

DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Wednesday, June 23, 2021 9:00 a.m.**

**Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
Hybrid Meeting in City Commission Chambers & Virtual via Zoom**

MEMBERS	J+	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	21
Nelson de León	P	E	P	P	-	-	-	V	P	E	-	P	P
Dr. Jill Deupi	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	V	V	V	-	P	P
Adler Guerrier*				P	-	-	-	V	P	P	-	P	P
Maggie Hernandez*								V	P	P	-	P	P
Jacek Kolasiński	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	A	P	P	-	P	E
Emily MacDonald-Korth	P	P	E	P	-	-	-	V	V	P	-	V	P
Manny Mato	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	V	V	E	-	V	P
Marijean Miyar	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	V	P	V	-	V	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	A	P	P	-	V	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

Mr. Roselione-Valadez called the Arts Advisory Panel meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Dr. Deupi arrived at 9:17 a.m. and proceeded to chair the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS MAY 26, 2021:

A motion was made by Ms. Miyar and seconded by Ms. Hernandez to approve the meeting minutes of May 26, 2021 and accept the excused absence of Mr. Kolasiński, which was unanimously passed by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. FIRE STATION 4 – ART IN PUBLIC PLACES (AIPP) OPPORTUNITY

Ms. Cathers introduced the project team for Fire Station 4, who appeared via Zoom: Mr. Ernesto Pino, Fire Chief Marcos de la Rosa, and Ana Alleguez. Ms. Alleguez shared her screen to show the site plan and elevations that were previously submitted to the Board of Architects. Panel members were provided with select pages of the concept drawings for easier reference.

Ms. Cathers gave a brief overview of the Panel's previous conversation and areas that Panel members mentioned as potential locations for artwork including the front façade, free standing work at the front of the building, and retaining walls. She shared the Panel's questions of possibly shifting the handicap parking to allow for artwork closer to the street or the possibility of moving the structure back to allow more space in front. They also discussed, she said, the sight lines from Sunset Road, desire to have artwork that is visible from pedestrian and vehicular viewpoints, and the contextual relationship between the building, neighborhood, and proposed art.

Ms. Alleguez noted that the site is tight and agreed that it should be on the building or near the street. She said the building cannot be relocated due to grading and accessibility requirements; likewise, moving the parking area did not seem feasible. Ms. Alleguez was open to using the front façade of the building and area where a planter is proposed. She said the west side of the building that faces the Woman's Club has the best visibility.

Chief de la Rosa supported using the front façade and suggested either moving the Firehouse 4 signage above the bay doors or installing artwork on the area above the bay doors. He was also o.k. with using the proposed planter area.

The Panel discussed in length how to make the front area more inviting. Mr. Guerrier suggested changing the planter into a plinth to receive artwork. Ms. Alleguez noted that it's partially under the overhang with about three feet clearance in front of the overhang. Moving on, Mr. Guerrier said if the parking space were closer to the building it would allow artwork to be closer to the sidewalk and improve visibility for passersby. Ms. Alleguez responded that the civil engineering grading is complete, and a landing is needed for the steps, making it difficult to adjust the parking space.

Discussion continued about the façade of the building. Ms. Alleguez asked if an artist could do a rendition of the signage. Ms. Cathers responded that it could be proposed as an addition to the art, but not as the art itself. Panel members discussed different types of interventions artists could consider including painting, tile, three-dimensional works attached to the building, etc. Ms. Alleguez mentioned the art could be reflective of the firehouse. Panel members agreed that the art should be a standalone feature not necessarily firehouse related. Ms. Alleguez stated her preference for three-dimensional work that is added to the building at a visible height rather than at grade. Ms. Hernandez encouraged direction to artists that is as open as possible to allow for creative exploration. Ms. Alleguez noted that tile (or other attachments) would need to ensure water tightness and expressed appreciation for starting the process early enough to incorporate solutions for the artist.

Continuing discussion of the front façade, Panel members asked about the “eyebrow” element. Ms. Hernandez stated that it would interrupt any artwork placed in the area. Ms. Alleguez stated that it’s currently part of the building design and would need to be revisited. At this time, she said, it is a darker grey and intended to be a neutral, warm tone. Ms. Cathers said another meeting will be set up with the design team once proposed artists are approved.

Mr. de Leon observed that an existing mahogany tree on Sunset is taller than the building, creating a visibility challenge for artwork on this area. He expressed concern about selecting a location that is blocked by the tree and flagpole. Ms. Alleguez stated that landscaping isn’t developed yet, which may affect siting. All agreed that placing art that can be appreciated from both the east and west will be a challenge.

Conversation moved back to the area of the bay doors. The Panel discussed the possibility of using the doors for artwork and it was determined that the doors are not an option; however, the tree is not in the way of this area.

Ms. Miyar commented that the façade is highly resolved architecturally and favored pursuing a free-standing piece. Ms. MacDonald-Korth agreed that the building is highly resolved and presents a unique challenge to artists, saying she would like to see proposals and ideas. Ms. Cathers stated that it’s helpful to provide options to artists while being open to other suggestions. She noted the importance of knowing what is definitely not possible.

Dr. Deupi asked for greater clarification of the goal, whether it should be something prominent or subtle and complimentary to the building. She noted other projects having specific commemorative purposes and wondered if it would be helpful to have a shared understanding of the purpose for this project, whether it is decorative, as an accent, prominent, seen from afar, etc. Mr. Roselione-Valadez advocated for prominent artwork and wanted to further understand how that would be possible at this site. Chief de la Rosa responded that due to the complexity of the building, he encouraged something complimentary rather than a stand-alone piece and something that could be discussed with the artists. He added that he would like it to be meaningful to the inhabitants of the building itself. Dr. Deupi thanked him for the input and suggested revisiting the area above the bay doors that also doesn’t have the sightline issues of the larger façade area.

Ms. Hernandez stated that the wall (on the front of the building), even if it’s partially obstructed, may draw people in. She didn’t share concern about the tree in the front and expressed that enough different approaches would still work for visibility of the artwork. Ms. Hernandez felt artists would welcome thinking of a solution for the wall.

It was noted that the greenest area is behind the building. Chief Hernandez, who joined the call, also suggested the back façade of the building. Ms. Cathers asked for clarification about the green space. Chief de la Rosa confirmed that it is being developed as a play area for children and any artwork should be elevated or otherwise protected to avoid damage. The Chief continued, saying the intent is to have play equipment that is fire themed, such as a climbing area in the shape of a fire truck. He said there is a fence between the firehouse and the park with landscaping used as a buffer between the green space and street.

Dr. Deupi asked if the property necessarily needs public artwork. Ms. Cathers responded that the Cultural Development Board has requested artwork at the site and asked the Chief how attached and committed he is to having artwork. Chief de la Rosa stated that he's not committed to it and understands the challenges the property has with the existing treescape and architecture. Mr. Guerrier noted one of the purposes of the (Art in Public Places) program is to add diversity of language and art throughout the City and did not support vacating the opportunity. He shared that placing an object is a better idea than not and will benefit how the building and area are experienced long term.

Discussion picked up again regarding the intent of the art and architecture working together. Panel members agreed that artists will need some guidance.

Ms. Alleguez asked about next steps. Ms. Cathers responded that the Panel has different options to consider for how to approach the opportunity. Ms. Alleguez stated that the project is moving quickly into the construction document phase; however, there is plenty of time prior to construction starting.

Chief de la Rosa, Ms. Alleguez, and Mr. Pino thanked the panel and left the meeting.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez recommended avoiding an open call and suggested Panel members submit up to three names of artists to consider. Mr. Guerrier asked if the names need to come from the pre-qualified artist list. Ms. Cathers said they do not; however, CVs and samples of the artist's work will be required. The Panel briefly discussed the geographic reach of the call and agreed that it should be national.

Ms. Cathers stated that the Art in Public Places allocation for the project is around \$70,000; however, the amount could be supplemented and is an inclusive fee. She stated that there is a small pool of funds that are required per the County to be put toward public art from other municipal projects. The Panel agreed that \$70,000 is not sufficient for significant artwork.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Ms. Hernandez to pursue the option of developing a pre-qualified roster of national artists with Panelists presenting up to three artist names for consideration and a project budget of \$100,000. Mr. Roselione-Valadez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. ILLUMINATE CORAL GABLES 2022

Ms. Cathers introduced Lance Fung, appearing via Zoom, and stated that Patrick O'Connell, co-founder of Illuminate Coral Gables (ICG), was previously on Zoom and needed to leave. She asked that the Panel consider a motion like last year, to recommend the proposed artists for ICG 2022 to the Cultural Development Board. She stated that the City is also requesting \$200,000 from the art acquisition fund to be used toward ICG 2022.

Mr. Fung shared his screen and presented a PowerPoint of the curatorial draft of the project, artists, and proposals.

The Panel discussed the timing of the exhibition. Ms. Miyar asked if the exhibition could finish later in the evening. Mr. Fung responded that it takes over an hour for the projectors to be turned off and that in the event of rain, the exhibition needs to close to cover projectors and store the Fireflies artwork with the hand-made silk lanterns. At this time, he said, ICG proposed eliminating Wednesdays due to the lighter foot traffic, and that perhaps the cost savings could be used to run the show later, especially on Friday and Saturday nights. He said he would bring this back to the ICG team.

Mr. Fung mentioned a new collaboration with the Business Improvement District (BID) and the possibility of restaurants offering prefix “Illuminate Dinners” before or after seeing the exhibition.

Dr. Deupi congratulated Mr. Fung on the success of the first year and “what looks to be an exciting and engaging second year.” She noted that it was a bright spot in a troubled time and expressed her intent to continue thinking of ways the Lowe can work together with ICG on future collaborations.

Mr. Guerrier recused himself from discussion and voting due to his participation in Illuminate Coral Gables as one of the proposed artists.

Mr. Fung thanked the Panel and left the meeting. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Ms. Hernandez made a motion recommending approval of the proposed artists for Illuminate Coral Gables 2022 as presented. Ms. Miyar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. ART BASEL 2021

The Panel was advised that Kiki Smith’s “Blue Night” public artwork is scheduled for its second exhibition. Staff asked the Panel to consider recommending the installation of “Blue Night” to coincide with Art Basel and Miami Art Week 2021, with a recommendation to submit an Art Basel 2021 VIP event application. After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

Ms. Miyar made a motion recommending installation of Kiki Smith’s “Blue Night” for Miami Art Week and Art Basel 2021, including the submission of an Art Basel VIP event application. Ms. Hernandez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

d. PRE-QUALIFIED ARTIST REQUESTS

The Panel asked that this item be deferred.

e. AIPP PROJECT LIST UPDATE

Panel members were provided with a spreadsheet noting the breakdown of funding received to date with projects that have been completed and are proposed. Ms. Cathers pointed out the area specifying the Miami-Dade County public art project requirements. She clarified that while commissioning or acquiring public art is required per the County, the artwork is not required to be at the project site generating the funds.

Staff thoroughly reviewed each project and its related funding status, noting hard and soft costs and temporary vs. permanent projects.

The Panel discussed the restoration of the historic white way lights. Ms. MacDonald-Korth stated that she conducted the color study for the lights and was happy to see the project moving forward. Panel members had questions about the historical context, number of lights, and the restoration itself. Director Adams noted that staff is continuing research to get a more accurate funding estimate for the project.

Ms. Hernandez stated that the large budget seems like a lot to use for restoration from an art fund and asked where the budget for their maintenance would come from, or if the fund would be used to maintain them. She said she wasn't sure art funds should be used for restoring something that was already part of the City. Dr. Deupi concurred, saying it seems like a tremendous amount of funds and would like to see more information about the project, what is involved, including alternative sources of funding and if it's within the parameters of the fund. Ms. MacDonald-Korth agreed that more information about the proposed restoration is needed. She said the lights have significant historic value and agreed that it seems like a large amount.

Ms. Cathers responded that the artistic element of the lights was designed by Denman Fink, who was an artist. She stated that the funding is part of the Capital Improvement Budget that will go through two public Commission meetings. Ms. Cathers said she will place the item on the next agenda and noted the great interest from the public and Commission for this project.

f. AIPP COLLECTION ASSESSMENT

Panel members previously received a copy of the public art assessment report and discussed it at length, including the priority of artworks to be restored.

Each piece was thoroughly reviewed along with its current project and maintenance status. It was noted that bronze pieces are under a maintenance agreement, the Cruz-Diez crosswalks are under a maintenance agreement, and the Aycock sculpture is under a maintenance agreement. Ms. Cathers stated the intent to pursue an RFP to have restoration of the remaining works completed per the assessment. She reported that the Cultural Development Board asked for a recommendation from the Panel regarding any de-accessioning of artworks.

The Panel discussed the Jean Ward sculpture collection at length. Staff noted that three pieces have been restored and are approved for re-installation at the Library, three pieces at Ingraham Park are in need of restoration, and one was restored and re-installed at Pittman Park.

Ms. Hernandez asked if the City wants to continue to restore and maintain the donated artworks, which may not hold the same interest to the City as when they were originally accepted. Ms. Miyar mentioned Mr. Volsky's role in the donation and Ms. Cathers confirmed that he was instrumental in facilitating the donations on behalf of the artist's family.

The condition of the three pieces at Ingraham Park was discussed. Ms. Cathers stated that based on the previously restored works, they need to be stripped, have metal deterioration repaired, need re-painting,

new mounts and foundations. She said they are in poor condition and require extensive restoration to get them stabilized. Ms. Cathers said the three currently in storage (for the library) have been fully restored and look great. She also mentioned that there are three maquette sized works in the department. Ms. Miyar noted that the sculptures have taken a lot of time (over the years) and the City doesn't need all seven on public display.

Ms. MacDonald-Korth suggested the ones at Ingraham Park could be placed in storage and restored at a later date, opening up the opportunity for new works to be displayed. Ms. Cathers noted that the City doesn't have adequate indoor facilities and they would be placed outdoors. Ms. MacDonald-Korth said if they were outdoors they would continue to deteriorate and lose value, suggesting it would be better to find them a new home. Mr. Guerrier asked about loaning them to another institution that could take care of them. Ms. Hernandez suggested donating them to the Coral Gables Museum. Discussion continued about their appreciation and wondered if it's feasible that they would be appreciated elsewhere. Mr. Guerrier suggested a business with an indoor space may want to take them in. Ms. Hernandez commented that they do not have a lot of commercial value.

Ms. Cathers shared that there is a series of the artist's work at Miami-Dade College, including a large sculpture at the downtown campus. Dr. Deupi said it would be helpful to have further information about the artist and works before proceeding with a serious conversation and recommendation. She added that seven is a lot for the expense of the required maintenance and would like to know where they came from and what significance they have to the City. Dr. Deupi continued, saying the best way to honor the artist's legacy would be to donate them to another institution. Dr. Deupi suggested discussing how many works by a single artist is appropriate in the City's collection.

Staff asked for direction on the collection of Venetian Posts - if they should be cleaned, touched up, or considered for de-accessioning. Dr. Deupi stated that there is a moral obligation to the artists to have all works on view looking their best. The Panel agreed. Ms. MacDonald-Korth said the cost of restoration is minimal compared to cleaning. Ms. Hernandez asked about the intended longevity of the artworks and how many years moving forward the City can commit to maintaining them. Ms. Cathers responded that when people have expressed interest, she shows them the works and have continued to sell them. She added that they are a nice addition to the area surrounding the Venetian Pool. Ms. Cathers noted that they are constructed of fiberglass and were clear coated by Mercedes-Benz using a high-end specialty product. She said there are thirteen unpainted posts being held for the centennial to run the project again. Ms. Hernandez suggested reaching out to Mercedes-Benz to see if they would sponsor their maintenance and the centennial project. Dr. Deupi commented that understanding their intention would be helpful.

Ms. Cathers said she will return to the Panel with a report on the Jean Ward sculptures and Venetian Posts.

Overall, the Panel recommended bundling the restoration work and supported having the hired conservator prioritize the projects as indicated on the assessment. Ms. Cathers thanked the Panel for their expertise and direction.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

The Panel was advised of the status of the Hank Willis Thomas artwork benches and the recent crash that affected the smaller Alice Aycock artwork.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

The Panel was advised of City Commission items related to public art on the July 13th agenda.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were no discussion items.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

Panel members were advised that Arts Advisory Panel nominations will be discussed at the next Cultural Development Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist