



**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Wednesday, April 5, 2023 9:00 a.m.**

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

*Historical Resources &
Cultural Arts*

2327 SALZEDO STREET
CORAL GABLES
FLORIDA 33134

☎ 305-460-5093
✉ hist@coralgables.com

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

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

STAFF:

Kara Kautz, Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Acting Director
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 Vice-Chair Hernandez at 9:06 a.m.

A motion was made by Ms. Miyar and seconded by Ms. Incer to accept the absences of Chair Kolasiński and Mr. Mato as excused, which was unanimously passed by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 1, 2023 MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Ms. Miyar and seconded by Mr. Roselione-Valadez to approve the meeting minutes of March 1, 2023, which was unanimously passed by voice vote.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES:

a. CORAL GABLE CENTENNIAL – DISCUSSION

Following up from the previous meeting, Martha Pantin, director of communications and public affairs, and Mr. Carl Prime, president of the Lola B. Walker Homeowners Association, appeared before the Panel to discuss proposed commemorative artwork as part of the centennial celebration that would honor the Bahamian community's contributions to the city.

Mr. Prime addressed the Panel and stated that he wanted to hear ideas from the Panel, taking into consideration the community ancestors and elders, what they really experienced, and how they could contribute (to the process). Ms. Hernandez agreed, and on behalf of the Panel, Ms. Hernandez shared the strong interest in involving the neighborhood in the process, including if there are artists of interest to the residents. Mr. Prime responded that it is a good question, whether it is an established public artist, an (emerging) artist, or one that the community feels would capture the essence of what (the residents) are wanting to represent. Ms. Hernandez said several artists could present proposals that could be reviewed.

Ms. Cathers suggested developing project goals with the community and drafting a request for proposals. Mr. Guerrier agreed and stated that context is important. He asked, that as a commemorative artwork, what would (the community) want commemorated, is it a subject, an event, a place, or an object, noting that the narrative of the sculpture will continue through time and may be attending to memories and ideas that have nothing to do with the year or foundation of the city.

Mr. Prime responded that it is one of the reasons that he wants to speak with the elders and council of advisors to ask what they would like to see, adding that they would like something that will be a legacy not only for what they have done for the city, but how (the community) moves forward.

Mr. Guerrier asked if there is a site in the neighborhood for a sculpture that addresses legacy and commemoration. Mr. Prime stated yes and if not, there would be willingness to find one. Ms. Cathers stated that there is interest in placing the piece outside of the neighborhood and wondered if that was of interest. Mr. Prime said he was open to all possibilities. Mr. Guerrier added that a sculpture speaking on behalf of a particular history of legacy could be placed elsewhere and would speak at large about where it is and what it is meant to commemorate. Ms. Hernandez mentioned the importance of thinking about the location so the artist can respond to how it will fit within the space.

Mr. Prime stated that he will speak with the community at their next meeting and return to the Panel. Ms. Cathers offered to attend the meeting and be available to answer any questions.

b. SCULPTURE ACQUISITION PROPOSAL – JOSÉ BEDIA

Frederic Snitzer, with Frederic Snitzer Gallery, and José Bedia Jr., son of artist José Bedia, approached the Panel with a proposal for the acquisition of a sculpture by José Bedia, which is currently installed at the Bass Museum on Miami Beach.

The Artist's son spoke on behalf of his father, who was unable to attend the meeting. He provided background about the artwork and its meaning, stating the title "A Perfect Place" represents Miami in the form of a reclining figure in a hammock-like structure with the front of the figure's face in the image of the Artist's animal alter ego, which appears in much of his work. Mr. Bedia went on to say the animal and human symbolism, duality of character, is important and (also) carries throughout the Artist's pieces. He noted a difference with this artwork as it is suspended rather than embedded on the (ground).

Panel members were provided with images of the sculpture in its current location and were informed that the artwork has been at the Bass Museum for about twenty-three years. It was shared that the Museum is updating their outdoor exhibition space and would like the piece re-located.

Mr. Snitzer, the artist's gallery representative, said the cost of the sculpture is \$80,000 dollars. The materials are (alloy) steel, two telephone poles, and treated chain. Clamps designed by the Artist are attached to the posts and hold the figure in place. Mr. Snitzer stated that no reports have been made regarding adverse public interaction with the artwork and it has done well despite its long-term exposure to salt air. There was a brief discussion of whether it should be sealed to prevent further oxidation. It was noted that the Artist's intention is for the metal to change over time.

Areas of needed restoration included reviewing the structural integrity of the attachment clamps, replacement of bolts, and replacement of the telephone poles. Mr. Snitzer said the original installation involved sinking the posts into the ground with no other foundation. Staff stated that engineered drawings would be needed for the installation. Mr. Snitzer responded that the Artist's studio could assist.

Locations were discussed. Panel members agreed that it should be restored prior to installation and would like further discussion on where it could go. Staff expressed concern about access to the hanging chain. Locations were discussed that would have high pedestrian traffic, possibly neighborhood sites, but not close to play areas.

Discussion continued, including the cost required for restoration and if the Artist could assume this expense. Costs and technical information included replacing the telephone poles, needing specifications for the bolts and anticipated replacement over time, engineering of a foundation, transportation, installation, ongoing maintenance, etc. All agreed that an evaluation of the

hardware is needed and a conversation with the Artist to determine any specific treatments now and in the future.

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

Mr. Roselione-Valadez made a motion recommending acquisition of the artwork “A Perfect Place” by artist José Bedia. Ms. Miyar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no further new business.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. MOBILITY HUB – ARTIST RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel discussed options for the artist opportunity at the Mobility Hub.

Ms. Incer suggested re-visiting the idea of developing a space for ongoing/rotating programming. Ms. Cathers responded that if it was something the Panel wanted to recommend, it would move forward to the Cultural Development Board.

Members discussed reaching out to galleries and how best to approach the opportunity while there is a current open Artist Call in progress. The Panel was reminded of their motion to proceed with a Call for Proposals from a select number of artists.

The Panel requested that a copy of the draft RFP and Mobility Hub presentation be forwarded to them for continued discussion.

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 installed and current testing of the fountain hydraulics.
- Jaguar Land Rover – pending response of how the owner will proceed to seek approval of the installed artwork on site.
- Julio Larraz sculpture – proposed location on Giralda Plaza, at Merrick Way and Aragon Ave.
- Janine Antoni sculpture – proposed location on Miracle Mile at the Northeast corner, behind the historic fountain and closer to Miracle Mile.
- Sculpture proposal – Cultural Development Board did not accept the Panel’s recommendation to invite three artists to submit proposals, instead recommending one proposal from artist Frank Stella.

The Panel discussed possible legislation to clarify how public art on private property is reviewed and permitted. It was suggested that artwork on private property be held to a maintenance standard similar to landscaping and buildings.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

The Panel was informed of the City Commission's approval to request a proposal from Frank Stella for artwork valued up to \$1.25 million.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Ms. MacDonald-Korth shared information and a published article about her color-study work related to the White Way Lights restoration. The article, she said, includes three Florida based projects. She also shared information about a provenance project highlighted in a New York Times article which discussed her role in authenticating a Charles Willson Peale painting. Panel members enthusiastically congratulated her. Ms. MacDonald-Korth let Panel members know that she expanded her practice into Denver but is not relocating.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

The Panel was advised that Warren Adams resigned as director of the Historical Resources and Cultural Arts department and that Kara Kautz is the Acting director.

Panel members were encouraged to submit their continued interest in serving on the Panel and were informed that Mr. Roselione-Valadez will be terming out. Members were asked to forward names of qualified arts professionals to recommend to the Cultural Development Board for consideration.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist

