



DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 19, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
Hybrid Meeting & Virtual via Zoom**

*Historical Resources &
Cultural Arts*

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MEMBERS	M	J	J	J	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	APPOINTED BY:
	21	21	21	21 A	21	21	21	21	22	22	22	22	
Leslie Pantin	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Vince Lago
Frank Martinez	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	Vice-Mayor Michael Mena
Frank Rodriguez*			P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Rhonda Anderson
Ray Corral*			P	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	Commissioner Jorge L. Fors Jr.
Jose Valdes-Fauli*			P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez
Dr. Bernice Roth Chair	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	E	E	P	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Geannina Burgos				P	P	E	P	P	P	A	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 meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

The Board was advised that Mr. Martinez asked respectfully to be excused.

Mr. Pantin made a motion to approve the absence of Mr. Martinez. Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MARCH 15, 2022:

Mr. Pantin made a motion to approve the minutes of March 15, 2022. Mr. Valdes-Fauli seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **BOTERO – PROPOSED SCULPTURE EXHIBITION***

Mr. Valdes-Fauli stated that the Mayor asked him to work toward getting (Fernando) Botero sculptures on Miracle Mile and said he succeeded in getting the loans for the City. Ms. Cathers proceeded with a presentation about the proposed temporary exhibition of the sculptures.

Background of the artist was provided, including that Fernando Botero is a Colombian artist currently living in Paris, with homes throughout the world. He is represented in South Florida by Gary Nader, Ms. Cathers said, and is a figurative artist and sculptor known for portraying figures in large, exaggerated size. It was noted that his works are in major international museums and collections and that he is one of the most recognized Latin American artists today.

Images of the proposed four figurative sculptures were shown with dimensions provided. The proposal, Ms. Cathers said, is to install the artworks toward the west end of Miracle Mile in the center of the last block before it intersects with Le Jeune Road. She stated that there are many open areas in this section and that there is not enough room on the median. It was noted that the people who generally install the sculptures would be available to do the work and that the sculptures are regularly exhibited throughout the country and the world. The method of installation was discussed, saying the City would request something attached to the bottom to protect the pavers. The Mayor, Ms. Cathers said, has requested that the sculptures be in place for up to two years and the proposed agreement is asking for a one-year installation with the option of extending it an additional year. Ms. Cathers stated the intent to present the proposal at the next Commission meeting.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli asked if the owner is aware of the proposed (exhibition) time. Ms. Cathers responded yes, although he has not gotten back to the City regarding the draft agreement that was sent (and mentions the timeframe). This is the first step, she said. Mr. Valdes-Fauli noted that a gallery lending works for sale may not want to make a long-term commitment. Mr. Rodriguez responded that (the agreement) could be structured for a certain time frame and if someone wants to purchase the work, (they could be released). Ms. Cathers agreed and proposed a minimum six-month installation period. She stated that it is likely the City Manager would want them removed in the event of a tropical storm. Dr. Roth asked when they are planned to be installed. Ms. Cathers said arrangements would start after an agreement is signed. Mr. Valdes-Fauli added to be sure a timeframe is agreed on by both parties prior to presenting the item to the Commission. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it seems to be a win-win for Mr. Nader to have the works in public and if somebody has millions of dollars to spend, they may not have a problem buying and keeping the artwork (onsite) another six months. Dr. Roth agreed that he probably would want a clause in the agreement that says (what happens) if they are sold. Mr. Pantin suggested including a request to replace any that are sold with another sculpture. Ms. Cathers stated that it can wait to go to Commission until specifics are in place. Dr. Roth suggested making a motion giving staff discretion to work on the details so it can move forward and suggested the motion recognize the artistic quality and generosity of the owner.

Mr. Pantin discussed the location and benefit of having them on Miracle Mile where people can walk from one to the next. He asked about the orientation and suggested they be placed facing the street for people to see if driving by and where they can easily walk up to them. Ms. Cathers said the City would work with Mr. Nadar on placement and agreed that the preference is to have them face the street. She went on to say that Adam and Eve would be together, noting that the owner has done this many times including at Bayside, in Doral, etc.

Mr. Pantin suggested recording the movement of the sculptures from the studio to the installation site as a story for the media. Board members agreed.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Valdes-Fauli made a motion recommending approval of the temporary exhibition of artworks by Fernando Botero. Ms. Burgos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

*Following this meeting, the owner stated that the works would only be available for three months and asked that they be installed immediately with the City paying all fees including insurance and maintenance.

b. ART BASEL – ARTIST RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Cathers presented a recommendation from the Arts Advisory Panel, proposing artist Alan Sonfist for Art Week/Art Basel 2022, requesting approval of the concept with staff following up to negotiate specifics with the artist. She noted that the installation of temporary works by the artist previously came before the Board, with the Board requesting additional information.

Ms. Cathers presented a PowerPoint about the artist and proposal, saying it is a combination of existing works by the artist and includes approaching him about creating new work. It was noted that the artist has not been contacted regarding new work (pending feedback from the Board). Information about the artist was shared, including that he is a prominent artist who led the Earth Art movement in the 70s. He is represented by Fredric Snitzer Gallery and known for major land-based artworks bringing attention to the environment, sustainability, and green initiatives.

The existing works of three bronze cast sculptural branch pieces were included in the presentation with their dimensions. Locations were proposed within two planting beds on either side of Miracle Mile at the west end and would be installed in November, close to the Art Basel season. It was noted that the plants in the bed are about twelve inches high and the area is shaded.

When the Arts Advisory Panel reviewed the pieces, Ms. Cathers said, they recommended a location that supported the artwork, where it can be appreciated and easily viewed, but not allow

people to get too close. By placing the artworks in the planting beds, she said, they are prominent without extending into the sidewalk.

Funding estimates were provided for a new, temporary commission. Ms. Cathers stated that the Arts Advisory Panel recommended approaching the artist to see if he would be interested in being the City's Art Week artist with the understanding that he would do new work. She continued, saying this could be a temporary or permanent commission with the funding estimate reflecting what (the City) has typically spent annually. She said the artist (had previously) expressed interested in a permanent piece however, the Panel stated that they want artwork at a more significant scale.

Mr. Pantin asked where the artwork would be placed. Ms. Cathers said staff would work with the artist on a proposed location, perhaps Ponce Circle Park, or another location, somewhere that could be responsive to the environment, but not necessarily in a natural setting.

Mr. Pantin asked how fragile the existing artworks are and expressed concern about children climbing on them or getting caught. Ms. Cathers responded that it is (one of) the reasons for proposing installation in the planting beds. She stated that the works are cast in bronze, very heavy, and would be engineered with a stable foundation for tropical storm season. Mr. Valdes-Fauli commented that if someone falls into it, there would be an issue and barricades may need to go around them to comply with ADA. Ms. Cathers responded that she did not think barricades would be required and added that the Mayor would like to see them installed for up to two years.

Mr. Rodriguez asked for clarification regarding the funding. Ms. Cathers said the budget of \$150,000 is for the additional commission, which could be temporary or permanent. In the past, she said, the City has spent around this amount on a temporary work and later acquired it for an additional cost.

Mr. Rodriguez asked for further information regarding Art Basel's involvement. Ms. Cathers explained the application process with Art Basel, requiring that the artist be represented by one of the galleries represented at Art Basel. The City applies to host a VIP event along with the exhibition, which Art Basel then officially recognizes and posts within their materials. He asked if there are other (artist) choices. Ms. Cathers stated that this is the artist presented at this time and the timeline is short to secure a new commission. He asked who decides which artist is proposed. She responded that (recommendations) come from different places, sometimes from the Arts Panel, collaborations with the Lowe Art Museum, the Coral Gables Museum, (the Mayor), and last time it was Kiki Smith who was part of Illuminate Coral Gables. Ms. Cathers said the Boteros could be a backup; however, the City would like to commission new work. This artist is supported by the Mayor, she said, who recommended the initial pieces and expressed support of pursuing him for Art Basel. Mr. Rodriguez suggested presenting alternative choices in the future. Ms. Cathers noted that the Arts Panel was asked if there was anyone else they wanted the City to pursue and as staff, she is researching options for the upcoming years to avoid the short production time.

Board members discussed separating the item into two motions. With no further discussion, the first motion was made:

Mr. Pantin made a motion recommending the temporary installation of artworks by Alan Sonfist. Ms. Burgos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board continued discussion about the recommendation for Art Week/Art Basel.

Mr. Pantin said a proposal is needed that includes what the piece looks like, etc. Ms. Cathers responded that in the past the Commission has approved the artist, then the City requests a proposal, so artwork is not blindly accepted. Dr. Roth confirmed that it would be a motion to recommend an artist. Mr. Pantin added to include any conditions.

Mr. Burgos asked if the City usually looks for temporary work or an acquisition. Ms. Cathers said historically (for most of the works), it has been a temporary work that the City has acquired, with credit received (for the temporary commission). Ms. Cathers gave examples of the Carlos Cruz-Diez and Hank Willis Thomas artworks. If Alan Sonfist does a temporary piece, she said, it may truly be temporary due to the materials the artist uses. With the current model, she continued, the City pays for the fabrication (and related fees), with the end worth being more valuable than the initial cost.

Mr. Rodriguez asked for clarification of the process, asking if the Board recommended this artist, he would propose a piece that meets the conditions of it being a more substantial work. Staff confirmed and said the proposal would come back to the Board.

Mr. Pantin suggested promoting the different art on Miracle Mile instead, to encourage people to come to Coral Gables, such as: the Hank Willis Thomas (speech bubbles), the Cruz-Diez crosswalks, the Rafael Barrios sculpture, the Boteros, and the Alan Sonfist artworks. Ms. Cathers responded that this idea could be proposed to Art Basel to see if it would be acceptable. She mentioned that the permanent artworks were previously recognized by Art Basel. Ms. Burgos noted that if this was accepted, there would not be a new commission.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Pantin made a motion recommending the celebration of permanent and temporary artworks on Miracle Mile for this year's Miami Art Week / Art Basel. Ms. Burgos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. CORAL GABLES MUSEUM – ART ON THE PLAZA

Board members were advised of the Coral Gables Museum’s new initiative to exhibit sculptures on the Museum Plaza, a shared City space, on a rotating, ongoing temporary basis with artworks relating to current exhibitions and programming.

Ms. Cathers noted that the Resolution allows the curation of the artworks through the Museum without having to go through a separate approval each time a new work is proposed. She noted that the Museum will be responsible for the artworks, their installation, and any required permits. It was noted that the Arts Advisory Panel has recommended approval of this item.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli stated that the first piece, proposed in May, is by an Israeli artist and the idea is to have different works with different artists. After a brief discussion, the following motion was made with Mr. Valdes-Fauli recusing himself:

Ms. Burgos made a motion recommending approval of an ongoing, rotating temporary public art exhibition curated by the Coral Gables Museum. Mr. Pantin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

CULTURAL GRANT UPDATES:

a. CHANGE REQUESTS

The Board was presented with a summary sheet outlining Cultural Grant change requests from:

- Miami Children’s Chorus
- The Dave and Mary Alper JCC
- Coral Gables Congregational Church – Community Arts Program (CAP)
- Florida Guitar Foundation
- Greater Miami Youth Symphony
- UM – Lowe Art Museum
- City Theatre

After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Pantin made a motion accepting the change requests of the Miami Children’s Chorus, The Dave and Mary Alper JCC, Coral Gables Congregational Church – Community Arts Program (CAP), Florida Guitar Foundation, Greater Miami Youth Symphony, UM – Lowe Art Museum, and City Theatre, as presented. Mr. Valdes-Fauli seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. GENERAL UPDATES

Mr. Pantin asked if granted organizations are seeing better results in attendance and if programming is close to normality yet. Ms. Cathers responded that there still is a struggle in getting people accustomed and comfortable to going back in person to events. There are some

organizations that have not done so well and are taking a break, she said, like Kaleidoscope MusArt.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli announced that the new director of the Museum has started, and they are very happy with him. In addition, he announced the upcoming exhibitions at the Coral Gables Museum, including one of Ukrainian paintings that will be installed through October and travel to other institutions nationally. The Museum, he said, will be programming educational events related to Ukraine and the exhibition.

Ms. Cathers reported that she attended the GW Carver Elementary event, and it was clear that the event was not promoted outside of the elementary school. She noted that the school did not apply for funding this year.

Ms. Cathers stated that a summary report and evaluations of this year's Cultural Grant applications would be prepared for Board members within the next week.

Board members were encouraged to attend as many upcoming cultural programs as possible.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

It was reported that staff will move forward with fabrication of the Julio Larraz sculpture "Mars."

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

The Board was informed that the City Commission approved fabrication and acquisition of the Julio Larraz sculpture "Mars", including placing the sculpture in Pittman Park.

The Board was informed that the City Commission approved the waiver of the Art in Public Places fee for Alexan Crafts development project in return for commissioning and donating a Vaughn Spann sculpture to the City.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

The Board discussed the grand opening of Sanctuary of the Arts, which will include various performances throughout the upcoming weekend. The Board unanimously expressed enthusiasm and support for the new venue in. Ms. Cathers stated that although they did not apply for funding this year, the venue is being used by other arts organizations.

The Board discussed the next meeting date and agreed to combine it with the upcoming Cultural Grant Review and Scoring meeting. With no further discussion the following motion was made:

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion changing the date of the next meeting to May 24 at 8:00 a.m. prior to the Cultural Grant Review and Scoring Meeting. Mr. Valdes-Fauli seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist