



CITY OF CORAL GABLES
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, December 20, 9:00 a.m.
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
Hybrid Meeting & Virtual via Zoom

Historical Resources ☛
 Cultural Arts

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

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 and Culture Specialist,
 Historical Resources and Cultural Arts

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, OCTOBER 18 AND NOVEMBER 15, 2022:

Mr. Valdes-Fauli made a motion to approve the minutes of October 18 and November 15, 2022. Mr. Pantin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROPOSAL – JANINE ANTONI

Ms. Antoni appeared before the Board via Zoom to present a revised proposal for the sculpture “Whispering Through a Stone”. The concept remained the same as previously presented and included a revised budget and suggested locations.

Elaborating on the proposal, Ms. Antoni stated that the piece is inspired by the Victorian era “conversation chair” used for courtship where two people could have an intimate conversation while being separated. With this version, she said, the people can not see one another. The idea, Ms. Antoni continued, is to have a very large stone with the negative impressions of two bodies carved out (in opposing directions) and when seated, would discover a small hole drilled from one side of the stone to the other at speaking level where one can have a conversation with the other.

Ms. Antoni expressed that her work explores how the body impresses itself onto objects and in return, the object onto the body. She shared the intention of someone imagining themselves sitting in it before doing so.

Another aspect of the piece, Ms. Antoni said, is listening. While conducting research for the piece, she found that an average of one third of teenagers sends about 100 texts a day and she became interested in how to encourage sustaining a coherent (in person) conversation. In addition, she said, with this piece you cannot talk and listen at the same time; there is no interruption and one person needs to listen while the other talks. Ms. Antoni shared other works she has that also address listening, including a large-scale land work in Kansas City.

In speaking about locations, Ms. Antoni’s preference is to have the sculpture located in an area with significant pedestrian traffic that would support the concept of having a private conversation in a public area. She showed renderings of the piece in Merrick Park, under a tree across from City Hall, and also within areas of Miracle Mile.

Ms. Cathers stated an interest in the Merrick Park location where many people gather for various events and walk, saying they could (also) return to share a special or important conversation.

With no further questions, Ms. Antoni thanked the Board and left the meeting. After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Pantin made a motion recommending artist Janine Antoni’s proposal as presented for the artwork “Whispering Through a Stone”. Mr. Valdes-Fauli seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. PROPOSED DONATION: SPEEDFORMS IN THE GARDEN – PININFARINA

Board members reviewed a request from Pininfarina for the donation of a sculptural suite of three marble pieces titled “Speedforms in the Garden.”

Staff reviewed the City's donation policy with Board members and discussed the justification for bringing the proposal to the Board. The sculptures, Ms. Cathers said, were created and exhibited for Design Miami 2018 and have since been in a greenspace within Brickell. She said she viewed the works on site and noted that some restoration would be required; however, overall the pieces were in good condition. Board members were advised that the City would be responsible for expenses related to the restoration, transportation, and installation. It was further noted that Pininfarina has been working with the City's IT department on a project, giving the donation greater significance and connection to the City.

Board members discussed the proposal and agreed that the works are spectacular and would made a great addition to the City. There was a brief discussion regarding possible locations and Mr. Valdes-Fauli offered to temporarily place them at the Museum. After continued discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Valdes-Fauli made a motion recommending acceptance of the donation "Speedforms in the Garden" from Pininfarina to be included in the City's public art collection. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CULTURAL GRANTS:

a. CULTURAL GRANTEE CHANGE REQUESTS

Board members were advised of change requests from the Miami Children's Chorus, The Dave and Mary Alper JCC, and Area Stage Company. All requests addressed date changes, with two initiated by the venues and one because of performer illness. With no questions, the following motion was made:

Mr. Martinez made a motion approving the requested changes for the Miami Children's Chorus, The Dave and Mary Alper JCC, and Area Stage Company. Mr. Valdes-Fauli seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. AIPP WAIVER REQUEST, GABLES LIVING – GUSTAVO VELEZ

Board members reviewed the Arts Advisory Panel minutes excerpt regarding their recommendation not to approve the Gables Living development project request to waive the Art in Public Places fee and, instead, commission public artwork. The Board was advised that the development contact has not responded to the questions sent from the Panel.

Overall, the Board expressed interest in the piece. Staff advised that after receiving a motion from the Board, it would be the developer's decision whether to move the recommendation forward to the City Commission. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Pantin made a motion recommending approval of the Gables Living request to waive the Art in Public Places fee in lieu of commissioning artwork as presented by artist Gustavo Velez. Mr. Valdes-Fauli seconded the motion, which passed (vote: approval/denial 6 to 1).

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

Board members were provided with the minutes of the Arts Advisory Panel meeting of November 19th and discussed other opportunities for public art throughout the City.

a. ART IN PUBLIC PLACES – LOCATIONS

The Board was advised that the proposed list of locations for public art was discussed with City staff from Planning, Public Works, and Parks and Recreation. It was mentioned that discussion of the urban and residential sites included consideration of surrounding trees and air flow that could affect installed artwork. The Board reviewed the list, with Mr. Valdes-Fauli asking to consider the number of signs and lights in an area and how they may compete with the art.

Ms. Cathers shared the Arts Advisory Panel's interest in focusing on residential locations for the proposed RFQ.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli recommended a long-term goal of establishing public art walking tours, and therefore, to concentrate artworks in a particular area. In response, the Board discussed Ponce Circle Park and if there is an opportunity to establish it as a place for multiple sculptures. Ms. Cathers said it is her understanding that the City Commission will discuss the most recent design early in the year. Mr. Martinez stated that the design is laid out in a way that artwork could be included (beyond the one specified location). Board members continued discussion and made the following motion:

Mr. Martinez made a motion recommending inclusion of infrastructure to support multiple sculptures within Ponce Circle Park, and to have the park as a focal point for the City Centennial. Mr. Pantin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Pantin made a motion nominating Mr. Martinez to speak on behalf of the Board at City Commission meetings addressing the Ponce Circle Park design, further nominating Ms. Burgos as a backup if Mr. Martinez is unavailable. Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROJECT UPDATES

The Board was provided with the following updates:

1. *Eternal Vigilance*: City Commission approval of added scope for the memorial sculpture at the Police and Fire Headquarters, including the inclusion of cast bronze emblems on the base and additional lighting.

2. *The Truth is I Welcome You*: The Hank Willis Thomas artwork signs have been restored and are now re-installed along Miracle Mile.
3. The Plaza artworks: Michele Oka Doner's sculptural bench has been installed. The hanging lanterns are pending installation. The Board was informed of finish variations that are being addressed.
4. Villa Valencia: Foundation is in place to accept the artwork.
5. Jaguar Land Rover: A sculpture has been installed that was not recommended for approval by the Arts Advisory Panel or the Cultural Development Board and was not approved by the City Commission. The installation was noticed just prior to the meeting and staff stated they will research and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

There were no further City Commission items.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. ART FUND ANALYSIS

The Board was provided with an analysis of the Art Fund. The analysis included expense funds dedicated to previous, committed, and proposed projects along with the available revenue.

b. PUBLIC ART ACQUISITIONS

Following up on the Art Fund analysis, Board members discussed available funds and the Mayor's interest in acquiring artwork by the artist Frank Stella.

Staff shared the Arts Advisory Panel's similar discussion, with the Panel suggesting that a proposal be requested of Mr. Stella along with two other artists. Mr. Valdes-Fauli said the Mayor clearly expressed interest in a Frank Stella artwork. After a brief discussion, he made the following motion:

Mr. Valdes-Fauli made a motion to acquire a public artwork by the artist Frank Stella. Mr. Pantin seconded the motion, which did not pass (vote: approval/denial 2 to 5).

Mr. Rodriguez shared his understanding of the Arts Panel and Cultural Board functions, supporting the process of requesting advice from the Panel and using a competitive process, with the Board making their own decision regarding a recommendation to the Commission. Discussion continued, including asking the Arts Advisory Panel for a formal recommendation. Mr. Rodriguez expressed wanting to know the Panel's thoughts and it was clearly stated that the Panel has an advisory function, which does not mean the Board will follow the advice provided. In addition, it was noted that for the anticipated amount for an artwork of this stature, more diligence is ideal.

c. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Pantin asked if the Artefacto development is in Coral Gables and if a permit was given for the artwork mounted on the exterior of the building. Ms. Cathers responded that she will look into it.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

Ms. Cathers informed the Board of the Arts Advisory Panel's motion to change their meeting dates to the first Wednesday of the month starting in February.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the joint Cultural Development Board and Arts Advisory Panel meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Catherine".

Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist