

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Commission Chambers
Agenda Items I-1 and I-2 are related
October 13, 2020
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena**

City Staff

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant Director Economic Development, Belkys Perez
Arts and Cultural Specialist, Catherine Cathers**

Public Speaker(s)

Patrick O’Connell

Agenda Item I-1 and I-2
Time Certain 9:30

I-1: Presentation on Illuminate Coral Gables.
I-2: A Resolution approving proposed artists for Illuminate Coral Gables 2021, a temporary light-based public art exhibition (unanimously recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel approval/denial vote: 6 to 0, and the Cultural Development Board approval/denial vote: 7 to 0).

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Now we have a time certain item, Agenda Items I-1 and I-2, Illuminate Coral Gables – time certain.

Assistant Director Perez: Good morning, Belkys Perez with Economic Development. Before we get started with the presentation, I just wanted to let you guys know that there is a large board, a large group that has been assembled of City Departments that have been overseeing the request from the Illuminate Coral Gables, and so that’s made up of Emergency Management, Police, Parks

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and Recreation, and many others, and so, we wanted you to know that. The presentation that's being given today is, basically where we stand with it as of right now, but obviously...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'm sorry, say that again.

Assistant Director Perez: I'm sorry?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Say that again.

Assistant Director Perez: You want me to say that again, where we stand, yes. So we are currently – the presentation you are going to be hearing right now is basically where we stand, as of right now, given the input that we've been able to give. And for that, I'm going to call Patrick O'Connell, he is the co-founder of Illuminate Coral Gables and Vinny Torres is here as well.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Good morning.

Mr. O'Connell: Thank you Belkys. Good morning everyone, nice to see everybody in person. So, since the onset of Covid, the Board of Illuminate Coral Gables has continued optimistically moving forward with this public art exhibit, keeping in mind, of course, the safety measures that are now required due to Covid. So, I want to give – you all have seen many of these exhibits, I'm not going to go into great detail with that, I'm going to go through quickly, show you what we plan to do, give a few more details and then answer any safety concerns that you all may have, although this has been vetted through several city departments, and we are continually updating and making sure that we meet all of those requirements for safety. So, to begin, artist Carlos Esteves has created, actually through the use of animators we will be projecting some of his work onto City Hall directly behind where you all sit this morning, onto scrims we placed over the windows of City Hall. We intend to have this run seven nights a week, beginning on January 15th running through February 15th. There will be two safety ambassadors out in front of City Hall making sure that everyone is cognizant of social distancing and safety and so forth, but we did see a preview of this last Friday, the animators have been working hard. Its going to be amazing. So very excited about this. Two projection works by the same artist, David Gumbs, one will be on the Ocean Bank Building, the second will be on the Miracle Theater on the Salzedo side. Both of these are new works by the artist and I won't get too much into that. Catherine Cathers will give detail on the art, but the projection on Ocean Bank is being sponsored by the building owner and Ocean Bank and all that will be contained within the building, so there is really no need from the city for that projection. The one on the Miracle Theater, there will be a scaffolding across the street. There is a picture of that, that I'll show you here momentarily. This is the side of the Miracle Theater and the scaffolding sitting next to Garage Number 4, that will remain for the duration of Illuminate Coral Gables for the full month. It will be completely wrapped and secured and the projection device will be on top of the scaffolding to shoot across the street. We are not planning, incidentally, for this any need for street closures, even though its shooting above the traffic, it will be there on that block of Salzedo, but we will not need to close the street. Similarly, across from the Coral Gables Museum on Salzedo there will be another identical projection tower, shooting on the west facing side of the museum that will animate the statutes of firemen and different community members. This is a project that is being lead by artist Johnathan Perez with his class at FIU, and there will be no need for any street closures for this either, but there will be that tower, which will remain

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there, kind of outside of Ruth Christ in the grassy area for the month of Illuminate. The lighted barricades project that you've heard about. So this has changed a little bit with Covid. We will be borrowing from the city as many barricades as we can borrow, hopefully 24 to 30 at least. They will be adorned with lights by the artists and placed on street corners around Coral Gables, mostly where power is available in order to plug them in and I do have a map. This is the artist's suggestion of these locations to sort of highlight some of the important corners within Downtown Coral Gables. These are some secondary locations that they would like to use, but are other suggestions. Along Miracle Mile and at least three of the vacant storefronts, an artist by the name of Joseph Mills will be providing projections that will animate the windows. So this is, once again, its easier for people to walk by, to view this, but there will be really no further impacts with the city, all the power will be contained within the businesses there and the projections will be facing out to the street. This piece by artist Sandra Ramos, will actually not be presented as shown here and this is very new information that didn't make the PowerPoint, but the piece will actually be broken into pieces. This bridge entitled, "Ninety Miles" commemorates the artist trip from Cuba to the United States, and she is going to take it into pieces, so people will not be inclined to walk across it for safety reasons, and this will most likely be presented inside somewhere. We have a few locations that we are looking at, but this originally was going to be on the corner of LeJeune and the Mile, but that will no longer be in that location. The Fireflies Exhibit that you've heard so much about, this will be a route throughout Downtown Coral Gables. It has not yet been finalized. It has gone past Fire and Police and I think we are getting close to what we think will be the route and most likely it will be this one, departing from the end of Giralda Plaza heading to the Mile, along two blocks of the Mile, up Salzedo to Alhambra, going along those two blocks of Alhambra, and then back to Giralda Avenue. There are 27 of them. One item that I do need to discuss further with the City is the storage of this work of art. It is 27 petty cabs that are being delivered here, hopefully by the end of December and we do need a place somewhere downtown where we can safely secure them. These are the safety protocols. I'm obviously not going to go through each of them, but based on the new normal document that the county has created in terms of arts and culture, we have answered all of those items for Illuminate Coral Gables to ensure that we are within all of those safety guidelines. There will be signs located at each of the exhibits outlining the safety guidelines and then a contact if people have questions for Illuminate Coral Gables. This is a map of those locations where there will be safety signage placed. And that concludes that part of the presentation. I do just want to mention the fact that while Illuminate has always been a public art exhibit, that is what we initially set out to do, this has now become equally an economic recovery effort for Downtown Coral Gables and we are certainly focusing very much on that too. So thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Very good presentation and we are looking forward to it.

Mr. O'Connell: Thank you Mayor. And I guess Catherine Cathers is up next. Thank you.

Ms. Cathers: Good morning. So now onto I-2, just for the record. So we also have a presentation. Good morning Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioners, Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist for the City. So in support of Illuminate Coral Gables, we presented this to the Arts Advisory Panel and the Cultural Development Board, which did review all of the artists and you are going to get a little sneak peak, just a little tid bit, we don't want to give too much away, but

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you'll get a general idea of the artists and the projects that they are pursuing at this time. So, as you know, besides the City is partnering along with the Coral Gables Community Foundation, the Coral Gables Business Improvement District, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Coral Gables Museum. Illuminate will be a world class art exhibition through the middle of January through the middle of February and will provide still a sense of joy and discovery and also educating those interested in learning more about contemporary art and issues that are relevant today. The artists range from international reviewed art eye cast to recently discovered local artists and will be fully inclusive to highlight the unique spirit, energy and nature of Coral Gables. The curatorial team is lead by Lance Fung, Chief Curator, and includes myself, Jennifer Easton, who is the Art Program Manager for the Bay Area Rapid Transit Art in California, and Rosie Gordon Wallace, who is a curator and founder of Diasper Cultural Arts Incubator in Miami, although she does curate other programs and art shows around the country. So the confirmed artist to date, Cai Guo-Qiang, Carlos Estevez, David Gumbs, Joseph Mills, Johnathan Perez with a team of artists from FIU, Sandra Ramos, Kiki Smith and Antonia Wright and Ruben Millares. Cai Guo-Qiang is accomplished in a wide variety of media. He was born in China and currently lives and works in New York City. For his work Cai draws on a wide variety of materials, symbols, narratives, and traditions, including elements of Fung Shay, Chinese medicine and philosophy and delightful images featuring cultural anography. You are very familiar with Kiki Smith and her background and the artwork which was previously approved by this Commission. Her participation in this project, as well is a boost to the exhibition and the board is really pleased about that. We are also making progress on the augmented reality that will go along with this exhibition. Carlos Estevez has always gravitated toward the spiritual and philosophical. As a scientific and philosophical partnering, he adopted symbolism used by...and includes it in his work, making it part of his artistic language while bringing the century old practice to life. He has distinguished himself for his imagery which includes hypo creatures, some of which you'll see as part of this very special animated piece. Just going to let this run a little while, so you get a little taste, and this is the very beginning prototype that he is working on with the animators right now. So as Patrick mentioned, this piece will be projected onto City Hall, and will transform from the evening during the day to printed images of the artist's work displayed on the building as if in a gallery exhibition. The artist is also known for using kites as a form of structure for his work and he will lead a project from Miami-Dade County Public Schools children to create their own artwork kites based on self-reflection and portraiture. Johnathan Perez is a media artist whose works sees sound and video to explore events and processes distributed across spatial and temporal scales. He creates single and multi-channel sound and video installations and will be the lead artist with the artist team of FIU students, who will assist with production and content research. David Gumbs is an award-winning inter-disciplinary artist from the Caribbean island of San Martin, based in Martinique. His work here will be addictept, as Patrick mentioned, on two buildings, with each site activated by movements of either vehicles or pedestrians. Stunning imagery will bridge nature, science, technology, heritage and art to become a symbol of hope and renewal. Taking a broader more global inspiration for the larger building, the companion piece downtown will have a more personal connection to the body, soul and memory. He is currently collecting migration stories to help inform the work and anyone interested in participating should contact either our office or Illuminate Coral Gables directly. So Antonia Wright and Ruben Millares have roots here in Coral Gables. They work individually as artists and as collaborators. They share a strong conceptual approach to their work, often exploring themes and imagery that supports several interpretations. So the only images that we had initially

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were showing the barricades crossing the streets, just to clarify, Patrick alluded to it. They will not be blocking any streets, crossing any streets, but rather they will be up on the sidewalks or along the planting beds, around corners, and see a little bit here, some of the locations that we are looking at and how they will be placed. So here's just another look at the placement of them, potential placement. Still working on details. Joseph Clayton Mills is an artist, composer, and performer working at the Intersection of Language, Composition and Archival Practice. He is currently collecting archival footage that will be reprojected and paired with mirrors visible from outside the storefronts along Miracle Mile. Through powerful visual dialogue among private and public issues, Sandra Ramos achieved an international reputation in the arts by expressing her personal relationship to political and social realities in the contemporary world. This piece, again as Patrick mentioned, depicts a flight between Cuba and Miami. So this is an overhead view and you can already see where the pieces are naturally sectioned, and those will be separated for safety purposes. All of the artists have extensive backgrounds, all working professional artists. Their complete biographies and CV's may be found on the Illuminate Coral Gables website at www.illuminatecoralgables.org. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you – very impressive, very very impressive.

Commissioner Keon: Beautiful.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And I-2 is a resolution approving the proposed artists for Illuminate Coral Gables, Madam City Attorney are you there?

City Attorney Ramos: Yes sir, I'm here.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Do I hear a motion on the resolution on I-2?

Commissioner Keon: I'll move it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Second?

Commissioner Fors: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll please.

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)