



**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, November 15, 9:00 a.m.
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
Hybrid Meeting & Virtual via Zoom**

*Historical Resources of
Cultural Arts*

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MEMBERS	D	J	F	M	A	M	J J	A	S	O	N	APPOINTED BY:
	21	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	
Leslie Pantin	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Vince Lago
Frank Martinez	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor Michael Mena
Frank Rodriguez	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	Commissioner Rhonda Anderson
Ray Corral	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	Commissioner Jorge L. Fors Jr.
Jose Valdes- Fauli	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez
Dr. Bernice Roth Chair	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Geannina Burgos	P	P	A	P	P	P	E	E	E	E	P	Board Appointee

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 and Culture Specialist,
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts

Dr. Roth called the Cultural Development Board (CDB) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The Board was advised that Mr. Corral asked respectfully to be excused. There was an in-person quorum and Ms. Burgos participated via Zoom.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the absences of Mr. Corral. Mr. Pantin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, OCTOBER 18, 2022:

Approval of the October 18, 2022 minutes was deferred.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. AIPP WAIVER REQUEST, GABLES LIVING – GUSTAVO VELEZ

Board members reviewed a request from Conconcreto to waive the Art in Public Places fee and instead commission and place public artwork on the project site.

A representative of the project was not in attendance to present the request. Board members were provided with a copy of the proposal in advance, and it was displayed for discussion. Ms. Cathers reviewed the location on the corner of Bird Road and Laguna Street, and its relationship to Coral Gables High School and a convenience store across the street. She noted that the project is mixed use and will include senior living and ground floor retail. Images of the artwork were shown from different angles.

Board members commented on the prominent location and most said they like the piece, which is a marble sculpture by the artist Gustavo Velez. The technical specifications of the sculpture were stated including the total height of 7-8 feet with the base and the possibility of a rotating element; it was not clearly stated whether it would be mechanical or manual.

The Board was provided with the recommendation of the Arts Advisory Panel, who advised not to approve a recommendation due to their feeling that it is not a unique piece and there are (key) questions the developer was unable to answer including whether it is part of a series, confirmation of the scale, specifics regarding the rotation mechanism, maintenance requirements, etc. The artwork is proposed for placement on the City's R.O.W. and would be the responsibility of the City. It was further conveyed that the Panel as-a-whole agreed it was not a piece unique to Coral Gables, or of itself, and expressed their lack of excitement about the work or accepting it into the collection.

Mr. Martinez commented that he agreed with the observations of the Panel and stated that the artwork lacks a scale that fits the built environment around it. He went on to say he thought it was beautiful, but small, and was not convinced of the location. Mr. Rodriguez asked if Mr. Martinez had additional thoughts regarding the location and wondered if, since the Board likes the piece, there would be room to make a recommendation without the location specified. Staff responded that it does not need to be at the development site and shared the developer's openness to having it installed elsewhere.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli stated that the Panel's questions were not answered and suggested they receive answers prior to moving forward. Dr. Roth agreed, adding that the Board should make use of the Panel's expertise.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli made a motion to defer the item until answers are provided to the Arts Advisory Panel's questions. Mr. Pantin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Dr. Roth continued, remarking that the Panel may not want to revisit (the proposal). Mr. Rodriguez commented that there should be a consensus between the Panel and Board, recognizing that each has a function and that the Panel did not seem interested in the piece.

It was also mentioned that the Panel may be responding to points made at the previous Panel and Board joint meeting regarding preferred types of artwork and artists being represented in the collection.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli asked about receiving the Panel's recommendation in advance of the Board's meeting. Ms. Cathers responded that the printed material presented in advance of the meeting is the proposal from the developer, the same information that the Panel received. It was noted that the Panel had met the week before; therefore, without enough lead time, the recommendation is being conveyed verbally.

Dr. Roth recommended a two-week interval between the Panel and Board meetings so that the Panel's opinion may be reviewed in advance. All agreed.

Mr. Martinez asked if staff could compile information within that time. Ms. Cathers said yes, and that the original one-week difference was put in place to help expedite the process. She agreed that it makes sense to extend it to two weeks and is beneficial overall.

Following a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Pantin made a motion recommending two weeks between the Arts Advisory Panel meeting and the Cultural Development Board meeting. Mr. Valdes-Fauli seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. AIPP – RFQ PROJECT DRAFT

Board members reviewed a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) draft seeking South Florida artists for a permanent public artwork that could be completed in time for Art Basel 2023. The RFQ process was previously approved by the City Commission, and this is the next step.

Dr. Roth asked how and when the RFQ would be released to the public. Ms. Cathers responded that it would be distributed through standard public art channels including colleagues in other municipal public art programs, the County, and professional organizations. This one, she said, is for regional artists and emphasized it going to the Coral Gables Museum and other cultural partners, it being posted on the City's website, on E-news, distribution through Americans for the Arts, and through major galleries who have artists who may be interested in this opportunity.

Ms. Cathers continued, saying staff asked the Arts Panel to recommend locations. The Panel, in turn, recommended the Board pick one or two from the proposed list to include with the RFQ. She stated that the Panel looked at both urban and residential areas and spoke about the pedestrian experience. The Board reviewed and discussed the locations. Staff added that the sites need to be approved by the City Manager's office. Ms. Cathers asked them to rank the sites in a preferred order and asked if there were other locations the Board would like considered. Dr. Roth suggested waiting to hear the City Manager's response to the locations.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli expressed concern about the many signs around certain sites, making it difficult to see a sculpture. He asked that (the City) be aware of items competing for attention.

Mr. Martinez discussed the merits of having proposed locations vetted through different City departments including planning and with input from the City architect. Ms. Cathers agreed that it would be beneficial and responded that the master plan process would involve other departments (extensively). Mr. Martinez asked staff to assemble an ad-hoc committee to consider the proposed locations with people from departments that deal with the built environment. Dr. Roth suggested separating the location(s) from the RFQ. The Board overall agreed and had no further comments regarding the RFQ itself. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to accept the RFQ with the locations removed. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Martinez made a motion recommending a team to discuss locations and return with one or two locations to be inserted into the RFQ. Mr. Valdes-Fauli seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

Mr. Pantin asked about the status of the artwork at the Police and Fire Headquarters building. Ms. Cathers responded that the Police and Fire Chiefs asked for modifications of the scope to include cast bronze emblems for Police; Fire; Communications; and the City; and to have them embedded in the base and lit. She stated that because of the added light elements, additional engineering is required to address the necessary depth needed to accommodate them. Continuing, she said staff is waiting for specifics (from the artist team) to prepare an agenda item for the City Commission.

Ms. Cathers clarified that the project is not over budget, and additional costs are based on the requests from Police and Fire. Ms. Cathers mentioned that the change of scope includes fabrication of a protective cover for the artwork for use during tropical storms.

Mr. Pantin asked about the Art in Public Places requirement associated with the Jaguar Land Rover development on US 1. Ms. Cathers responded that the developer approached the Arts Advisory Panel with a proposal that the Panel did not support and asked them to consider other options. She said they have not submitted another proposal, and nothing has been approved for artwork on the site. Ms. Cathers stated that a recommendation was not made by the Panel regarding the proposal, therefore it did not move forward to the Board. Later in the meeting she clarified that developers often approach the Panel for feedback in advance of making a proposal, which staff encourages.

Dr. Roth mentioned her request at the last meeting to have developer's proposed art as part of the planning process. She asked for a status update of the request. Ms. Cathers said she spoke with the City Attorney's Office (CAO), and they said they would prepare draft language to address the comments of the Board. She added that the CAO has not encouraged making changes to the code in a substantial way. Ms. Cathers noted that the request may be addressed administratively.

Mr. Pantin commended the projects that have included art as part of the design process early on. Ms. Cathers stated that some of larger development projects have been including the location of proposed artwork on their plans; however, their process is delayed because the artist is not vetted, and the concept is not complete.

Ms. Cathers updated the Board on Ponce Circle Park. She presented the most recent plan provided to the department and said Phase I will include street work around the park that is scheduled to start in 2023. Phase 2, she said, will include the park although there is no scheduled timeline. She said BOA has approved the plan and it is anticipated to go before the Commission early in the year. A location for artwork, Ms. Cathers said, is planned for the south end of the park. She said she shared with staff the Board's interest in being part of the discussion regarding more art within the park. Mr. Martinez said the plan seems to be heading in a good direction.

Responding to Mr. Pantin's question at the previous meeting about the sidewalks, Ms. Cathers stated that the City's commitment does not extend beyond the streets abutting the park. Mr. Pantin applauded The Plaza development's treatment of the side street pavers.

Ms. Cathers reported that through the restoration process, it was discovered how often regular maintenance is required for some of the artworks. For example, she said, the artwork sofa at Balboa Plaza needs to be maintained every 2 months rather than the six months originally anticipated. She mentioned other works that had a complete transformation such as the Juan Ponce de Leon bust that had a greenish color and was discovered to originally have been painted gold.

She mentioned that she would be leading a Bike Walk Coral Gables public art tour on Sunday (however, the tour was rained out and has been re-scheduled to March).

CULTURAL GRANTS:

The Board was reminded of the need to discuss any proposed Cultural Grant application and process revisions for recommendation to the City Commission. Staff suggested that it be addressed by February.

Board members were invited to attend the Actors' Playhouse and GableStage productions.

Ms. Cathers reported attending a performance by Les Ailes du Desir Foundation. She described the program and commended the high quality of the performance and performers. Continuing, she stated there was an enthusiastic, full audience. Ms. Cathers commented on the truss system that was used and how it might work in the Sanctuary of the Arts space.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

There were no City Commission items.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. CULTURAL ARTS MASTER PLAN

Prior to the pandemic, the Board discussed updating the Public Art Master Plan and broadening the vision into a Cultural Arts Master Plan that would include cultural arts initiatives beyond public art. The pandemic stalled the project and Mr. Martinez asked that the Board discuss it now. Staff stated it would provide a roadmap for both the Panel and Board to function more efficiently.

Ms. Cathers stated that she met with Michael Spring, director of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, who advised that it is a useful tool, although he thought it could be done internally. She continued, saying it could, but the time and current resources would make it challenging and suggested pursuing a consultant or consultant team. (The process), she said, would revisit goals and objectives and recommended sites for public art. Ms. Cathers stated that expanding it to a Cultural Arts Master Plan would include consideration of cultural facilities and provide an opportunity for public engagement.

She asked the Board for their thoughts regarding whether to proceed with it as an internal project, which would rely more heavily on Board participation, or pursue a consultant. Dr. Roth asked if grant funding is available to use. Ms. Cathers stated that if a grant were awarded, funds would not be available for another year and a half.

Dr. Roth suggested approaching it as a one- or two-year plan rather than five-year due to rapid changes (broadly). She suggested that an outline be incorporated into the strategic plan to carry over from year to year. Mr. Martinez agreed, supporting use of the right strategy. All members said it's a good idea to have a master plan to guide the City.

Mr. Martinez continued, saying any Master Plan that looks at civic art and institutions needs to be thought of in a comprehensive way and the need for outside resources is understandable. He asked

what financial resources are available and how would (the Board) define (the consultant's) work. He supported bringing in one that looks carefully at the built environment and offers specific locations where things need to happen, while being substantive.

Dr. Roth asked about the proposed cost. Ms. Cathers recommended \$130,000-150,000 dollars and supported using a local team. Previously she said, the City worked with a national firm. However, she stated that (the City) is much different (than other regions in the country) and has environmental, physical, and cultural considerations that someone living in the area could be more sensitive and responsive to (regarding recommendations).

Mr. Martinez said it is the right time to do it and would like it discussed again at the next meeting to give Board members a chance to review the previous master plan and any related materials. Dr. Roth agreed and asked for a list of potential consultants. Mr. Martinez asked staff to draft bullet points to consider for the Master Plan. He said the goal is for the Plan to be meaningful and helpful to the City. The greatest way of doing that, he continued, it to have involvement throughout the City. He asked for an overview about how the previous one evolved and how the different departments were brought in. Ms. Cathers responded that the previous plan included working with numerous departments and this time it would be an even better process. She stressed the importance of doing the same, and of the benefit of experience now that departments are familiar with the program and aspects that affect them.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

Ms. Cathers stated that there are four passes available for the Art Basel Vernissage and to contact her if they would like to attend.

Ms. Cathers reminded Board members of the City's Art Basel VIP event on Sunday, December 3 at 8:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the joint Cultural Development Board and Arts Advisory Panel meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist