



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
January 28, 2025

ITEM TITLE:

A Resolution approving funding support to Dade Heritage Trust toward the creation of a public sculpture honoring the life and legacy of Arva Parks McCabe to be installed at the entrance hall of the Main Miami-Dade County Public Library; authorizing an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Budget to recognize the transfer of funds from the Art in Public Places reserve as revenue and appropriate such funds as determined by the Commission, (unanimously recommended by the Cultural Development Board approval/denial vote: 6 to 0).

BRIEF HISTORY:

Dade Heritage Trust approached the city requesting financial support toward the creation of a public sculpture honoring the life and legacy of Arva Parks McCabe, author, historian, and dedicated advocate for historic preservation in Coral Gables.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and the Miami-Dade County Public Library System have formally approved the placement of the life-size sculpture at the entrance hall of the Main Miami-Dade County Public Library adjacent to the Arva Parks McCabe Auditorium.

In addition to being a lifelong Miamian, born in the Riverview neighborhood, Arva Parks McCabe was a longtime resident in the City of Coral Gables and contributed significantly to long-lasting cultural projects within the city. Among her credits are involvement in the preservation of the Biltmore Hotel, the Venetian Pool, and the historic Merrick House. She helped create the City's historic preservation program in the 1970s and served as the chair of the first historic preservation board, as well as serving as the inaugural director of the Coral Gables Museum. McCabe served on the University of Miami Board of Trustees for 26 years and wrote several books on Greater Miami, Coral Gables, and the University of Miami, including the frequently referenced, "George Merrick, Son of the South Wind: Visionary Creator of Coral Gables."

The approved sculpture is being created by Miami artist Freda Coffing Tschumy and features one of Arva Parks McCabe's books about Coral Gables.

Dade Heritage Trust (DHT) is seeking funding support at various levels for completion of the project, which was presented by DHT executive director Christine Rupp to the Cultural Development Board on December 17, 2024. Board members expressed support and voted unanimously to recommend a minimum Support Level of \$7,500 for the project, using funds from the Art in Public Places reserve.

ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION(S):

Date.	Board/Committee	Comments
December 17, 2024	Cultural Development Board	Motion Recommending Approval

ATTACHMENT(S):

- 1. Draft Resolution**
- 2. Arva Parks McCabe DHT Initiative information**
- 3. Arva Parks McCabe**
- 4. Freda Coffing Tshumy**
- 5. Excerpt Minutes from the Cultural Development Board meeting of December 17, 2024**

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

No.	Amount	Account No.	Source of Funds
1.	\$ tbd		Art Fund
Total:	\$ tbd		
Fiscal Impact: n/a			

BUSINES IMPACT:

Promotion of Coral Gables as a supporter of arts and culture in Miami-Dade County through listing on plaque and on a half-page ad in Dade Heritage Trust's Preservation Today Magazine.