

DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, September 20, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
Hybrid Meeting & Virtual via Zoom**

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

Mr. Pantin called the Cultural Development Board meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

The Board was advised that Dr. Roth and Ms. Burgos asked respectfully to be excused.

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to approve the absences of Dr. Roth and Ms. Burgos. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, AUGUST 4, 2022:

**Mr. Valdes-Fauli made a motion to approve the minutes of August 4, 2022.
Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

a. CITY OF CORAL GABLES CENTENNIAL - DISCUSSION

The Board welcomed Martha Pantin, Communications and Public Affairs Division Director. Ms. Pantin provided an overview of the City's upcoming Centennial celebration. She stated the importance of different boards in providing programming ideas, and that art will play a critical role.

Ms. Pantin stated that planning has begun, including discussions with the Coral Gables Museum to present a related exhibition. She briefed the Board on an oral history project being led by Michael Rocha, with a goal to interview 100 people throughout the City. A video clip of an interview with Mayor Valdes-Fauli was shown as an example.

Ms. Pantin stated that the community building celebration will include multiple events and listed initial suggestions focusing on art, such as: sculpture commission celebrating the Bahamian community in Coral Gables, a series of artwork crosswalks possibly in collaboration with the University of Miami, a revival of the Venetian Post project, and a laser light show (or something similar).

Centennial anniversary programming, Ms. Pantin continued, is in the early stages and scheduled to start with the tree lighting in 2024 and a concentration of events between December and April, culminating in November 2025. She stated that the actual anniversary date is April 25, 2025 and that the University of Miami and the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce are also celebrating their 100 year anniversaries the same year. She mentioned the possibility of the Coral Gables Garden Club and Coral Gables Community Foundation as also using the Centennial for programming throughout the year.

Initial Centennial Celebration suggestions from Board members included:

- Art Basel artwork
- Cultural Grantee request to present programming themed or dedicated to the Centennial
- Landmark structure renovations
- Exhibition at the Fink Studio
- Exhibition at the Arts Center Building at The Plaza
- Poetry related project

Mr. Corral spoke about the need of landmark structures throughout the City being restored and expressed his thoughts regarding a disconnect between public art and architecture, noting the historical background of the City, when artists would work with architects and how well art was originally integrated into the fabric of the City. Mr. Martinez agreed, commenting on the importance of celebrating the origins of the City. He noted that it may be interesting to think about how the stories and information can be told as a framework for discussion about the future.

Mr. Pantin suggested that the focus for programming be at Ponce Circle Park.

Board members were asked to think about it and return with additional thoughts.

Ms. Pantin provided her email, thanked the Board, and left the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. PRESENTATION OF A PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 2022 AS
“NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH” IN CORAL GABLES

Board members were advised that October is National Arts and Humanities Month and that previously, a proclamation has been issued with the support of the Board. Ms. Cathers noted that it is an initiative of Americans for the Arts, which encourages acknowledgement by municipalities and organizations throughout the country. Board members were provided with a draft of the proclamation, including the listing of cultural grantees and other prominent cultural organizations in the City.

Ms. Cathers reported that Mike Eidson, founder of Sanctuary of the Arts, has been asked to accept the proclamation on behalf of all organizations. She added that he asked a young cellist to perform a brief number at the Commission meeting to commemorate the month.

Board members were asked to support the proclamation and to attend the Commission meeting if available.

After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion supporting National Arts and Humanities Month in Coral Gables. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND ARTS ADVISORY PANEL FINAL
REPORT

Board members were provided with a copy of the Year’s Annual Report. Ms. Cathers gave background information about the report, stating that the report lists the Panel and Board’s purpose, along with major activities and accomplishments of the year.

After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Valdes-Fauli made a motion accepting the annual Cultural Development Board and Arts Advisory Panel Final Report. Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. ART BASEL 2023 – ARTS ADVISORY PANEL RECOMMENDATION

Board members were informed that the Arts Advisory Panel (AAP) discussed Art Basel 2023 and were interested in making a recommendation soon to allow a greater lead time for the project. Ms. Cathers reported that the motion from the AAP to the Board is recommending a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) followed by a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for Art Basel 2023, further recommending that the opportunity be focused on regional artists for a permanent acquisition and a budget for the artwork of \$200,000 (two hundred thousand dollars).

Ms. Cathers noted that the Cultural Development Board previously asked for periodic joint meetings with the AAP. Staff recommended that the next one take place in October and conveyed that the Panel approved a motion for the same. She noted that this item could be discussed now or at that time.

Mr. Rodriguez asked for further information regarding the recommendation. Ms. Cathers provided a brief history stating that in the past, the Art Basel project has been a direct selection, which is one of the options the City has (for acquiring artwork). (The recommendation), she said, is a more standard process for public art acquisitions, which the City has also done with limited success. She continued, providing a more detailed explanation of the RFQ and RFP process.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if there is enough time if the process is started now. Ms. Cathers stated yes.

Board members asked for clarification regarding what regional means and how the budget is defined. Ms. Cathers responded that it would be focused on artists within South Florida. She advised Board members that the present collection contains a balance of regional and international artists, adding that it encourages artists to have their work here as well as nationally and internationally. Ms. Cathers said the \$200,000 is proposed for the work itself, including design, engineering, fabrication, installation, artist fee, etc. She said there would be a separate smaller amount requested for the RFQ/RFP process.

Mr. Martinez suggested using a jury that would include members of the AAP. Mr. Rodriguez pointed out his understanding that the AAP are experts in the arts and can serve as that jury, making a recommendation to the Board. Ms. Cathers stated that the Board always has the option of augmenting the selection jury; agreeing that it is why the AAP was created. Mr. Martinez stated that nine members is a lot. Ms. Cathers suggested that it could be discussed together with the AAP at the October meeting and as staff, it is her job to draft the RFQ and bring it back for discussion.

Board members asked about the anticipated response. Ms. Cathers said an RFQ can generate potentially from 70 to 300 responses. She reviewed the distribution of the Call for Art, including the Coral Gables Museum, Miami-Dade County Art in Public Places, etc.

After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Valdes-Fauli made a motion accepting the motion of the Arts Advisory Panel, recommending use of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the City's Art Basel 2023 program, further recommended that the call be focused on regional artists for a permanent acquisition and budget of \$200,000 (two hundred thousand dollars) for the artwork. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Pantin recommended that the Art Basel project for 2024 be focused on the Centennial.

CULTURAL GRANT UPDATES / REVIEW OF 2022-2023 PROCESS:

a. CULTURAL GRANT REVIEW & SCORING PROCESS – DISCUSSION

This item was deferred

b. CULTURAL GRANTEE UPDATES

Board members were advised that the organization Strength in Numbers/Power in Connection has suspended activities in 2022-2023 and that the organization Compositum Musicae Novae is potentially dissolving. Both organizations, it was reported, have made these decisions based on a lack of funding resources.

Ms. Cathers stated that staff will use the same distribution method that the Board approved and re-distribute the funds (through Commission approval).

c. CHANGE REQUESTS

Board members were advised of a change request/project update from the South Florida Youth Symphony.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli made a motion approving the update of the South Florida Youth Symphony. Mr. Coral seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

Staff reported that the Zilia Sanchez and Thomas Housego sculptures will be installed soon, although no installation date is confirmed.

Ms. Cathers updated the Board on the status of the memorial sculpture at the Police and Fire Station. She stated that the piece has been delayed due to supply chain delays.

A brief update was provided regarding the status of the Julio Larraz sculpture.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

The Board was informed the City Commission will be addressing the Board's recommendation regarding Art Basel 2022 at their next meeting.

The Board was advised that the City Commission expressed interest in pursuing Janine Antoni's "Whispering Through a Stone" sculpture. Ms. Cathers stated that she reached out to the artist, who is interested in developing the proposal for consideration in November.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mr. Pantin asked if a public art tour at the University of Miami could be scheduled.

Mr. Pantin discussed different sculptural fountains in the City and asked if there were any restrictions preventing the City from commissioning something similar to the DeSoto Fountain. Ms. Cathers responded that one of the topics the Arts Panel wanted to discuss with the Board is locations and criteria (for commissions). She continued, saying if there is the desire to do something like that, it needs to be stated in the call for art so artists can respond appropriately.

Responding to earlier remarks, Ms. Cathers advised the Board that the current Art in Public Places guidelines allow for artwork that is integrated into architecture; however, the Commission is not necessarily in favor of that approach. She went on to say it would be a good conversation to have with the Panel and that site is considered very important in how artworks are communicating within the environments they are placed. Ms. Cathers stated that developers are often working with galleries or gallerists on the selection of the art and have been given direction, if possible, to seek blue-chip level artists.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli expressed concern about the selection of art and the role of Cultural Development Board to "sell it" to the Commission and Community. He asked that they pick things that are innovative and will be attractive to the residents. He continued, saying he does not believe it is the Board's job to teach the community about art, rather it is to present attractive art that they will look at and enjoy. Ms. Cathers stated that the agenda for the next meeting with the Board and Arts Advisory Panel will be a discussion about the criteria and artwork selection process and encouraged the joint discussion. Mr. Rodriguez said he agreed conceptually, but structurally sees that the Arts Panel can be edgier with the Cultural Board rounding out the edges to make recommendations that conform with sensibility. He suggested greater communication to get recommendations the Board finds acceptable. Mr. Martinez agreed, stating that the Panel was created to aid the Board and it is important that the roles are clear. Board members agreed that a conversation with the Panel will be helpful.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli updated the Board on programming at the Coral Gables Museum.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

The Board discussed meeting jointly with the Arts Advisory Panel and made the following motion:

Mr. Valdes-Fauli made a motion to meet jointly with the Arts Advisory Panel on Tuesday, October 18th. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Cultural Development Board meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist