



DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, May 01, 2018 8:30 a.m.
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
2327 Salzedo St., Coral Gables, Florida 33134**

*Historical Resources &
Cultural Arts*

2327 SALZEDO STREET
CORAL GABLES
FLORIDA 33134

☎ 305.460.5093
✉ hist@coralgables.com

MEMBERS	J	J	A	S	O	N+	D+	J	F	M	A	M	APPOINTED BY:
	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	18	18	18	18	18	
Leslie Pantin *					P	P	P	-	P	E	P	P	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Betty Horwitz	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor Pat Keon
Dr. Fernando Alvarez-Perez	P	-	P	P	E	P	P	-	E	P	P	P	Commissioner Vince Lago
Alfonso Perez	P	-	E	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Michael Mena
Geannina A. Burgos	P	-	P	P	P	E	P	-	P	E	P	P	Commissioner Frank C. Quesada
Dr. Bernice Roth Chair	P	-	E	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	City Manager Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Dr. Rosa Maria Mayorga	E	-	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	Board Appointee

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

STAFF:

Dona Spain, Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Director
Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts

GUESTS:

Ninoska Huerta, gallerist; Nella Daes, Logistics Fine Arts; Jorge Navarro, Greenberg Traurig; Zaba Castro, Greenberg Traurig; Jerad Graham, NP International; Emilio Sauma, Jr., Gables Hispanic Cultural Foundation; Ricardo Barredo, Gables Hispanic Cultural Foundation

RECORDING AND PREPARATION OF MINUTES: Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts

Dr. Roth called the Cultural Development Board meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. and read aloud the False Claims ordinance statement.

Ms. Horwitz and Dr. Mayorga attended the meeting remotely via conference call.



REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 03, 2018:

Mr. Perez made a motion to approve the minutes of April 03, 2018 as amended. Dr. Alvarez-Perez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES:

Ms. Cathers stated that Mr. Sauma and Mr. Barredo are representing the Gables Hispanic Cultural Foundation and came before the Special Events committee to propose a new initiative. Ms. Spain stated that the Commission noticed some special events are presented as cultural in nature and may not be, prompting them to ask if the Cultural Development Board could be more involved. She advised that the special events committee does not comment on the quality of events and is in place for technical oversight and code enforcement.

Mr. Sauma and Mr. Barredo introduced themselves and addressed the Board about the new proposed event titled "Saturday Art Walk at Giralda." The Board was provided with a packet of information, requesting every Saturday from 12:00 noon to 10:00 p.m. on Giralda Ave. with twenty artists displaying a small number of artworks each and a projection screen for digital art, photography, film, etc.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez asked about how the artists will be selected. Mr. Sauma stated that he would be selecting artists from his background organizing the Gables Hispanic Cultural Festival and presented a book of artists that may be considered. The presenters confirmed that the focus would be on Hispanic art. Dr. Alvarez-Perez asked for a list of artists and the Board agreed.

Ms. Spain stated support of the event and concern of it becoming more of a bazaar than a cultural event for artists. The Board agreed that selling items such as jewelry or crafts would not be inappropriate.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez suggested a more detailed proposal with previous and proposed artists including how the work would be presented, the artists' professional level of experience, and how the event would be a positive reflection of Coral Gables. He stated that too many artists may dilute the quality of the artwork presented.

Dr. Roth agreed, saying it sounds great and more detailed information is needed prior to the Board making a recommendation. Proposal information requested included: rain plan, cost, how it would be managed, thematic tie-ins, etc.

There was discussion of how it might affect gallery night. All felt it would not be a conflict.

Ms. Spain asked if restaurants had been contacted. Mr. Saumas responded that they have. Dr. Roth asked for documentation of the responses from the businesses on Giralda to gauge the level of interest.

Ms. Cathers summarized the Board's comments and asked that they come back with a list of the artists and greater detail about the event as noted by the Board.

The presenters thanked the Board and left the meeting.

The Board briefly discussed the importance of knowing the level of support from the Business Improvement District (BID) and Dr. Alvarez-Perez suggested that the Arts Advisory Panel or Cultural Development Board be involved in vetting artists that are presented (in public spaces).

NEW BUSINESS:

a. PROPOSAL: CARLOS CRUZ-DIEZ

The Board was provided with a proposal request to keep, as permanent artworks, the painted crosswalks in front of City Hall by artist Carlos Cruz-Diez. Ms. Cathers introduced the proposal and welcomed Ninoska Huerta as the representative of Carlos Cruz-Diez and Nella Daes with Logistics Fine Arts (the company contracted to produce Cruz-Diez' work).

Ms. Huerta addressed the Board and detailed the locations of the artworks and material - the same paint previously used with a primer added to increase the longevity of the adhesion and color. She noted that the paint has lasted six months already, and is only now starting to fade.

Ms. Spain stated the cost of the artwork design is \$180,000 with a cost of \$18,000 to paint the artwork every year. She reported that the Arts Advisory Panel is recommending approval of the proposal.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez asked if traffic or light adversely affects the work more. Ms. Daes replied that the primer will help the colors last; however, there is nothing that can be done about traffic marks. Dr. Alvarez-Perez asked for clarification regarding the maintenance and the desire to maintain it at a semi-optimum level for both the City and the artist. Ms. Daes said it should only need to be painted once a year.

The Board asked about the funding source. Ms. Spain responded that she thought the funds would come from the Art Acquisition fund. Dr. Roth asked about the ongoing maintenance cost and Dr. Alvarez-Perez stated it should be the same source used for the Jean Ward sculptures. Ms. Cathers stated that the restoration work on the Jean Ward sculptures came from the Art Acquisition fund as extraordinary maintenance and that ordinary maintenance is worked into the City's annual budget process. Dr. Roth stated her concern that, if used, ongoing maintenance would drain the fund over time.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez clarified that a maintenance agreement would mean the artwork is kept up for \$18,000 per year, not \$18,000 every time they paint it. He had a discussion in Spanish with Ms. Daes, stating that it be an annual fee. Ms. Burgos agreed; suggesting staff call if the artwork was not up to standard.

Mr. Pantin asked if other options could be considered, such as ceramics. Ms. Cathers stated that the Arts Advisory Panel discussed this option, noting the additional expense and installation challenges. Responding to the paint with primer, she said, the Panel recommended a test patch to see how it wears over time. Dr. Alvarez-Perez expressed that even more important, is that they come and repaint it if called upon as part of an annual fee.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez discussed the maintenance again with Ms. Daes in Spanish to clarify and confirm the Board's understanding of the maintenance of the artworks. Ms. Daes said she will have to check with the artist. She said the intention is for one painting to last a year and that it would be an additional cost to repaint. Dr. Roth commented that it seems open-ended.

Dr. Mayorga asked about a periodic assessment and the Board agreed that the artist's representative should come quarterly to check the work.

Ms. Spain added that the project will need to be approved by the County before it can be realized.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Dr. Alvarez-Perez made a motion recommending acceptance of the proposal, including the design fee of \$180,000, if there is a maintenance agreement where the company maintains the work on an ongoing basis at an acceptable standard to the artist and to the City, with quarterly inspection of the work by the artist's representative, at a fee not to exceed \$18,000 per year. Mr. Perez seconded the motion. Six members voted in favor of the motion with one opposed. The motion carried

b. AIPP DEVELOPER PROJECT PROPOSAL: GABLES STATION

Ms. Castro introduced herself and Mr. Graham with the Gables Station development project. Ms. Cathers gave a brief introduction and advised the Board that the public art proposal is being recommended for approval by the Arts Advisory Panel.

Ms. Zaba gave a description of the location of the development project and stated that they are proposing two installations by artist Blessing Hancock. The two pieces, she said, are companion pieces with one located within the development project and the other located on City property (between the underline and Gables Station). Ms. Zaba said the larger piece will be in the center plaza of Gables Station and will be twelve (12) feet high by eight (8) feet wide, with the smaller work six (6) feet high by four (4) feet wide. The works, she said, will be of fabricated text from stainless steel, with the words derived from conversations between the artist and residents of the MacFarlane Homestead Historic District. The work will be lit from the interior and the letters will cast shadows on the surrounding area.

Ms. Zaba then spoke about the maintenance of the artworks and modular construction allowing for greater flexibility to clean or remove and swap pieces if necessary. She said that based on discussions with the Arts Advisory Panel, they've decided that it's best for the property owner to take responsibility for the maintenance of both pieces. Ms. Zaba clarified that the work on City property will be a donation to the City; however, because the pieces are related, the developer wants them to be an accurate reflection of Gables Station as a whole and therefore it's in the best interest for them to be maintained by the property owner. She said they will enter into an agreement with the City (that will transfer with the property rights).

Ms. Cathers added that Blessing Hancock is a pre-qualified artist and was one of the artists previously considered for proposed work on Miracle Mile. She went on to say that the artist has experience working with communities and encouraged the developer to have the artist meet with the community in advance so they (the developer and artist) can respond to questions the Commission may have about support from the residents and how the relationship is developing.

Ms. Castro presented a similar example of the artist's work in Minneapolis where she used a poem that was transformed into a spherical lamp structure.

Ms. Castro stated that when the Gables Station project was approved by the Commission it included a condition; she read aloud the section stating that the development shall incorporate features on the ground level (of the project) that recognize the contributions of Bahamian families to the history of Miami and Coral Gables.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Pantin made a motion recommending approval of the Art in Public Places waiver request by the Gables Station development project to incorporate artwork by artist Blessing Hancock into the Gables Station as presented and as recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel. Dr. Alvarez-Perez seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

c. ART BASEL PROPOSAL: HANK WILLIS THOMAS

Ms. Cathers reported on the recommendation of Art Basel to partner with the Lowe Art Museum, stating that she has met and discussed with Dr. Deupi, director of the Lowe, about various artists considered for the Lowe's annual Art Basel lecture that could also produce a significant public art project. Hank Willis Thomas was recommended. After reviewing his experience and body of work, a proposal request was sent to his studio.

Ms. Cathers referenced the proposal that was given to the Board and reviewed the two components. The first, she said, is a project being presented around the world and customized for each city. The project is a poem fabricated in a series of speech bubbles installed on light posts along a street with one side of the street presented in English, and the other side translated into languages represented in the community.

She went to describe the second component of the project as a series of speech bubbles created into benches. Ms. Cathers noted that the proposal has given the artist the opportunity to expand on an existing project by creating new benches in direct response to the City's request for a proposal.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez asked about the location siting and Ms. Cathers answered that the poem is proposed for installation along Miracle Mile with the benches proposed throughout the City. She added that the artist's studio team came for a site visit and after a tour of Coral Gables, the artist decided to propose placing the benches in various open spaces (rather than focus primarily downtown). The concept, she said, also expanded from one bench to four benches.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez asked about the possibility of acquiring the benches, to which staff responded that they will speak with the artist and ask.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez expressed concern about the locations and desire to have them more central and accessible, especially the Dutch South African Village. Ms. Spain stated that the artist was intrigued with the villages and the artist expressed the intention for people to find them throughout the community, in residential areas. Ms. Cathers commented on the opportunity to have accessible art in the community and in surprising spaces, with one of the benches being at (or close) to Miracle Mile. The Board liked the idea of keeping at least some of the benches more centrally located.

Ms. Cathers provided further details about the proposed application for this year's Art Basel event,

including the morning reception now established for the last day of Art Basel Miami Beach and an interpretive exhibit at the Coral Gables Museum.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Perez made a motion recommending approval of the public art exhibition proposal by Hank Willis Thomas as presented and recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel and of its application to Art Basel for inclusion as an official event. Dr. Alvarez-Perez seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

d. ART IN PUBLIC PLACES: ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO ADD WAIVER REQUEST FOR ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Ms. Spain reviewed the current waiver options for developers as part of the Art in Public Places zoning code. Ms. Cathers stated that this would be an additional waiver under Section 3-2013 B. for developers to have an Artist in Residence program, with the artist's studio space located on the ground level of the development project. Ms. Spain said the Mayor wants to encourage an Artist in Residence program in the City.

Dr. Roth asked about the length of the residency. Ms. Cathers stated that a typical residency might be six (6) months or more.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez suggested deferring the item for greater contemplation. The Board agreed and the item was deferred.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Venice in the Gables

Ms. Cathers stated that sponsors are still being accepted for the Venice in the Gables project and invited Board members to stop by the pop-up studio on Miracle Mile to see artists at work. She gave an update on the project overall, mentioning the variety of designs, artist backgrounds, and student participation. Ms. Cathers stated that thirty (30) posts are committed for completion and any posts that aren't sponsored will be available for auction at a future date.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez asked that future projects of this nature include a commitment to work with area art schools as part of their class work.

Ms. Cathers thanked Dr. Alvarez-Perez for connecting staff with the New World School of the Arts and reported that many students responded to the Venice in the Gables call for art.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

The Board briefly discussed The Plaza development project and were updated by staff on plans to incorporate public art throughout the project. Staff reported meeting with the developer and that specific public art proposals have not been presented.

Dr. Roth reminded Board members of the June 15th meeting at 4:00 p.m. to discuss cultural grants.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

There were no additional items.

A motion was called by Dr. Alvarez-Perez to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Ms. Burgos. The motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dona M. Spain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Dona M. Spain
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director