



**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 9:00 a.m.**

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

Historical Resources &
Cultural Arts

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MEMBERS	J	J+	A	S	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
	22	22	22	22	22	22	23	23	23	23	23
Nelson de León	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Eugenia Incer	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P
Adler Guerrier	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Maggie Hernandez - V. Chair	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Dr. Jacek Kolasiński - Chair	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P
Emily MacDonald-Korth	E	E	E	P	P	E	E	E	A	P	P
Manny Mato	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P
Marijean Miyar	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	E	P	P	P

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

STAFF:

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 Chair Kolasiński at 9:02 a.m.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 5, 2023 MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Ms. Miyar and seconded by Ms. Incer to approve the meeting minutes of April 5, 2023, which was unanimously passed by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. CORAL GABLE CENTENNIAL – COMMEMORATIVE ARTWORK

Ms. Cathers, addressed the Panel with an update of the meeting that took place at the last Lola B. Walker H.O.A. meeting. It was reported that there was overwhelming interest in proceeding with a public art project that included the involvement of the residents within the (MacFarlane and Golden Gate) communities.

In response to Mr. Prime's previous feedback, Ms. Cathers drafted a Request for Responses to be mailed and distributed to the neighborhood residents and members of the H.O.A. Panel members reviewed a draft of the request, which was also sent to Mr. Prime. Members stated that the questionnaire was well thought out and would also provide information to the selected artist.

Panel members agreed that a professional artist is needed to guide the project, adding that an ideal artist will be one who can address the historical context and work collaboratively with the community. It was suggested to ultimately present three to five artists to the community for consideration. The following artists were discussed: Chris Friday, Chire Regans, Reginald O'Neal, T. Elliot Mansa, and William Osorio. A motion was made to approach the first three artist to gauge their interest in the project as follows:

Ms. Hernandez made a motion recommending a request for proposals from artists: Chris Friday, Chire Regans, and Reginald O'Neal with T. Elliot Mansa and William Osorio as next tier considerations. Ms. Miyar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion paused to recognize the next item.

Continuing, the Bahamian artist, Antonius Roberts was mentioned and included on the list of artists to consider.

Mr. Prime joined the meeting and discussion continued. Mr. Prime reported the feedback he received so far has included community members wanting to have someone who knows a lot about the history and a Bahamian artist or someone living in South Florida. He said the community is deeply committed and wants to be involved. Staff asked if he would like to proceed with the Request for Responses and he agreed. Mr. Prime thanked the Panel and left the meeting.

After a brief discussion, Panel members discussed striking the previous motion and re-considering it at the next meeting.

Ms. Hernandez made a motion striking the previous motion. Ms. Miyar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION – LEONORA CARRINGTON

Panel members received a proposal from The Plaza to publicly exhibit a sculpture by the artist Leonora Carrington. Ms. Cathers provided information, stating that the artist is a prominent, now deceased, surrealist artist who spent much of her life in Mexico. The sculpture, she continued, is an approximately ten-foot-high replica of a whimsical piece in Mexico that stands over twice as tall and is titled "Rey del Tequila", The King of Tequila.

It was noted that the piece is installed and was initially intended for temporary exhibition; however, the developer is considering including it as a permanent installation. Panel members were advised that the artwork was purchased and is owned by the Beckmann Foundation.

Panel members were enthusiastic about the artwork overall and the following motion was made:

Mr. Roselione-Valadez made a motion recommending approval of the installation of Leonora Carrington’s artwork “Rey del Tequila” at The Plaza.

Ms. Hernandez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. ART IN PUBLIC PLACES WAIVER REQUEST – THE VILLAGE

Representatives of “The Village” development project approached the Panel with a request to waive the Art in Public Places fee in lieu of commissioning and providing artwork at the site. Jenny Ducret, with MG Developer, and Maria de la Guardia, architect, spoke about the project overall and stated that the proposed public art ties the entire block together. Artists Rosario Marquardt and Roberto Behar, known as R & R Studios, provided a brief background of their work and presented details about the proposed artwork.

It was noted that it is unusual for an architect to have a full block, which presented an opportunity for the Artists to do the same. The Artists spoke about giving prominence to the project through the art as a series of “light sculptures.” They spoke about a tradition in art and architecture using lights as a sculptural element and referenced the work of Chris Burden, Michelangelo Pistoletto, and Coral Gables’ White Way Lights. The Artists also referenced George Merrick’s vision of outdoor public spaces.

A PowerPoint was presented showing sculptural, coral-color painted lamp posts lining the streets around the entire block of The Village project. It was estimated that twenty-two lights would be installed and function as the required street lighting. Each sculptural lamp was said to hold five glass globes that would be fitted with programmable LED lights and positioned uniquely to create a kind of dynamic motion as one walks down the block, having an enhanced experience of the (artwork and development) project.

Panel members asked about the globes and their potential replacement. The Artists stated that they are handblown and available from multiple sources; however, they recommend purchasing an additional number to have on hand for replacement. Programming of the lights was discussed, noting that a computer is needed to control them and could be managed through the condominium management office. The importance of the color, and keeping it consistent, was stated as an important element to separate it as a work of art. The Artists described a similar, successful project of theirs using streetlamps in Princeton.

It was recommended to document the (paint) color with a color measurement to assist future restoration if the works are damaged or need touch-up. Discussion included comments about how to keep the piece looking its best and with an exact color match over time. Panel members reiterated concern about access to replacement globes. The artists responded that the company is large and there is more than one source.

Location proximity to the trees was discussed and how the lamps would interact with tree growth. All agreed that the placement is important to avoid potential damage to the trees.

Panel members had questions about who would be responsible for the artwork since the pieces would be located on the right-of-way and how to avoid additional lights being installed that would disrupt the harmony of the piece. The project team stated that it will be their job to get the approval for the required street light levels so additional lights won't be imposed at the site. Continuing, they said they will be working with public works and requested support of the project from the Panel. Panel members recommended having a photo metrics consultant included in the project.

Overall, Panel members expressed support of the project and its beauty. Staff agreed and cautioned about the logistical elements that need clarification. Ms. Cathers asked the Panel to consider among their recommendation specifying the number of lamps created to qualify it as a work of art and as one piece, rather than as an open edition where additional lamps may be made and perceived as a product. The Panel briefly discussed various options to address this point.

With no further discussion, the guests left the meeting and no motion was made.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no further new business.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

The Panel was updated on the status of public art installations including:

- The Plaza – Jean Michel Othoniel sculptural fountain, sculptural elements are installed, and fountain hydraulics continue to be tested.
- Villa Valencia – Thomas Houseago sculpture has been installed.
- Zilia Sanchez – Installation is estimated by the end of summer.
- Police & Fire Headquarters – Waiting for a new installation schedule.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

There was nothing to report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were no further discussion items.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

Panel members were encouraged to submit their continued interest in serving on the Panel.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine J. Cathers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "J".

Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist