



DRAFT

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

Historical Resources & Cultural Arts

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Table with 14 columns: MEMBERS, D, J, F, M, A, M, J, J, J, S, O, N, APPOINTED BY: and 10 rows of member attendance data.

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

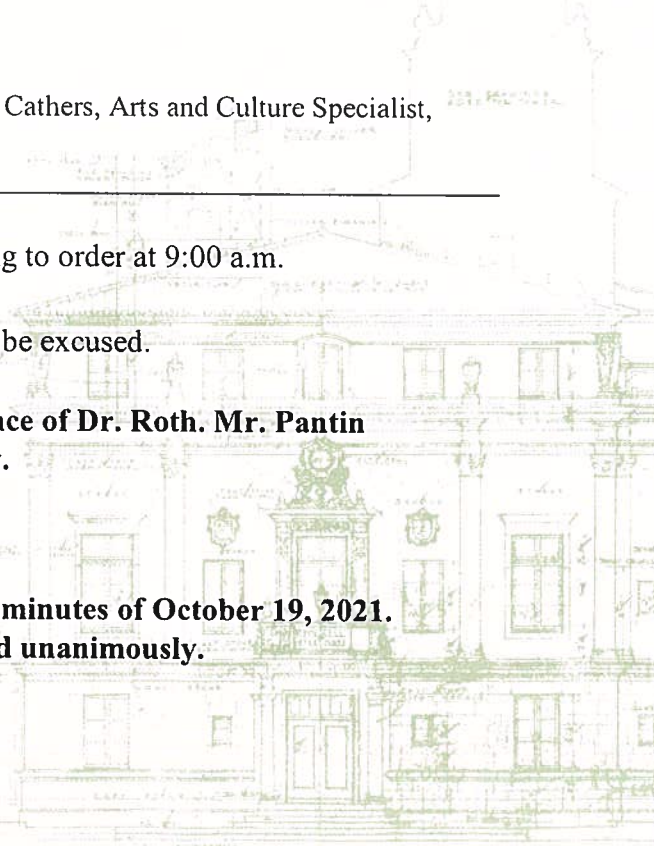
Ms. Burgos called the Cultural Development Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The Board was advised that Dr. Roth respectfully asked to be excused.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to accept the absence of Dr. Roth. Mr. Pantin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, OCTOBER 19, 2021:

Mr. Valdes-Fauli made a motion to approve the minutes of October 19, 2021. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.



NEW BUSINESS:

a. 427 BILTMORE WAY – ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

The Board was advised that the City Commission made a motion at their last meeting to combine the Art in Public Places fees from the Minorca Garage, Fink building restoration, Fire Station 4, and the 427 Biltmore Way building restoration to do a more significant sculptural work at the 427 building, specifically within the courtyard on site. They were further advised that the Mayor mentioned having an artist he would like considered for the opportunity.

The Board was provided with the landscape plan and site rendering of the location. They were advised of the Arts Advisory Panel meeting, where the Panel asked staff to provide images of the site from different views. The Panel recommended that the City approach the opportunity with a pre-curated short-list of artists that the Mayor's proposed artist could be part of. The Board was reminded of the different options the City has to commission (or acquire) new artworks. Staff stated that the recommended artist is unknown and asked if the Board would like staff to continue working with the Arts Advisory Panel on the opportunity.

Mr. Pantin and Mr. Martinez agreed that combining the funds is a good idea given the limited space at the other locations for artwork.

The location was reviewed and noted that the large tree in the center of the area would be removed and replaced with artwork. Mr. Martinez asked if an artist could recommend other locations. Ms. Cathers responded that it is the most prominent location and there isn't interest from the Commission to have artwork integrated with the building itself. It was noted that the landscape in the front of the building is narrow and sloped.

Mr. Martinez agreed in spirit with the location and encouraged opening it up to have a better sense of the opportunities. He mentioned that most of the artworks presented tend to be contextual and supported finding a way of selecting a small group to participate for multiple ideas. He went on to say that if there is someone in mind that seems appropriate, the Board could entertain it.

Ms. Cathers requested direction from the Board to continue working with the Panel and whether the Board favored a pre-curated shortlist of artists, a direct selection, or other option such as a Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

The Board-as-a-Whole agreed to move forward with the Arts Advisory Panel recommending the direction of the Art in Public Places opportunity at the 427 Biltmore Way building.

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.

c. AIPP WAIVER REQUEST, THE PLAZA – BRIAN DONNELLY, KAWS

Following up from the meeting on September 21, 2021, the Board was provided with materials for a new proposal by the artist Brian Donnelly, as KAWS, for the final public artwork in fulfillment of The Plaza's Art in Public Places requirement. Mr. Beckmann joined the meeting through Zoom and presented the revised sculpture for the Board's review. The artwork is within the same vernacular of the previously proposed piece, staff said, and therefore not necessary to take back to the Arts Advisory Panel.

Mr. Beckmann reviewed the budget, noting that the artwork exceeds the final Art in Public Places fee requirement of The Plaza development project.

The Board was pleased with the new artwork proposal and commended Mr. Beckmann on the project's commitment to public art on the site.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Valdes-Fauli made a motion recommending approval of the waiver request by The Plaza/Agave Developer for the commission and installation of a sculpture by the artist KAWS. Mr. Pantin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

d. PROPOSED PROJECT – WINDOW COVERINGS DOWNTOWN

Staff reported that they will be meeting with the Business Improvement District about the possibility of using empty store fronts for a public art opportunity based on a model from other communities of artist designed window wraps.

Ms. Cathers stated that a Call for Art or Request for Qualifications (RFQ) may be issued to select four to five artists to create window covering designs for business owners to select from. Ms. Cathers stated her preference to use an RFQ with pre-selected artists and provide them with an honorarium to develop designs. She stated that, based on previous experience, professional and emerging artists with a higher level of expertise would be more likely to respond.

The Board overall supported the idea and after a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Pantin made a motion recommending support of developing a window covering public art initiative using Art in Public Places funds. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

The Board was provided with updates regarding Art in Public Places projects, including the re-installation of Kiki Smith's "Blue Night", the sculpture "Mars" by Julio Larraza on the Coral Gables Museum Plaza, and the current installation of "Coral Carpet" by R&R Studios.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli reported on the Julio Larraz retrospective at the Coral Gables Museum, stating that the large-scale sculpture of the artist's "Mars" watermelon in bronze was exhibited in Italy and is now on the Museum Plaza. He shared his excitement about the exhibition and encouraged Board members to attend.

Mr. Pantin asked about the previously proposed donation by the artist. Ms. Cathers advised Mr. Valdes-Fauli not to speak on the proposed donation in the event that the topic returns to the Board for consideration. Mr. Valdes-Fauli stated that he didn't think it would, and proceeded to discuss the background of the Julio Larraz Foundation's offering to donate a major sculpture to the City.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli stated that the idea was for the City to pay for the cost of manufacturing and transporting a sculpture, and that it went to the Arts Advisory Panel who turned it down. He stated that the Panel said that if money was going to be paid to manufacture (artwork), then it wasn't fair to other artists and there should be a call. Mr. Pantin noted that Mr. Larraz was a previous resident of Coral Gables.

Ms. Cathers stated that the Cultural Development Board members at the time received the excerpt minutes from the Arts Advisory Panel regarding the item. She noted that other comments were made about site specificity and wanting more information about the intention of the (donation) and where the artwork may be placed. She said they were open to seeing the public response to (an installed artwork on the plaza) and were open to reconsidering the proposal.

Mr. Rodriguez asked for more information to understand the process. Mr. Valdes-Fauli stated that he presented it to staff and that it went through the right channels.

Ms. Cathers read the Cultural Development Board meeting excerpt from when the Board received the Panel's motion not to endorse the proposal at the time. She stated that the Board took no further action.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if there is anything further than can be done. He went on to state his feeling that the analysis done by the Panel was wrong and an evaluation should include if the artist and artwork is something that would be good for the City – yes or no – not if somebody else theoretically could come forward and offer the same thing.

Mr. Martinez commented that in terms of process, the Arts Advisory Panel was created by this Board and advises based on their expertise regarding the level of the art, the craft, the intent, etc. and when it comes to the Board, (we) have the overarching decisions regarding what is a best use of resources at the given time.

Mr. Rodriguez agreed that the Panel has a function to make recommendations to the Board, that then makes recommendations to the Commission. He clarified his response to the specific point about not accepting work because other artists should be given an opportunity.

Ms. Burgos encouraged reading the Arts Advisory Panel's full discussion to have a better idea of the process.

With no further discussion, staff offered to forward the meeting excerpt for clarity.

CULTURAL GRANT UPDATES:

The Board was advised of the late submittal of the FY20-21 Final Report by the Chopin Foundation, causing their ineligibility for this year's Cultural Grant funding. The Board had a thoughtful discussion regarding the criteria, this organization, and circumstance.

Ms. Burgos began the conversation asking how late the report was. Ms. Cathers responded that it was three days late, due to the administrator being out of the country. She stated that the organization was sent a reminder two weeks prior to the deadline and is something that is emphasized in the workshop, noted on the guidelines in multiple places, and is part of the grant agreement as a requirement. In addition, she said, there were changes to the programming that were not provided to staff.

Mr. Burgos asked if this pertains to funding for the current cycle, the next cycle, or both. Ms. Cathers stated that the current guidelines call for disqualification through the next two grant cycles. Ms. Burgos clarified that this is a longtime grantee and Mr. Pantin asked if they have a habit of late reporting. Ms. Cathers stated that they do not, and that it has happened with other grantees in the past, which is why the Board added it as a requirement.

Mr. Pantin asked about the amount and said if it isn't something that is happening on a regular basis or is purposefully being taken advantage of, he feels they should be given a break.

Mr. Martinez noted that they are communicating with staff, and it would be good to hear from them directly. He added that there are consequences to not doing something properly and correctly.

Ms. Burgos stated that now, if an organization doesn't turn in their Final Report by the due date, or are late, they are out the next two cycles because there was a history of organizations not turning in their Final Reports on time. She noted that the report is needed when grants are reviewed for the next cycle. She went on to say that if we give one organization a pass, it would only be fair to give another a pass.

Mr. Martinez asked if they made a formal request for forgiveness. Ms. Cathers said, yes. She added that the Board has discussed the two-cycle penalty before and the Board would have to make a motion to change the Guidelines.

After a brief discussion of the policy, the following motion was made:

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion recommending revising the late Final Report penalty to re-apply for Cultural Grant funding from 2 grant cycles to 1 grant cycle. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

With no further discussion regarding the Chopin Foundation, the following motion was made:

Mr. Pantin made a motion requesting the Chopin Foundation to appear at the next Cultural Development Board meeting regarding their late Final Report and eligibility for this year's grant funding. Mr. Valdes-Fauli seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

The Board was advised that the Art in Public Places Ordinance amendment passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. ANDALUSIA – ART EXPERIENCE & STREET ACTIVATION

Staff provided a presentation for informational purposes regarding Andalusia Avenue. Ms. Cathers stated that business owners along Andalusia are interested in doing art activations along the street to encourage more foot traffic. An overview of the area was provided with opportunities mentioned such as painting crosswalks or intersections, painting the back of the Miracle Theatre to bring attention to it, lighting trees, potential murals, transforming an area into an outdoor plaza, etc. Renderings were provided of lighting treatments, a temporary stage area for programmed performances or spontaneous performances, and a possible mural above the storefronts.

The Board-as-a-Whole agreed to continue the discussion and move it to the Arts Advisory Panel for their input as appropriate.

No action was requested by the Board

b. DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

Due to the holiday break, the Board discussed meeting a week earlier in December, on Tuesday, December 14th at 9:00 a.m. After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Martinez made a motion for the Cultural Development Board to meet in December on Tuesday, December 14th at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Pantin seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

c. OTHER ITEMS

Reflecting on the previous conversations, Mr. Corral shared his experience of approaching the City to install a mosaic mural. He shared his experience of presenting a concept to the Mayor at the time and recalled discussions of bringing themed mural art into the City with donated funds. At the time, he said, he requested the City to award a wall for this purpose with fabrication, installation, and maintenance donated at 100%; however, it didn't work out.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

There were no further items from the Secretary.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Cultural Development Board meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist