

# DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, October 19, 2021, 9:00 a.m.  
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department  
Hybrid Meeting & Virtual via Zoom**

MEMBERS	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	J A	S	O	APPOINTED BY:
	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	20	
Leslie Pantin	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Vince Lago
Frank Martinez	-	-	-	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor Michael Mena
Frank Rodriguez*									P	P	A	P	Commissioner Rhonda Anderson
Ray Corral*									P	P	P	E	Commissioner Jorge L. Fors Jr.
Jose Valdes-Fauli*									P	P	P	P	Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez
Dr. Bernice Roth Chair	-	-	-	V	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Geannina Burgos										P	P	E	Board Appointee

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

**STAFF:**

Warren Adams, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director  
Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist

**MEETING RECORD / MINUTES PREPARATION:** Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist,  
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts

Dr. Roth called the Cultural Development Board meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021:**

**Mr. Pantin made a motion to approve the minutes of September 21, 2021.  
Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:**

**ORDINANCE – AMENDING ZONING CODE SECTION 9-106 DEFINITION RE. MAINTENANCE**

The Board discussed key points that were agreed on at the joint meeting with the Arts Advisory Panel. They discussed a draft of proposed revisions to the amended zoning code regarding the definition of extraordinary maintenance. Dr. Roth noted that the amendment limits the scope of

extraordinary maintenance but does not address the other items. Staff responded that per the City Attorney's Office, the purpose of the amendment was to address extraordinary maintenance and other items may be addressed at another time or as a resolution revising the Guidelines.

Dr. Roth clarified that this is in response to the original intent of the Commission and that the remaining points can be addressed in the future.

The Board briefly discussed the use of the term "historic public art", affirming that it was not defined in the original Ordinance, further noting that other references to historic art seem to relate to the City previously having a historic public art fund (removed to comply with the Miami-Dade County Art in Public Places ordinance.)

Mr. Martinez likewise clarified that this is limiting the amendment to the definition section of the code and that the Board may look at the other points another time. Staff confirmed.

The Board discussed the point of the fund having no limit to the amount that may be used for extraordinary maintenance or restoration. Various approaches were discussed including following the County's example of taking 10% of every project and putting it in a maintenance fund, taking a set amount every year, etc.

Dr. Roth suggested changing the term "expanded" to "extraordinary" for consistency or removing the term altogether. The Board agreed that it makes sense to remove the term.

It was noted that it's helpful to have maintenance estimates included as part of proposals.

**Mr. Valdes-Fauli made a motion recommending the revised resolution on second reading regarding the Art in Public Places Ordinance with the addition of removing the term "expanded." Mr. Pantin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Staff stated that the Cultural Arts Master Plan would be a good opportunity to address further revisions for consistency, noting that if the guidelines are amended, they will go to Commission and be open to further amendment.

The Board asked staff to send the current guidelines.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

##### a. ALAN SONFIST – ARTIST CONSIDERATION FOR CITY PROJECT

The Board was provided with materials about the artist Alan Sonfist and proposed artwork for a temporary installation. A brief presentation was given by staff stating that the artist is based in New York City, represented by Fredric Snitzer Gallery, has exhibited around the world, and is known for major land-based artworks that bring attention to the environment, sustainability, and

green initiatives. The artwork was described as branches made of cast bronze artwork. Two works were shown and proposed for exhibition up to two years.

Staff stated that the request came from the gallery through Mayor Lago and the City Manager's office for consideration. The Mayor spoke to the Arts Advisory Panel and shared that he has a small work by the artist in his collection and feels the artist's work is closely aligned with the environment and initiatives of the City.

The Board was informed that the proposal was given to the Arts Advisory Panel, who is recommending approval, further recommending an intimate location somewhere downtown.

The Board asked if a location had been determined and what the cost to the City would be. Mr. Valdes-Fauli expressed concern about the sculpture's ADA compliance.

Staff responded that the proposed resolution to the City Commission is for approval to move forward to pursue an agreement and further research, saying it would come back to the Commission with specifics regarding location and expense.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that any decision should include the cost to avoid the perception of incomplete information.

Mr. Pantin said the Arts Advisory Panel recommendations are based on artistic value with the Cultural Board having the duty to look at technical issues, including safety, ADA, etc. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the Arts Advisory Panel has an important function, and their perspective is different than the public's. They are experts in their field, he said, the Board is here to represent the citizens, which have diverse sensibilities and interests.

Mr. Martinez agreed that the Board needs to clearly understand the context, what the goals and objectives of a proposal are, how it will function, the dollar figure, location consideration, and any infrastructure needs.

The Board overall agreed that the information is incomplete, and therefore difficult to make a recommendation.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli asked who determines the ADA compliance of artworks. Staff responded that artworks follow a review process as part of the installation; however, artworks may fall outside of ADA and should not have trip hazards.

Mr. Adams noted that the location will determine cost and wondered about the timeline, if it will have to go back to the Panel. Ms. Cathers responded that the Mayor requested it be placed on the next agenda for approval of pursuing the project, not for approval of the funds or the site. She

stated that this is what the City usually does for the Art Basel related installations where the artist is approved first followed by the project itself.

Dr. Roth noted that it follows the Mayor's desire to have well-known, significant artists presented in the City.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**Mr. Pantin made a motion to defer the item until further information is available.**

**Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**b. FIRE STATION 4 – PROPOSAL ARTISTS**

Board members were provided with materials related to the City's new Fire Station 4 construction project. Ms. Cathers presented a PowerPoint and reviewed the artists recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel (AAP) to approach for interest in developing a concept proposal for public art on site.

Staff reported that the AAP met three times to discuss the project, including meeting with the architect and Fire Chiefs. Staff reported that the Panel made a motion to develop a pre-qualified roster of artists, which is a choice the City has under the Art in Public Places program guidelines. Panel members recommended up to three artists each and a recommended project budget of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). After reviewing the initial list of artists presented by Panel members, the Panel made a motion recommending Thomas Bils, Beatriz Monteavaro, Ana Samoylova, Onajide Shabaka, and the artist team of Antonia Wright and Ruben Millares with a recommended proposal fee of \$1,500 per artist. Staff recommended an additional artist, Cara Despain.

The presentation included the location, an early rendering of the Station, and information about each of the proposed artists, noting that they all live and work in the Miami area and tend toward environmental themes in their work.

The Board discussed the overall site and where art may be incorporated, including opportunities on the building itself and the recommendation of the AAP to allow artists the option to make their own recommendations. The area above the Fire Station doors was noted as having the most public visibility due to dense tree canopies. The front planter area was also noted as a possible location for sculpture. The Board was advised that the back of the building is not possible due to the development of a park in that location.

Mr. Pantin stated that he spoke with the City Manager about having art integrated into the building and that it be proposed early in the design phase. The Board was happy that this is happening, and staff responded that the building design is moving forward quickly.

Mr. Martinez asked about the involvement of the architect, staff responded that the architect has been included in discussions regarding the public art requirement and the possible integration of artwork on the building.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**Mr. Martinez made a motion accepting the artist recommendations of: Thomas Bils, Cara Despain, Beatriz Monteavaro, Ana Samoylova, Onajide Shabaka, and the artist team of Antonia Wright and Ruben Millares for Fire Station 4. Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

CULTURAL GRANT UPDATES:

The Board was advised of minor change requests from the Dave and Mary Alper JCC, and Strength in Numbers, Power in Connection.

**Mr. Valdes-Fauli made a motion accepting the change requests from the Dave and Mary Alper JCC, and Strength in Numbers, Power in Connection. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Board members were provided with a calendar of programs and encouraged to attend as many events as possible to report back to the Board. They were advised to contact organizations before attending to make sure information has not changed.

Mr. Martinez reported attending the last presentation of Kaleidoscope MusArts at the Granda Presbyterian Church. He said it was wonderful and included brief introductions by the musicians.

Ms. Cathers stated that she went to Mainly Mozart's last production prior to renovating the interior space of the Sanctuary of the Arts. Mr. Valdes-Fauli reported on touring the location and its great benefit to Coral Gables.

Mr. Pantin asked about audience numbers since Covid. Staff responded that the grantee arts organizations seem to be doing well and gradually people are coming back in person.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

The Board was provided with updates regarding Art in Public Places projects.

Staff suggested preparing pre-recorded webinars for the Art in Public Places workshop and Jean Ward sculpture presentation. The Board approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Dr. Roth reported on her visit with Mayor Lago to discuss Cultural Grants and Art in Public Places.

She shared that his vision is to have high-end pieces of art, combining funds to have less but more fantastic art.

Dr. Roth spoke with him about the Commission's decision of funding (the GW Carver Elementary PTA). She shared her view that it did not feel it was a sound proposal as its location on school grounds is not very accessible to the residents. She said several people spoke at the Commission meeting about how important it is to have events in the neighborhood, and she agreed. However, she said, she did not agree that the City fund events at schools that by their very nature are limited in scope and outreach. Dr. Roth suggested looking at the guidelines to make the intent clear.

Mr. Martinez remarked that the Board went through the process to review and score the grant applications; this proposal fell short and didn't meet the threshold for (recommended) funding.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli stated that he watched the Commission meeting and believed the decision was connected to the situation around the Wawa station; their request was for \$1,500 and it became an issue.

Mr. Rodriguez commented that the Board is an advisory Board; if the Commission doesn't want to take the advice, they don't have to. He continued, saying it's inappropriate to come back and say, "we don't like your advice, but we don't want to ignore your advice, so change your advice." He said the Board fulfilled its role and advised.

Dr. Roth said the grants awarded are intended to support excellent projects and generate income for the City. She said this was for goodwill and understood; however, for the future, it should be addressed.

Ms. Cathers clarified that the grant guidelines state that funds may not be used for classes, master classes, and no festivals that are commercial in nature; the guidelines may be revised if the Board does not want to recommend school activities and functions. If that's the route the Board wants to go, she said, it would need to be clear that organizations that function as independent organizations within universities and colleges could still apply.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the Board has a function, criteria, and it is followed. The Board, he continued, is not a political entity; the Commission by its nature is political and they can do whatever they want. Mr. Rodriguez suggested that the criteria doesn't need to change, the process is working. It doesn't mean, he said, that they have to accept our advice and every recommendation we make.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli asked if applicants are notified of the circumstances when an application is turned down. Ms. Cathers responded, yes; an application may be ineligible and not even make it to Commission. She said if the Board wants to make a revision to the guidelines, it would go

forward to the Commission and they will see those changes. At the staff level, she said, if the eligibility requirements aren't met, they don't move forward.

Dr. Roth asked staff to send the guidelines for the Board to review.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

There were no further updates from the Secretary.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Cultural Development Board meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J. Cathers  
Arts & Culture Specialist