

DRAFT

EXCERPT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Wednesday, May 26, 2021 9:00 a.m.**

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

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

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

NEW BUSINESS:

a. AIPP PROPOSED DONATION – JULIO LARRAZ

Panel members were provided with a donation proposal submitted by the Julio Larraz Foundation. Ms. Cathers reported on the Coral Gables Museum retrospective of the artist’s work for Art Basel 2021 and noted that they have been working on the exhibition for the past two years. She continued, saying the Museum expressed an interest to include sculpture as part of the exhibition. Subsequently, the foundation approached the City with a proposal to pay for fabrication and installation of an artwork, with a donation

of the artist's design and time. Ms. Cathers displayed artist renderings of proposed sculptures, including estimates for the cost of foundry work. Staff noted that additional expenses would be required for engineering, foundation construction, and installation. The Panel was advised that per the City's donation policy, the Cultural Development Board (CDB) received the initial proposal letter and made a request for the Arts Advisory Panel (AAP) to review and assist with recommendation(s).

Mr. Guerrier asked if sculptures by the artist will be included in the exhibition and throughout the City. Ms. Cathers responded that sculptures may be included within the Museum exhibition, and that the Museum is requesting permission to place sculptures on the Museum plaza.

Details about each artwork were shared, including if the work is part of a series, are unique, and locations of existing works. It was noted that the artist had an outdoor exhibition related to Art Basel through the Gary Nader Art Centre a few years ago.

The Foundation was unable to attend the meeting; however, it was stated that a representative of the foundation would be available by phone to answer any questions.

Ms. Hernandez asked about (the City's) donation policy for accepting donations and accepting donations that have funding requests. Staff responded that the donation policy states that for any work of art, the proposal is submitted to the Cultural Development Board, which may reach out to the Arts Advisory Panel for their input and recommendation; there is nothing referencing (donations that require) financial support. Ms. Hernandez asked where the funds would come from, and staff responded that monies would be requested through the art acquisition fund.

Ms. Hernandez asked for the current balance of the fund and Ms. Cathers stated it is around four million dollars, less monies dedicated toward future municipal projects. She clarified that funds are a combination of private and municipal development fees, with commitments through the County to provide public art. Ms. Hernandez requested a breakdown of allocated funds and a timeline for (public art) restoration, committed projects, and future projects. Staff responded that it will be put together for the next meeting. Ms. Hernandez reflected on the benefit of reviewing anticipated spending prior to making new commitments, stating that it seems like a lot of money, but if it is reserved for future projects (the City) may not have as much available. The Panel agreed.

Dr. Deupi asked if the donation was being offered by the artist and his foundation. Ms. Cathers said yes and Dr. Deupi asked if there is a sense of the market value to understand the value of the donation, since the fabrication and installation cost (are additional expenses). Ms. Cathers noted that a retail value was provided for "Space Station." Dr. Deupi recalled prior years of the Panel's discomfort with accepting works of art offered by artists. Ms. Cathers responded that this donation is also in collaboration with the Museum. She clarified that Jose Valdes-Fauli has been working on the exhibition and made the original contact (with the City) and spoke with the foundation. Dr. Deupi asked if there was a formal recommendation from the Museum and Ms. Cathers stated that Mr. Valdes-Fauli sits on the Museum Board and is head of the Museum's curatorial committee.

Mr. Guerrier asked where the piece will be sited. Ms. Cathers responded that the Museum is asking permission for temporary placement on the Museum Plaza. If the City accepts it as a donation, other locations would be considered for permanent placement.

Ms. Hernandez asked about the annual washing and waxing maintenance, and what the expense and expectations are to take care of it. Ms. Cathers noted that (the Art in Public Places Guidelines state that) general maintenance (of the City's public art collection) is through the Public Works department. She added that waxing of other bronze sculptures is approximately \$4,000 a year and covers the sculptures of George Merrick, Althea Merrick, and pressure cleaning of the Pomegranate marble sculpture.

Ms. Hernandez commented that there are major artists in South Florida who may be willing to donate a piece of art under these conditions if the City put a call out. She expressed hesitancy to recommend accepting a donation with a large price tag without considering donations from other major artists in the community, or even the United States, who would be willing to donate a major piece if the City were providing fabrication. Dr. Deupi concurred, adding the implications that anytime the City accepts something, it means giving something else up in terms of placement, budget, and any number of factors.

Mr. Guerrier suggested asking that the proposal consider site specificity, places where (a particular) work could go, and have a relationship to its surrounding. He stated that it was not helpful to select from a list and asked the foundation for greater understanding of reasons to accept the proposal and a particular work. Mr. de León agreed, adding that the proposal sounds more like a commercial transaction to purchase a piece, rather than the artist saying where it would work well. He said personally, he felt using the word donation when the City pays more than \$150,000 may make outside people view it as a purchase rather than a donation. He recommended modifying the language to avoid confusing terminology. Dr. Deupi said it would appropriately be called a partial gift or partial purchase.

Dr. Deupi commented that as a Museum director, she understands what Mr. Valdes-Fauli and the Museum are trying to do, and that it is laudable in terms of taking the art outside to engage the broader community with the project in their (interior) spaces. She suggested that the order has been reversed and would recommend to commission, fabricate, place the work on site, and then if people loved it, come back to the Panel and say "hey, people have really loved this! Can we think about making it part of the City's collection?"; she said that seems to address the range of issues that have been raised by this proposal, which has nothing to do with the quality of the artist, clarifying that the artist is not in question.

Ms. Hernandez agreed and noted that anytime an artist's work is exposed to the public, it's marketing for the artist and vetting it for the public. She suggested a review of the process.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez thanked the Panel members who spoke and added his concurrence of the points and concerns covered.

Ms. Miyar, appearing virtually, apologized for hearing a fraction of the discussion due to system instability and also concurred with what she heard. She shared her preference to see some of the pieces that have not been manufactured yet and cannot be seen in South Florida, if at all.

Ms. MacDonald-Korth agreed with all comments.

Ms. Hernandez said she likes the suggestion of the Museum proceeding and after, if there is a sculpture or artwork that the public really likes, that the Panel could revisit a partial donation.

Mr. Kolasiński said a proposal should be aligned with the curatorial vision and role of the Art in Public Places program and reviewed as to how it relates to other works within the City and public spaces. The Panel agreed.

Dr. Deupi agreed and recommended not endorsing the proposal as is, while being open and amenable to a revised, future proposal that is mindful of the Panel's comments. All agreed that it would be helpful for the foundation to understand the concerns of the Panel.

Ms. Miyar commented that the artist's work resonates with a large section of this community and would favor one of the pieces that does not exist in South Florida; adding, that she would not dismiss the offer outright and would challenge the artist to propose something new and relevant. Mr. Roselione-Valadez clarified that it should not sound like the City is commissioning a work from the artist.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Mr. Kolasiński recommending not to endorse the proposal at this time and, instead, consider a subsequent proposal that is responsive to the comments stated and reviewed according to the standard criteria of the Art in Public Places program. Mr. Guerrier seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Cathers requested support of the Panel for temporary placement of the artist's work on the Museum Plaza as part of the Museum's Julio Larraz exhibition. The Panel unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist