

DRAFT

EXCERPT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, December 20, 9:00 a.m.
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
Hybrid Meeting & Virtual via Zoom**

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

LEGEND: A = Absent; P = Present; V = Virtual; E = Excused; * = New Member; ^= Resigned Member;
- = No Meeting + = Special Meeting

STAFF:

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 (CDB) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROPOSAL – JANINE ANTONI

Ms. Antoni appeared before the Board via Zoom to present a revised proposal for the sculpture “Whispering Through a Stone”. The concept remained the same as previously presented and included a revised budget and suggested locations.

Elaborating on the proposal, Ms. Antoni stated that the piece is inspired by the Victorian era “conversation chair” used for courtship where two people could have an intimate conversation while being separated. With this version, she said, the people can not see one another. The idea, Ms. Antoni continued, is to have a very large stone with the negative impressions of two bodies carved out (in opposing directions) and when seated, would discover a small hole drilled from one side of the stone to the other at speaking level where one can have a conversation with the other.

Ms. Antoni expressed that her work explores how the body impresses itself onto objects and in return, the object onto the body. She shared the intention of someone imagining themselves sitting in it before doing so.

Another aspect of the piece, Ms. Antoni said, is listening. While conducting research for the piece, she found that an average of one third of teenagers sends about 100 texts a day and she became interested in how to encourage sustaining a coherent (in person) conversation. In addition, she said, with this piece you cannot talk and listen at the same time; there is no interruption and one person needs to listen while the other talks. Ms. Antoni shared other works she has that also address listening, including a large-scale land work in Kansas City.

In speaking about locations, Ms. Antoni’s preference is to have the sculpture located in an area with significant pedestrian traffic that would support the concept of having a private conversation in a public area. She showed renderings of the piece in Merrick Park, under a tree across from City Hall, and also within areas of Miracle Mile.

Ms. Cathers stated an interest in the Merrick Park location where many people gather for various events and walk, saying they could (also) return to share a special or important conversation.

With no further questions, Ms. Antoni thanked the Board and left the meeting. After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Pantin made a motion recommending artist Janine Antoni’s proposal as presented for the artwork “Whispering Through a Stone”. Mr. Valdes-Fauli seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist