



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
January 28, 2025

ITEM TITLE:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LONG-TERM LOAN OF FIVE JEAN WARD SCULPTURES TO THE UNDERLINE FOR INSTALLATION WITHIN THE UNDERLINE, CORAL GABLES SECTION, (UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDED BY THE ARTS ADVISORY PANEL, APPROVAL/DENIAL VOTE: 7 TO 0, AND THE CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD APPROVAL/DENIAL VOTE: 7 TO 0); AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE AND CITY ATTORNEY TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNDERLINE AND ANY OTHER REQUIRED ENTITY.

BRIEF HISTORY:

The Underline approached the City of Coral Gables with a request to place five Jean Ward sculptures currently in the city's public art collection within The Underline section of Coral Gables.

Jean Ward was an important Florida artist of the post-1950s and had a significant connection to the University of Miami before passing away at the young age of 45.

Parker Thomson, a prominent Coral Gables resident, was a great admirer of Jean Ward's work and facilitated seven of ten donated sculptures after the Artist's passing. Mr. Thomson is the father of Meg Daly, founder and Executive Chair of The Underline. Following her father's example, Meg Daly is a strong proponent of the arts and has facilitated a nationally recognized public art program with permanent and temporary artworks proposed and placed along The Underline's ten miles of linear park space.

The Underline is requesting the five sculptures to be installed within the Rock Ridge Plaza, close to the entrance of the University of Miami.

Three of the proposed sculptures are in Ingraham Park and have been previously identified for removal and extensive restoration, including engineering and construction of new bases. Two of the sculptures have been restored and are in storage.

All five pieces require re-painting to black, in keeping with the artist's original intention, and as recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel and Cultural Development Board.

Current Status of Jean Ward sculptures in the city's collection (seven large sculptures and three maquettes):

- 1 – installed in Pittman Park
- 3 – installed in Ingraham Park and require restoration
- 3 – in storage at the Public Works facility, with one anticipated to return to the Coral

Gables Branch Library. The remaining two have been pending a location

- 3 – maquettes are located at the Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Department

Funding for this project is designated within the city’s CIP budget for the restoration, treatment, transportation, and installation of the artworks.

Insurance:

Insurance coverage is proposed by The Underline while the artworks are in their procession.

Maintenance:

The cost of annual maintenance is anticipated to be minimal and is being proposed through the agreement as part of The Underline’s ordinary maintenance along with other artworks in their possession.

The proposal to enter into a long-term loan agreement of five Jean Ward sculptures to The Underline was presented to the Arts Advisory Panel on October 2, 2024, who further recommended painting them black.

The Cultural Development Board reviewed the proposal and recommendation of the Arts Advisory Panel on October 15, 2024, and voted unanimously to recommend approval.

ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION(S):

Date.	Board/Committee	Comments
October 2, 2024	Arts Advisory Panel	Motion Recommending Approval
October 15, 2024	Cultural Development Board	Motion Recommending Approval

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. **Draft Resolution**
2. **Exhibit A**
3. **Excerpt Minutes from the Arts Advisory Panel meeting of October 2, 2024**
4. **Excerpt Minutes from the Cultural Development Board meeting of October 15, 2024**

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

No.	Amount	Account No.	Source of Funds
1.	\$177,875	310-1331-573-6405	Jean Ward – AIPP
Total:	\$177,875		

Fiscal Impact:

Use of designated CIP funds dedicated to the restoration and re-installation of Jean Ward sculptures.

BUSINES IMPACT:

The artworks contribute to The Underline section within Coral Gables as an artwork amenity, further inviting use of The Underline and connection with the University of Miami and Coral Gables overall.

Artworks remain within the city as part of its public art collection.