



DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES**  
**CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, February 15, 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	A	M	J	J	J	S	O	N	D	J	F	APPOINTED BY:
	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	22	22	
Leslie Pantin	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Vince Lago
Frank Martinez	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor Michael Mena
Frank Rodriguez*					P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Rhonda Anderson
Ray Corral*					P	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	Commissioner Jorge L. Fors Jr.
Jose Valdes-Fauli*					P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez
Dr. Bernice Roth Chair	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	E	E	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Geannina Burgos						P	P	E	P	P	P	A	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

Mr. Valdes-Fauli called the Cultural Development Board meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

The Board was advised that Mr. Corral and Dr. Roth asked respectfully to be excused. Ms. Burgos was absent.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES, JANUARY 18, 2022:**

**Mr. Pantin made a motion to approve the minutes of January 18, 2022 and excuse the absences of Mr. Corral and Dr. Roth. Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. A RESOLUTION APPROVING ARTWORK BY THE ARTIST ZILIA SÁNCHEZ FOR THE 427 BILTMORE WAY MUNICIPAL PROJECT.

Prior to the meeting the Board received excerpt minutes from the Arts Advisory Panel and the fair market value appraisal of the artwork *Concepto I* by Zilia Sánchez.

The Board discussed the appraisal, stating the fair market value as \$480,000 which is the cost of the artwork that was provided to the City. Mr. Valdes-Fauli expressed concern that the appraisal was flawed and pointed out that it relied on information from the gallery, and the gallery contact was with the appraiser while the sculpture was being assessed. Ms. Cathers noted the challenge of the artist not having comparable works that could have been used for assessment. She reviewed the typical process of an appraisal, including looking at comparable pieces and what they have sold for on the market. She also pointed out the definition of fair market value [defined by the Internal Revenue Regulation Section §1.170A-1(c)(2)] as “the price at which property would change hands between a willing buyer and a willing seller...” Ms. Cathers stated that she did not anticipate a different result if another appraisal was conducted and that the gallery has the artwork listed for \$600,000, which would be the insurance value of the artwork. Mr. Valdes-Fauli agreed that there is not much work by the artist on the market. Mr. Valdes-Fauli said that the piece has been recommended and should move forward. There was a brief discussion about the comparison to other works in the City’s collection and Mr. Rodriguez said he thought the cost was fine.

Mr. Martinez asked about the Arts Advisory Panel’s concerns noted in their minutes. Ms. Cathers responded that the Panel discussed similar issues as those brought up by Mr. Valdes-Fauli, saying they wanted a more competitive process, which is standard in Art in Public Places programs; however, the City does have the choice (of direct selection) and ultimately the Panel came to the same conclusion that it is a beautiful piece and the artist is well-established. After receiving the response about the materiality, she said, the Board felt comfortable accepting the Arts Advisory Panel’s recommendation approving the artwork.

Ms. Cathers stated that the Commission item will include a request for additional funds from the Art Fund for the re-design of the landscape to prominently display the artwork, along with funds for the foundation, installation, and lighting. She said staff will discuss the design with the artist and include whether the artwork is raised or not, how to display it so people can enjoy it but not get close enough to physically touch the artwork and have it lighted so people can see it from Biltmore Way.

**Mr. Rodriguez made a motion recommending acquisition of the artwork *Concepto I* by Zilia Sánchez for installation at 427 Biltmore Way. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Mr. Valdes-Fauli reported that he met with Mayor Lago and talked with him about other art-related matters. He noted that he spoke with him about the concern of buying art from galleries.

Mr. Rodriguez asked for the rationale of not buying artwork from galleries. He asked if the Board were to propose a policy of not buying from galleries, would it limit the opportunity to get good pieces? Mr. Valdes-Fauli responded that a gallery is going to push for their artists. If the proper procedure is followed, he said, there is a call to artists. He also mentioned the dilemma of why one gallery should be supported and not another. Mr. Pantin noted that previous artworks were commissioned.

Ms. Cathers stated that when a call for artists is released, the call also goes to the galleries for them to reach out to their artists. In this case, she said, the gallery tends to be hands-off unless the artist is obligated under contract to continue through their gallery. Otherwise, the negotiation is with the artist and the gallery doesn't have much to gain. They can help establish the initial communication but don't (necessarily) have the same financial gain. Ms. Cathers continued, saying the Arts Advisory Panel has also spoken about the benefits of commissioning new work that is giving the artist an opportunity to explore and develop their practice while creating something new that is unique and site specific.

#### CULTURAL GRANT UPDATES:

##### a. GW CARVER ELEMENTARY CHANGE REQUEST

The Board was presented with a change request from GW Carver Elementary to move their program date to April 1<sup>st</sup>. No other changes were requested. After no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**Mr. Pantin made a motion accepting the change request of GW Carver Elementary. Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

##### b. FINAL REPORTS

The Board received a revised summary of the FY20-21 Cultural Grant Final Reports, including the funding grantees received. They discussed the Final Report process and Board members were advised that they would have access to all Final Reports for reference as they are reviewing new funding requests. Ms. Cathers stated that if the Board recommends staff to review the reports, the Board will receive a summary along with any issues of concern. Mr. Pantin said compliance is a comparison that could be checked by staff.

Ms. Cathers suggested less narrative in the Final Report, adding that responses regarding program successes, what worked, and what didn't, is a useful exercise for the organizations. She noted that grant applicants are advised that it is a process to help them with their own assessment process. Mr. Martinez further stated the benefit of organizations identifying room for change. It was noted that the grant amounts can be relatively small, and resources should be put toward the program rather than grant writing. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**Mr. Martinez made a motion recommending that staff review Cultural Grant Final Reports for compliance and prepare a summary report for the Cultural Development Board's review along with any staff recommendations. Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

c. CULTURAL GRANTS

Mr. Rodriguez asked if the same amount of funding is available (this year). Ms. Cathers responded that there was a previous recommendation from the Board to increase Cultural Grant funds incrementally over time. When the pandemic hit, she said, the funding amount was frozen. Last year the Board made a resolution to reinstate an increase for FY22. No determination was made at that time and one of the Commissioners commented that it should come through the budget process. Board members were reminded that they may speak with Commissioners about the funding.

Mr. Rodriguez suggested granting funds to fewer organizations, saying it would make more of an impact. Ms. Cathers responded that it can be a Board recommendation (during the review and scoring process). She mentioned, however, that it is an internal staff goal to increase the number of organizations funded (while maintaining the quality) in order to provide a diversity of arts programs for the community.

Board members received copies of the Cultural Grant guidelines and application and were informed about the upcoming Cultural Grant Workshop and the content that will be reviewed. Staff asked Board members to review the dates and explained that the timing of the review and scoring process needs to happen early enough to be completed prior to the election, on election years. Board members discussed the benefit of doing it at this time so funding can be released at the start of the City's fiscal year and not after programs have occurred.

Staff requested input for recommended updates. Mr. Pantin asked that the application be further simplified. The Board expressed empathy regarding the process to complete the application, and noted the time required of Board members to read, review, and score each application. Mr. Martinez asked staff to identify parts of the application that Board members do not need to review. Ms. Cathers responded that the Board can discuss the review process at the next meeting and how best to streamline the process. She suggested that new Board members log in to the grant platform to familiarize themselves with it prior to the next meeting.

The Board was advised that the Arts & Business Council funding was approved for reinstatement.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

The Board was updated on the following Art in Public Places projects:

a. Jean Ward sculptures

Staff reported that they are working with other City staff on a landscape plan and walkway to install the three restored Jean Ward artworks back at the library, to the left of the main entrance.

b. Public Safety Building update

Ms. Cathers reported that the sculpture memorial at the Public Safety Building is currently on schedule.

c. Coral Carpet at Balboa Plaza

Ms. Cathers reported that the Coral Carpet artwork at Balboa Plaza is complete. Mr. Rodriguez said he lives nearby and is enjoying it.

d. Public Art Restoration

The Board was informed that restoration of the collection is moving forward.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

There were no related items to report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mr. Valdes-Fauli updated the Board on the search for a new Director of the Coral Gables Museum, saying he is the Acting Director, and they are getting close to making a selection. He provided additional information about his meeting with Mayor Lago, saying they discussed art initiatives of the Museum, including the Museum dedicating more programming to art in general and taking a lead on temporary public art exhibitions. Mr. Valdes-Fauli said he spoke with the Mayor about arranging a Botero sculpture exhibition and is working with City staff on the logistics. He also mentioned the proposed sculpture by Julio Larraz. The Board briefly discussed the Watermelon sculpture by the artist currently exhibited on the Museum Plaza and agreed that it is a well-loved artwork. Mr. Valdes-Fauli said the artist's foundation would have a new one fabricated and it would not be the one currently installed. He also stated that as the director of the Museum, he does not want anything permanent on the plaza and would like to use the plaza as a location for temporary artworks instead. Mr. Martinez commented on the urban context and how it will affect the ultimate placement.

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 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine J. Cathers  
Arts & Culture Specialist