

DRAFT

**EXCERPT**

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 9:00 a.m.  
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department  
Hybrid Meeting & Virtual via Zoom**

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

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Ms. Burgos called the Cultural Development Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

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**b. MOBILITY HUB – ART IN PUBLIC PLACES**

Staff stated that the City Commission discussed ways to get Art in Public Places projects in front of them sooner to save time in determining the artist and artwork selection process and recommendations. With this intent, staff continued, saying the Mobility Hub, which was approved by the Commission in concept, is such a project and requested the Board to consider a motion

stating whether it recommends doing artwork on the site and dedicating the required Art in Public Places fees to such artwork.

Reflecting on the previous item, Mr. Valdes-Fauli commented on the Commission's discussion and their determination to have four (other) projects combined for more significant artwork, along with a recommended artist. In response to this, he questioned what the Board's position is. Ms. Cathers responded that if there had been a motion from the Board to the Commission earlier in the process, there would have been a Resolution from the Commission to proceed with the artist selection process for that project; however, they did not have information until the item came forward with the artist recommendations. Ideally, she said, if it had gone forward first, they would have been aware of the (potential public art) project and the Board's recommendation.

Mr. Rodriguez likewise asked about the process, stating that it's confusing when the Commission makes a decision, and wants the Board to make a recommendation to justify a decision that has been made. He continued, saying that from what he understands, the Board makes a recommendation, and the Commission once it has the benefit of the recommendation and information provided by the Board, makes the ultimate decision.

Ms. Cathers clarified that the Commission asked for public art projects to come to them earlier, saying that a motion to the Commission at this point regarding public art for the Mobility Hub would be a recommendation for them to consider.

Mr. Pantin said that whatever major work it is, it needs to go through the process and then if the Commission doesn't like the process, they can change it. He stated that the Board is not approving a specific work of art, because it hasn't been seen. Whatever the intention is, he said, the specific artwork will be proposed to the Arts Advisory Panel to make a recommendation to this Board, and for the Board to recommend to the Commission. Ms. Cathers concurred and said the artist may or may not be part of that recommendation. Mr. Pantin stated that the intention is for any recommended artwork to be put through the process until it is right.

Mr. Pantin advocated for bringing artists in earlier to the process and gave the example of the Jose Bedia artwork at the Arsht Center that is integrated into the floors and railings within the building.

Ms. Burgos shifted the discussion back to the Mobility Hub item.

Prior to the meeting, the Board was provided with a link to the Commission meeting discussion about the Mobility Hub at 245 Andalusia Avenue. Staff reported that the Mobility Hub consultant, Gensler, presented their concept at the last Arts Advisory Panel. Ms. Cathers shared the Mobility Hub presentation and noted that pages of the presentation were removed to focus on the opportunities presented for artwork. She talked through the project, stating that it is a mixed-use facility incorporating room for future mobility options, ground floor retail, and a rooftop park.

Ms. Cathers reviewed the specific locations for art that were provided by Gensler. Starting with the walls behind the floor-to-floor ramps (on the north side of the building). Staff shared their opinion that unless you are in the Museum garage, it may be difficult to see this location, the views are limited, and with the wall set back, it doesn't make for a very visible location for art. Staff recommended to the design team that another treatment be used for the wall rather than as a public art opportunity that may only be seen by vehicular traffic. One of the comments from the Arts Advisory Panel, Ms. Cathers said, is they believe the building would not be very visible from Miracle Mile because of the tree canopy.

The next area that was reviewed was the cut-out section on the West side of the building. It was noted by the Arts Advisory Panel that accessibility for installation and maintenance is problematic due to the location. It is not directly on the corner, Ms. Cathers said, and getting equipment on site to install artwork is problematic. Other challenges, she continued, are that the art would have to be set back far enough from the interior to prevent people reaching it. The Board was advised that the site next to the building has potential for development up to four stories, which comes to the bottom of the cut out. The Arts Advisory Panel, it was shared, did not think it was an ideal opportunity and may be just as nice as a cut out design feature (without art).

On the ground floor level, a platform section for sculpture was identified along with wall panels by the elevator or within the Miracle Mile Paseo for potential artwork. Ms. Cathers noted that the Paseo site would require working with the property owners, as it's not City property, and spoke about possible light boxes or some other feature where artwork may be changed frequently as an opportunity for local artists.

The last location presented was on the rooftop where a back panel was introduced a potential canvas or area that could transition to showing films in the evening.

Overall, staff said, the Panel felt the proposed art locations were an after-thought, even with the various opportunities identified by the consultant. They asked the consultant to think more about how art is integrated into the building and come back to the Panel.

Ms. Burgos agreed that it seems like the opportunities are an afterthought and asked if they will come back with more ideas. Ms. Cathers responded that it was a request of the Panel.

Mr. Pantin shared that he listened to the Commission discussion on the project and agreed that using the skin of the building may be an opportunity for art. He also discussed the alley and the opportunity for artists to do something attractive that connects the facility with Miracle Mile.

Mr. Martinez said if the Panel recommends pursuing the artwork as part of the building at the ground level, and where the pass through occurs, it is a logical and a very good suggestion. He also supported the rooftop location. Mr. Martinez also agreed with the City Architect's suggestion of using the screen of the building as artwork, since it is likely that any design there would likely

be read as artwork anyway. In the end, he said the two most viable locations seem to be at the ground level and communal rooftop area. He encouraged areas where an artist can work in a proactive, positive manner to engage the public.

Mr. Martinez asked if the design team working on the building is in favor of incorporating artwork. Staff responded that they are aware of the Art in Public Places requirement and have done other projects where they have integrated art.

Mr. Pantin applauded the opportunity to be creative and not just have a sculpture, but use the building itself.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**Mr. Jose Valdes-Fauli made a motion recommending that artwork be incorporated into the Mobility Hub project using the building project's required Art in Public Places fees. Mr. Pantin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

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Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J. Cathers  
Arts & Culture Specialist