13, 2021
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias (Absent)

Assistant City Manager, Ed Santamaria

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Arts and Culture Specialist, Catherine Cathers

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item H-2

A Resolution of the City Commission approving artists for public art proposal submittals associated with the new public Parking Garage 7, Minorca Garage, (Unanimously recommended by the Cultural Development Board approval/denial vote: 5 to 0).

Mayor Lago: Let's move forward. Let's get H-2.

City Attorney Ramos: Is a Resolution of the City Commission approving artists for public art proposal submittals associated with the new public Parking Garage 7, Minorca Garage.

Ms. Cathers: Good evening Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioners.

Mayor Lago: Good evening.

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Ms. Cathers: Catherine Cathers, Arts and Cultural Specialist with Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Department. Following the city's Art in Public Places process, a request for qualifications was announced nationally, inviting artists to submit qualifications and interest in developing public art for the new public Parking Garage 7, Minorca Garage next to the new Public Safety Building. The Arts Advisory Panel met and reviewed 79 responding applications and recommended a short list of 7 artists, who not only met the qualification of being a professional working artist, but who represent a balance of artistic styles, included local artists and whose studio practice demonstrated potential for creating unique artwork. The panel, along with department staff, Police Chief Hudak, Fire Chief de la Rosa, and Parking Director Kevin Kinney, interviewed the seven artists and a motion was made to invite four of the artists to prepare proposals. Those artists are Grimanesa Amoros, Brookhart Jonquil, Monika Bravo, and Ivan Toth Depena. The Cultural Development Board met and reviewed the artists recommendations of the panel and are recommending that the Commission approve the next step of inviting the four artists to prepare concept proposals. Once the proposals are submitted, they will be available for the public to view and comment on, prior to moving forward with a recommendation to the City Commission. Funds for this process are being proposed through use of the Art Acquisition Fund and in fulfillment of the Miami-Dade County's Art in Public Places ordinance.

Mayor Lago: Quick question. What was the total cost of the artwork?

Ms. Cathers: Right now, we are looking at, I believe, its 400 for the parking garage opportunity.

Mayor Lago: 400 – okay. Let me ask you a question. If I'm not satisfied or if this Commission is not satisfied with the artists with the renderings, we have an ability to extricate ourselves from the artist that we've chosen and potentially go in a different route.

Ms. Cathers: Absolutely.

Mayor Lago: Okay. Alright. I'll be honest with you, I haven't had a chance to look at all the 79 artists that submitted, that's my bad, I should have taken the time to do that. Can you do me a favor and send that over to me again in an e-mail so that I can review it at my own leisure and the four artists that were chosen.

Ms. Cathers: Yes.

Mayor Lago: Thank you. Does anybody else have any comments? Are we in a hurry today to make this decision?

Ms. Cathers: Of course, the project is moving forward with construction, so the sooner we have a decision from the Commission the better.

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Mayor Lago: I'd like a personal point of privilege to allow me to make that decision by the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Anderson: Of course.

Mayor Lago: I appreciate that. Thank you. Its nothing on you. It has to do with everything with me, I haven't had the time to review this and it's a \$400,000 decision and as an art fanatic I want to make sure that we, this is a significant investment in our Art in Public Places. I want to make sure we have the best.

Ms. Cathers: So just for the background, the RFQ initially went out, we did send it out again the second time in order to get more participation and this is just for the proposal phase, so it's not for the artwork itself.

Mayor Lago: Just write me a quick e-mail with all the names and everything and I'll review it over the weekend. Thank you so much. I appreciate you. Thank you.