

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING AND CULTURAL WORKSHOP
Wednesday, August 19, 2009, 3:00 p.m. (Board Meeting); 4 p.m. (Workshop)
Coral Gables Commission Chambers
City Hall, 405 Biltmore Way, Second Floor

MEMBERS	S	O*	O**	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	A#	COMMISSIONERS
José R. Garrigó	P	P	E	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	Mayor Donald D. Slesnick II
Bobbi Litt	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Dr. Bernice Matalon-Roth	E	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Maria Anderson
Dr. Carol Damian	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Rafael “Ralph” Cabrera, Jr.
Beatriz Pereira	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	E	P	P	P	P”	Commissioner Wayne “Chip” Withers
Andrea Cole	P	P	P	P	-	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	Board Appointee
Ginger Jochem >				-							P	P	City Manager

A = Absent

P = Present

E = Excused

- = No Meeting

^ = Resigned Member

> = New Member

” = Arrived at 3:30 p.m.

* FY2007-2008 Final Reports

Regular Meeting + FY2009-2010 Grants Workshop

** FY2008-2009 Cultural Grant Applications Review & Scoring

Regular Board Meeting Guests: Patrick Barthet, Linda Eneix, Betsy Adams, Evelyn Budde, Sergio Leymarie, Russell Ettling

Workshop Guests: Barbara Stein, Aaron Bernstein, Maria Rodaz, Laura Bruney, Sarita Courtney-Baigorri, Augusto Soledade, Lynn Stock, Maria Del Valle, Sandy Wertheim, Jadwiga Gewert, Stephanie Norman, Robert Gower, Mike Thompson, Bella Smith, Steven Krams, Brenda Nieborsky, Andria Hanley, Lois Legge, Steven Klindt, Christine Rupp, Debra Adam, Wendy Mahr, Hannah Baumgarten, Carlene Sawyer, Sonia Fornoni, Suzanne Kores, Julian Kreeger, Stephen Margulis, Lainey Brooks, Sarah Salz, Raquel Ponce, Dexter Dwight, Christine Pascual Fernandez, Thom Proctor, Norris Siert, Melissa Lesnick, Jennifer Lorenzo, Yaney Morejon, Tony Wagner, Sally Baumgarten, Kathy Gaubatz, Jenna Ward, Natasha D’Souza, Tim Fath, Samuel Joseph, Ana Estevez, William Vela, Minam Stern, Sofia Ochoa, Kathleen Murphy, Gilda Mooney, Delma Iles, Tracy Magellan, Ricky J. Martinez, Jose Vilanova, Mireya Perez-Power, Martha Salas-Kesser, Bentonne Snay, Lorenzo Lebrija, Joanne Schulte, Marjorie Hahn, Oliver Kerr, Jennifer McNamara, Doreen Marx, Mary Luft, Katie Blanco Crocquet, Brian Dursum, Jason Janik, Anne E. Kulte, Edita Martinez, Lamar Norliega, Beatrice Skokan, Teofilo Victoria, Victoria Joseph, Maggie Pelleya, Yvonne McCormack-Lyons, Rene Beal, Paul Hunt.

Staff In Attendance:

Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist
Cindy Dorrel, Special Projects Coordinator

Recording Secretary:

Nancy C. Morgan, Coral Gables Services, Inc.

Motion Summary:

Minutes of the June 23, 2009 Cultural Development Board meeting were unanimously approved.

Ms. Litt’s and Ms. Pereira’s absence was excused. (Ms. Pereira arrived midway through Board meeting.)

A cultural kiosk proposal was supported and recommended for review by the Economic Development Board.

The Althea Merrick sculpture proposed by the Coral Gables Garden Club was recommended for support, with urgency to take all necessary action to expedite the various approval processes in time for Merrick House’s 100th anniversary.

Members of the Arts Advisory Panel were re-confirmed as follows: Peter Boswell, Brian Dursum, Marijean Miyar, Freda Tschumy, Dora Valdes-Fauli, Carlos Mindreau.

Chair Carol Damian called the regular Board meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

I. Review/Approval of June 23, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Garrigó made a motion to approve the June 23, 2009 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Cole seconded the motion, which passed.

II. Meeting Attendance:

Dr. Matalon-Roth made a motion to excuse meeting attendance of Ms. Litt. Mr. Garrigó seconded the motion, which passed.

Ms. Cole made a motion to excuse regular meeting attendance of Ms. Pereira. Mr. Garrigó seconded the motion, which passed. (Ms. Pereira arrived at 3:30 p.m.)

III. Exhibition – Malta’s Megalithic Temple Culture – Discussion with Patrick Barthet and Linda Eneix:

Mr. Barthet, Honorary Consul of Malta, discussed a proposed exhibition in Coral Gables of Malta’s Megalithic Temple Culture, and requested Board input regarding a venue for the exhibition planned for March 2010. With Mr. Barthet was Linda Eneix, President of Old Temple Study Foundation, and Russell Ettling, past Director of the Historical Museum.

Malta, with 7,000 years of history, is recognized for its extraordinary above and below ground structures and its temple culture. As an effort to increase awareness of Malta and its rich culture, the exhibition is an attempt to expose it within our community.

Ms. Eneix presented a film featuring Malta’s ancient temples. She described the type of space they were seeking for a three-day exhibition in Coral Gables, and the need for storage during the period. Mr. Barthet added that several local groups were interested in exhibition educational presentations. He said that no financial support from the City was being sought.

During discussion about the size and type of venue needed, Ms. Eneix said a non-commercial venue open to the public during the day and available for private evening presentations would be ideal. Board members suggested vacant art galleries, the possibility of including the exhibition during Gallery Night, or pursuing space in banking institutions with exhibition space.

IV. Cultural Kiosk Proposal – Sergio Leymarie:

Mr. Leymarie, while conducting a PowerPoint presentation, described a business proposal to establish cultural kiosks within the City that would promote cultural venues and activities. He described two issues that affect cultural initiatives as 1) activities that rely on City financial support; 2) venues/initiatives of good quality that have low community visibility. Mr. Leymarie said his proposal was designed to resolve those issues, and stated three goals: 1) to make all cultural venues visible; 2) to secure stable financing for cultural institutions; 3) to leverage high vehicular and pedestrian traffic to increase audiences for cultural institutions.

A variety of existing kiosks in main thoroughfares in major world cities was shown as an example of the appearance of the proposed kiosks. Mr. Leymarie stated they combined public service advertising with aesthetics compatible with a sophisticated urban landscape. He said a European company, JCD, was recognized as the world leader for city exterior advertising and was the creator of the presentation-displayed kiosks. He requested input regarding interest on the part of the City.

Speaking for the Board, Dr. Damian said the kiosks were an excellent way to advertise cultural venues, and that their tasteful appearance was consistent with the City's image. Discussion ensued about how the initiative might materialize. As Mr. Leymarie explained the process, he emphasized there would be no cost to the City, and said that kiosk advertising would enhance the City's cultural activities and success.

Ms. Cole made a motion to present the kiosk proposal to the Economic Development Board with the support of the Cultural Development Board. Mr. Garrigó seconded the motion, which passed.

V. Donation Proposal – Althea Merrick sculpture - by Betsy Adams and Evelyn Budde, Garden Club:

Ms. Adams stated the Coral Gables Garden Club's ongoing mission to engage in projects that support the vision of George Merrick, citing \$1.2 million raised to support the Club's adopt-an-entrance project that resulted in construction of three City entrances and the Merrick statue in front of City Hall. Their intent at this meeting was to seek the Board's endorsement of a project to design, fund and donate a life-sized bronze statue of Althea Merrick seated on a bench in her garden at Merrick House.

Ms. Adams displayed photographs of Mrs. Merrick to demonstrate their ideas about how the statue might be designed. She said The American Bronze Foundry in Sanford, Florida, had a sculptor who could produce the statue.

She and Ms. Budde sought Board endorsement prior to presenting the project to the City Commission. As 2010 will mark Merrick House's 100th anniversary, with specific celebrations being planned for each month of the year, there is some urgency if the statue is to materialize. The cost is estimated at \$40,000, and completion time is estimated at three months.

Board members expressed enthusiasm about the project, and noted that this would be a private donation, not subject to the Art in Public Places program under development. Once the imagery and proposal is secured, the project would be reviewed by the Arts Advisory Panel, after which it would come back to the Board for a recommendation prior to presentation to the Commission.

Ms. Cole made a motion to recommend support for the Althea Merrick sculpture proposed by the Coral Gables Garden Club, and to urge that all necessary action be taken to expedite the various approval processes in time for Merrick House's 100th anniversary.

Ms. Cathers said the project would next be reviewed by the Merrick House Advisory and Historic Preservation boards, and upon completion, may be proposed to the CDB for acceptance into the public art collection. For the record, Dr. Damian made the applicants aware that the Public Art Master Plan and Art in Public Places Ordinance were under integration development, and expressed hope that the process could be facilitated.

Ms. Jochem seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VI. Public Art Master Plan – Update:

Ms. Cathers advised that funding for the Public Art Master Plan consultant had decreased. In reviewing the ordinance and in consultation with Americans for the Arts, she said the ordinance has an applicability clause that said the master plan had to be in place before the City could put the Ordinance into effect and collect art-related fees. Americans for the Arts indicated the clause appeared to be written backwards. Ms. Cathers suggested the Board review and address on the City's behalf. If the City were allowed to collect its fees, some of the funding could be used to pay for a consultant.

Dr. Damian wondered if the clause would complicate the Althea Merrick statue project since the ordinance states that nothing can be done until the master plan is in place, and that process could take a long time. She urged that efforts be made to amend the ordinance with the guidance of Americans for the Arts. Ms. Cathers said the Board could discuss how to address the ordinance, or recommend to the Commission that the draft in its current form could suffice. Board members will carefully review the ordinance for discussion at the September meeting, and will forward their individual comments to Ms. Cathers prior to the meeting.

VII. Arts Advisory Panel – appointment recommendations:

Dr. Damian explained that the Arts Advisory Panel is used by the Board as its professional advisors for specific art projects. Terms for Arts Advisory Panel members mirror those of the Board. Dr. Damian recommended that Panel members' appointments be re-confirmed.

Ms. Jochem made a motion to approve confirmation of the Arts Advisory Panel as follows: Peter Boswell, Brian Dursum, Marijean Miyar, Freda Tschumy, Dora Valdes-Fauli, Carlos Mindreau. Mr. Garrigó seconded the motion, which passed.

VIII. Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs – Budget Update:

Dr. Damian urged Board members to respond to Michael Springs' messages to write to Miami-Dade County Commissioners stating the significance of the arts in our community. She encouraged everyone to attend upcoming budget and task force meetings.

IX. Status Reports:

Art Cinema Project: Construction of the Art Cinema is on schedule and the theater will open during the holidays.

XII. Additional Board Business:

- a. The Boards and Committees Ethics Meeting will be held Friday, October 2 at 9:00 a.m., location to be determined.
- b. Laura Bruney, Executive Director, Arts and Business Council, will present information about the "Success with Less" workshop series during the cultural workshop.
- c. The Economic Sustainability Department will soon relocate its offices, location to be confirmed.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the regular Board meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 21, 2009, 8:00 a.m.

Mandatory Cultural Arts Grant Workshop

Dr. Damian called the workshop to order at 4:21 p.m., welcomed everyone and encouraged them to follow Michael Springs' direction by writing to Miami-Dade County Commissioners and urging them to support the arts.

Ms. Cathers introduced Laura Bruney, Arts and Business Council. Ms. Bruney congratulated the City for adding an Arts and Culture Specialist to staff, stating that Ms. Cathers was an excellent addition to the cultural community. Ms. Bruney then distributed information about the "Success with Less" workshop scheduled for September 9. At the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Cathers introduced Board members.

Dr. Damian reviewed procedures for the grants workshop, conducted to ensure accuracy and consistency in grant preparation. She explained that Board members read each grant, and described difficulties when grants were incomplete or hard to understand. Ms. Cathers advised that applications would be e-mailed to all workshop registrants, but would not be

available online. Dr. Damian then described the City's three grant programs prior to calling on Dr. Matalon-Roth to lead the workshop.

Using PowerPoint as a visual aid, Dr. Matalon-Roth thoroughly reviewed a mock community grant application as a template to illustrate the technical aspects of completing applications. She stressed the importance of allowing sufficient time to prepare grants, ensuring that all details and attachments were included, checking for spelling, signing the application and submitting it prior to the deadline.

At the conclusion of the workshop, Board members commented on various areas of the applications, and responded to audience questions.

The workshop concluded at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist and Secretary to the Board
City of Coral Gables

Prepared by: Nancy C. Morgan,
President, Coral Gables Services, Inc.