

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-1
December 9, 2025
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Commissioner Melissa Castro
Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Commissioner Richard D. Lara

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez
City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Arts and Culture Coordinator, Catherine Cathers

Public Speaker(s)

Alicia Corral

Agenda Item G-1 [Start: 11:41 a.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission approving the University of Miami 's 2025 Campus Art Master Plan report in accordance with the requirements of the Art in Public Places Ordinance, Zoning Code Article 9 (Cultural Development Board recommendation to the City Commission approval/denial vote: 6 to 0).

Mayor Lago: Moving now to time certain G-1.

City Attorney Suarez: G-1 is a Resolution of the City Commission approving the University of Miami's 2025 Campus Art Master Plan Report in accordance with the requirements of the Art in Public Places Ordinance Zoning Code Article 9 and Cultural Development Board Recommendation was 6-0, approval.

Mayor Lago: Good morning.

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Arts and Culture Coordinator: Good morning, Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Coordinator with the City. Good morning, Commissioners, Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioners. So, this is, the campus comes every three years per our code to give an update on their Campus Art Master Plan. So, we have Alicia Corral here, who is the Director of Campus and Planning, to talk about the updates.

Mayor Lago: Good morning. Thank you for being here with us.

Ms. Corral: Good morning. My name is Alicia Corral. I am Director of Campus Planning at the University of Miami. The University of Miami is home to a public art collection that serves to attract, delight, and engage both students and visitors. Currently, the collection includes 33 sculptures by respected local, national, and international artists, of which 30 are on display against the beautiful backdrop of the Coral Gables Campus. In the past three years, the University has expanded their collection with the installation of Lady, a monumental sculpture by John Henry that greets visitors on Stanford Drive in front of Lakeside Village. It's the big red one, if you've been on campus. Chaos, a monumental sculpture by Jed Nova, will be installed in January near the Merrick Building. Outdoor sculptures require significant maintenance due to our climate. This year, Big Diamond by Joel Perlman was removed and replaced by a new identical sculpture due to significant deterioration of the metal structure. The artist was involved in the entire process and was here for the installation. Every sculpture receives maintenance by an art conservation company at least once a year. Fostering public engagement is one of the cornerstones of the collection. Information on the sculptures is found on the University website. In addition, Art Outdoors, a digital tour of the collection on the Bloomberg Connects app, engages the users through a rich multimedia experience. The University is committed to a public, world-class sculpture collection that will continue to enrich the campus experience for our students and visitors. Thank you, and I'm happy to answer any questions about our report.

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much. I have the privilege of living across the street from the campus, so I enjoy this collection extensively. I walk by the University of Miami, not only the Arboretum, but also your collection, and it's amazing to see it ever evolving. It's beautiful. It's calming.

Ms. Corral: Our students actually enjoy it.

Mayor Lago: It's really beautiful, and it's something exceptional, and I was at the Loeb last week, and again, you can really spend the day on the campus and go to the museum. You can visit all the sculptures. It's a great afternoon with the family. It's something that you like to enjoy.

Ms. Corral: It's one of those things that if you put it in front of the students, they might not search for it if it's not there, but you put it in front of them, and it's actually something that they truly enrich their life, and they enjoy it very much.

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Mayor Lago: So, I also want to thank Catherine and her team for doing an amazing job this weekend. I think it was Sunday, correct? We had the 8.30 a.m. morning brunch for Art Basel. It went off without a hitch. It was incredibly well attended. We had the artist who installed the five works, which I highly recommend that over the next month you go and visit them, and you get to see them. They're located through the City of Coral Gables. They're pop-up artworks that are beautiful, incredibly talented artists. The food was amazing. I want to thank the Plaza. I want to thank Donna Spain for donating the champagne. All of staff that were involved. It was truly a memorable morning, and it was a great way, you know, to put a bow on Art Basel after having so many people here in the community. So, I want to thank you for your hard work. Thank you for pulling it off and doing an amazing job. I'll entertain a motion.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'll move it.

Commissioner Castro: I'll second.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk, do you have any public comment?

City Clerk Urquia: No, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Okay, perfect.

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes

Commissioner Lara: Yes

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much.