

DRAFT

EXCERPT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, March 15, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
Hybrid Meeting & Virtual via Zoom**

MEMBERS	A	M	J	J	J	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	APPOINTED BY:
	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	22	22	22	
Leslie Pantin	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Vince Lago
Frank Martinez	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	Vice-Mayor Michael Mena
Frank Rodriguez*				P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Rhonda Anderson
Ray Corral*				P	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	Commissioner Jorge L. Fors Jr.
Jose Valdes-Fauli*				P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez
Dr. Bernice Roth Chair	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	E	E	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Geannina Burgos					P	P	E	P	P	P	A	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

Dr. Roth called the Cultural Development Board meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. AIPP WAIVER REQUEST, ALEXAN CRAFTS – VAUGHN SPANN.

Ms. Cathers introduced Jorge Navarro, who joined the meeting via Zoom to address the Board with a waiver request of the Art in Public Places fee in exchange for commissioning artwork and donating the artwork to the City. Board members received materials related to this item in advance of the meeting. It was noted that other representatives of the project were also on the call. Mr. Navarro stated that he is representing the developer Trammel Crow Residential, who is in the process of obtaining the development entitlements for the Alexan Crafts project. He stated that the

project is in the Crafts Section close to downtown Coral Gables. David Castillo, as the projects Arts Consultant, also joined via Zoom to discuss the artwork.

Mr. Navarro mentioned that the developer has been working on the project for the greater part of 2 years and is going to the City Commission for final approval in April. As part of the project, he said, the developer worked with Mayor Lago to create an almost 7,000 square foot public park and will be relocating 3 of the on-site oak trees.

A rendering was shown of the site where the park would be. Mr. Navarro said they wanted to display world-class art in the park that will be conveyed to the City and have selected the artist Vaughn Spann through arts consultant David Castillo. He said the work is part of the artist's "rainbow" collection and the project is excited to have a work by Vaughn Spann as part of the continuing focus of the City to be a world-class art destination.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli asked about the involvement of David Castillo, noting that he is a gallery owner and asked if he represents the artist. Mr. Castillo responded that he represents the artist and about 20 artists were presented for consideration with 2 represented by his gallery. He said different factors were considered including suitability as public art, price, materials, and where artwork would be sited. Mr. Castillo stated that Vaughn Spann is one of the most sought-after artists and is well-established in museums throughout the United States, in Europe, and Asia. He has had multiple solo shows, he said, including in Miami, with major work represented in the de la Cruz Collection; the Rubell Museum; Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), Miami; the Bass; and the Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) among others. He is very well known and highly recognizable in the United States, Europe, and abroad, he said.

Mr. Castillo spoke about the importance of the materials regarding which of the artists would be most suitable, also mentioning that the artist is working on a major public art commission in Washington, D.C. He stated that it would be a significant piece for Coral Gables and is a unique sculpture, the first and so far the only piece from the artist's "rainbow" body of work. It was noted that the artist does not create many paintings from the series, leaving only major collections having the work, including the de la Cruz Collection and Rubell Museum in South Florida.

It was noted that the artist has worked with the fabricator many times and works with internationally known artists on various projects and with major U.S. corporations. The piece, Mr. Castillo continued, is made with materials that are suitable for South Florida including Corten steel and requires little maintenance. He stated that this particular Corten steel is not likely to have rust runoff, which is a part of the nature of the material and why the artist wants to use it for its durability to withstand rain, wind, storms, sun, and because it has a textured look. The idea, Mr. Castillo said, is to make it highly recognizable and translatable as this body of his work for people the world over.

In addition to the Corten steel, Mr. Castillo stated, the main element is powder-coated aluminum plates which form the colored bands of the rainbow. Its very nature, he said, is designed for outdoor elements and is not expected to have much maintenance; steel bolts hold everything together and are weatherproof and weather resistant.

Mr. Castillo summarized and said as a separate element there is a concrete footer that the piece is attached to with stainless steel beams attaching the work to the foundation.

The Board reviewed the site and context of the piece within the public park along with the presented goals for the project overall.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli asked if the artwork was chosen by the developer and if it went to the Arts Advisory Panel. Ms. Cathers responded that the proposal was presented to the Panel last week, and the Panel made a unanimous motion recommending its approval to move it forward to this Board. He asked what the project contribution is for Art in Public Places. It was stated that the project value has not been submitted yet and that a notarized statement of the aggregate construction value is required of developers (with project values over 1m).

Mr. Valdes-Fauli mentioned the issue discussed at previous Board meetings about acquiring artworks from galleries. Ms. Cathers noted that Mr. Castillo is acting as a consultant and this is also an artist he represents. Mr. Castillo confirmed that most of the other artists presented to the developer are not represented by his gallery. He added that as a consultant and gallerist, he finds what is suitable for what the client is looking for. Mr. Valdes-Fauli questioned the process of the Panel approving artworks selected by the developer. Ms. Burgos responded that there have been times when the Panel has (not approved an artwork, or) requested changes before a work comes before the Board. She stated that she wants it to be clear to the public that (the process) is not rubber-stamping things a developer wants to do.

The Board reviewed the budget as presented. Mr. Castillo stated that compared to the artist's current prices, this is a very low price point. He noted that this same piece on the market would be about 1.5m dollars and can be justified by public auction records and prior sales of the artist's galleries.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli asked what the artist portion is. Mr. Castillo noted that it is almost all of the \$550,000 dollars and they don't know yet because the work is still being constructed; however, the artwork itself is noted as \$700,000 and there will be additional costs for the concrete footer, etc. Mr. Valdes-Fauli asked if the proposed sculpture is comparable in price to his other works. Mr. Castillo responded that it is well below the comparable price for his other works, giving an example that a small interior painting by the artist is around \$400,000-\$500,000 and not a major public artwork. Ms. Cathers stated that closeout requirements of the developer includes an appraisal of the artwork. Mr. Valdes-Fauli expressed concern that if the budget is higher, it may require use of the Art Fund. Ms. Cathers clarified that any additional expense is covered by the developer and

not by the City. And if it is less, Dr. Roth said, the developer must pay the difference into the Art Fund.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli asked if the gallery receives any money from the cost of the artwork and if there is a limitation to the amount received. Mr. Navarro responded and said there is a limitation per the code for how much a consultant can receive. Mr. Valdes-Fauli continued, asking what percentage of the fee goes to the gallery. Mr. Castillo stated that it is (typically) 50% anywhere in the world and in this case, it will be 20% of the artwork cost due to the expense of producing the piece. The gallery will make significantly less, he said, than if he had just sold it to another entity or individual. Mr. Castillo clarified that it will be 20% of the artwork cost, which will be shared with the artist.

Mr. Pantin asked if the developer will construct the park. Mr. Navarro responded that as part of the public benefits of the project, the developer is fully improving the park, including relocating the specimen trees for shade and will be constructing the pedestal where the artwork will be displayed. Once everything is complete, he said, it will be conveyed to the City. Mr. Pantin asked if Art funds would be used and Mr. Navarro said no, it is part of the public benefits that were worked through with the Commission to create a public space for the area. For clarification, Ms. Cathers asked if the park and artwork would be donations to the City. Mr. Navarro responded, "correct."

Ms. Cathers showed a plan view of the proposed park layout. Mr. Navarro stated that they are working with the City on the final design, and it will mostly be a grassy area with vegetation and the tree canopies of the specimen trees. There will be pavers, he continued, that will be designed in an artistic fashion to compliment the contemporary nature of the artwork with the artwork located in the center of the park displayed from all sides so people can walk around it with visibility from Catalonia Avenue and Salzedo Street.

Mr. Navarro provided more information about the historical nature of the area and its re-zoning that was approved in response to resident input.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Valdes-Fauli made a motion recommending approval of the Art in Public Places waiver request for the Alexan Crafts development project in exchange for commissioning and donating artwork by the artist Vaughn Spann. Mr. Pantin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Navarro and Mr. Castillo thanked the Board and left the meeting.
