

DRAFT

EXCERPT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Wednesday, March 9, 2022 9:00 a.m.**

**Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
Hybrid Meeting & Virtual via Zoom**

MEMBERS	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	22	22	22
Nelson de León	-	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Eugenia Incer*					P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P
Adler Guerrier	-	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Maggie Hernandez* - V. Chair	-	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	A	E	P	P
Dr. Jacek Kolasiński - Chair	-	P	E	-	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
Emily MacDonald-Korth	-	V	P	-	E	E	E	E	P	P	P	P
Manny Mato	-	V	P	-	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Marijean Miyar	-	V	P	-	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez	-	V	P	-	P	P	P	E	A	P	P	P

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 & Culture Specialist,
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department

The Arts Advisory Panel meeting was called to order by Mr. Kolasiński at 9:03 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **JULIO LARRAZ – PROPOSED SCULPTURE ACQUISITION**

Panel members received materials for a revised proposed sculpture acquisition as a partial gift from the Julio Larraz Foundation. Ms. Cathers noted that the Panel discussed the initial proposal last May and made a motion recommending a revision. She introduced Jose Valdes-Fauli, who presented the proposal.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli introduced himself, saying he is the chair and acting director of the Coral Gables Museum and that the City Attorney confirmed there is no conflict of interest with him making the

presentation. He also reported that a new director has been hired for the Museum and will be starting on March 21st. Mr. Valdes-Fauli shared that the Museum worked with artist Julio Larraz for years on the current exhibition and it has been a great success with national press and the publishing of an exhibition book. He continued, saying the original proposal stated that the City would pay for manufacturing costs. He said one of the issues was which work would be considered. He reported that the Watermelon sculpture (titled “Mars”), one of his major sculptures that is also installed in Italy, was installed on the Museum Plaza and has been a tremendous success; several people a day are seen taking pictures with it. The committees, he said, decided it would be the one to donate to the City.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli said when the sculpture was first presented, the cost of fabrication was \$120,000 plus about \$10,000 for moving; with everything that has happened (in the world) since, the cost has gone up to \$150,000. He said the work is ready to be done and donated to the City. He noted that staff is looking at places where it could be installed and is asking the Panel to recommend the donation. Mr. Valdes-Fauli said it is a contribution to the City and clarified that he has no interest other than thinking it is a wonderful piece for the City and would be a major draw. The work, he added, sells for over \$600,000. The one on the plaza, he said, is on loan from a gallery in Miami and is insured for \$600,000.

Mr. Kolasiński thanked Mr. Valdes-Fauli and asked Panel members if they had any questions. Ms. Hernandez asked for clarification about the ownership of the one on display in the plaza. Mr. Valdes-Fauli stated that Gary Nader owns the artwork. He said it is one of a series of 3 with 2 artist’s proofs and the new one being fabricated would be the third one in the series, adding that Gary Nader will not be involved. The Panel was advised that this is a partial donation from the Julio Larraz Foundation and is not being conducted through a gallery.

Mr. Kolasiński asked what the proposed timeline is from the moment of donation to fabrication of the artwork, which the City would cover the costs of. He stated concerns about the cost changing due to events happening around the world. Ms. Valdes-Fauli responded that it is a hard estimate from the foundry and is the actual cost. Mr. Kolasiński asked where it would be fabricated, and Mr. Valdes-Fauli stated it would be in Miami at the Run Art Foundry on 74th Avenue and Bird Road.

Ms. Miyar asked if there has been discussion about the location. Staff responded that it can be a few possibilities if the Panel would like to review them at this time. Mr. Valdes-Fauli added that the artist does not have any requirements regarding placement and feels that from the Museum’s experience of seeing people with the piece that it needs to be in a public area.

Ms. Hernandez asked where the funds would potentially come from. Ms. Cathers responded that they would come from the art fund. Ms. Hernandez continued, saying other projects or Call to

Artists would not get funded. Staff stated that funds are available at this time. Ms. Cathers noted that at the previous meeting, the Panel responded that they were open to considering a subsequent proposal that was partially based on (public) response to artwork by the artist installed on the plaza as part of the exhibition, which was unknown at the time. She also shared her personal observation of people positively interacting with the artwork.

Ms. Incer asked if a conservation plan will be submitted. Staff responded that it is painted bronze and the recommendation is washing and waxing on a yearly basis. Ms. Incer stated that this would fall under regular maintenance.

Mr. Mato said he thought the cost of fabrication seems fair and asked if it will be manufactured by the same foundry or a different one (than the one typically used by the artist). Mr. Valdes-Fauli responded that he doesn't know but is familiar with the foundry and the artist would supervise the work. It was noted that the information from the foundation included the foundry's estimate and has been approved and vetted (by the artist).

Mr. Guerrier stated that the price point is low, it is a popular piece, and noted that the Panel had no question about the having the work itself within the City.

With no further discussion, the following motions were made:

Mr. Guerrier made a motion to accept the partial gift of a sculpture acquisition through the Julio Larraz Foundation for the sculpture *Mars* by the artist, Julio Larraz. Mr. Mato seconded the motion, which was passed with 8 yays, and 1 nay.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli thanked the Panel.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist