

Coral Gables Centennial Artwork

Honoring the past and future

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COMMEMORATIVE CENTENNIAL ARTWORK

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND:

As the City nears its 100-year anniversary in 2025, we seek to commemorate the influence, contribution, and dedication of our Bahamian and Black residents through a work of public art. Coral Gables has one of the few national and regional historically designated Black neighborhoods in the State of Florida, the MacFarlane Homestead Historic District. This traditionally known Bahamian neighborhood extends into Miami and includes the nearby Golden Gate neighborhood in Coral Gables.

It is well known that early settlers in the community contributed greatly to the physical construction of the city; in addition, there is a strong history of educators who continue to influence generations of residents here and throughout Miami-Dade County. The project seeks to address the historical context that resonates throughout the community.

OPPORTUNITY:

The city is committed to commissioning and dedicating featured artwork acknowledging this heritage and the people who contributed to the literal and emblematic development of the city.

PROJECT GOALS:

- be a model of heritage preservation
- be sensitive to neighborhood concerns and values
- promote excellence in artistic creation
- celebrate and serve the local community
- advance collaboration, dialogue, and engagement
- contribute to a healthy, sustainable community

VISION:

Neighborhood residents in the MacFarlane Homestead Historic District and Golden Gate communities were asked for their input and are interested in ongoing engagement with the project. It is the intention of the city's Art in Public Places program to commission an artist who will inform the artwork based on the community's interests and heritage, including information gathered first-hand and through extensive research.

BUDGET:

\$500,000 (five hundred thousand dollars) is the proposed budget for the artwork design, fabrication, and installation.

Separate funding will be used for infrastructure, including sitework, lighting and signage.

LOCATION:

The current proposed location for the artwork is within Merrick Park, across from City Hall, see images attached. Artists may propose locations within the park; however, they should be aware that the park is used extensively. Artwork must be placed so that it is visible and accessible while not interfering with annual and special events throughout the year (see attachment). Also note that additional locations within the downtown area may be proposed.

COMMEMORATIVE ARTWORK

Proposed Location: Merrick Park, across from City Hall / 400 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL.
Note that the park is used extensively for special events throughout the year.



Pathways intersecting the park have been installed for accessibility. Ignore sheet marks.
Proposed placement is encouraged at perimeter locations for greater visibility and access.