

DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING  
Wednesday, August 28, 2019 9:00 a.m.  
CORAL GABLES MUSEUM  
285 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables, Florida 33134**

| <b>MEMBERS</b>         | <b>S</b>  | <b>O</b>  | <b>N</b>  | <b>D</b>  | <b>J</b>  | <b>F</b>  | <b>M</b>  | <b>A</b>  | <b>M</b>  | <b>J</b>  | <b>J</b>  | <b>A</b>  |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                        | <b>18</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>19</b> |
| Herbert Brito*         | P         | E         | P         | -         | P         | P         | P         | P         | P         | P         | P         | P         |
| Dr. Carol Damian       | P         | P         | P         | -         | P         | P         | P         | P         | P         | A         | A         | A         |
| Dr. Jill Deupi         | P         | P         | E         | -         | P         | P         | E         | E         | E         | P         | P         | E         |
| Emily MacDonald-Korth* |           |           | P         | -         | E         | E         | P         | P         | P         | P         | P         | P         |
| Jacek Kolasiński       | P         | P         | P         |           | P         | E         | P         | P         | P         | P         | P         | P         |
| Juan Roselione-Valadez | P         | E         | P         | -         | P         | P         | E         | P         | P         | E         | E         | P         |
| Freda Tschumy          | P         | P         | P         | -         | A         | P         | E         | P         | P         | A         | P         | A         |

LEGEND: A = Absent; P = Present; E = Excused; \* = New Member; ^= Resigned Member;  
- = No Meeting    + = Special Meeting

STAFF:

Dona Spain, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director  
Yesenia Diaz, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

Venny Torre and Patrick O’Connell, Illuminate Coral Gables, Nick Sharp and Burton Hersh,

MEETING RECORD / MINUTES PREPARATION: Catherine Cathers, Arts & Culture Specialist,  
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department

Mr. Brito called the Arts Advisory Panel meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

The Panel was advised of the absence of Dr. Deupi who respectfully requested to be excused. The Panel-as-a-whole accepted Dr. Deupi’s absence as excused. It was noted that Dr. Damian and Ms. Tschumy were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JULY 17, 2019:

**A motion was made by Mr. Kolasiński and seconded by Mr. Roselione-Valadez to approve the meeting minutes of July 17, 2019, which was unanimously passed by voice vote.**

PERSONAL APPEARANCES:

a. VENNY TORRE & PATRICK O’CONNELL – ILLUMINATE CORAL GABLES

Ms. Cathers stated that Venny Torre and Patrick O’Connell previously addressed the Panel regarding development of a light art festival in Coral Gables. She said they are addressing the Panel today with an update of the project.

Mr. Torre and Mr. O'Connell provided a brief overview of the development of the project and the coming together of the Coral Gables Chamber, Business Improvement District, Coral Gables Community Foundation, and the Coral Gables Museum. The partner organizations have been meeting since early 2019, they said, and formed Illuminate Coral Gables, with the Coral Gables Community Foundation acting as a Fiscal Agent. In addition to organization members, Stacy Conde with Conde Contemporary, and Olga Granda with the Sanctuary of the Arts are also members of the Board.

A presentation was given to the Panel showing a draft of the organization's website and logo. Mr. O'Connell stated the focus is to present projection mapping of artist created works overlaid on buildings along with static light art sculptures and interactive light displays. Similar initiatives from around the world were described and noted as ones that have been contacted for research in developing the project, such as Napa, Baltimore, Tampa, Binghamton, Lyon, and New Orleans.

The event, Mr. O'Connell said, is being proposed for Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, January 15-17, 2021. He continued, saying the anchor location will be City Hall with Merrick Park used as a gathering place; attendees will be guided up Miracle Mile to Salzedo St. and Ponce de Leon, leading people through downtown to locations such as McBride Plaza, the Coral Gables Museum Plaza, and Giralda Plaza. Building owners, he said, will be encouraged to participate.

The Panel viewed a PowerPoint presentation showing examples of light-based sculpture and projection pieces. One of the intentions, Mr. O'Connell said, is to procure pieces for permanent acquisitions to the City's public art collection.

Mr. Torre and Mr. O'Connell reported that a Request for Proposals was issued for a festival director and curator; next steps are to have two of the applicants visit Coral Gables for an in-person interview.

Funding was discussed and noted that municipalities, large corporations such as electrical companies, property owners, and business organizations are typically primary sources of funding. Mr. O'Connell stated an intent to go before the Commission to request seed funds. Research, Mr. O'Connell said, has shown significant economic impact from similar festivals and that Coral Gables would be the first in South Florida to take this on. Staff said they've met with the Cultural Development Board and received a motion of support. In addition, Ms. Cathers said, the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau has expressed interest and support of the project.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez asked about the Lights on Tampa festival. Ms. Cathers responded that the project is a well-established event that happens every other year. While it originated in the Art in Public Places program, she said, it quickly moved to its own stand-alone organization.

Mr. Kolasiński mentioned a projection project that may have happened at the Biltmore years ago and commented on the evolution of this type of artwork.

Mr. Brito mentioned Light Up Atlanta's decision one year to light building cupolas, encouraging people would look up. However, he said, the idea was not successful; people wanted to be close to the artworks to view and interact with them.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez spoke about the timing of the event and an opportunity to connect in a meaningful way by featuring an artist of color or otherwise engaging through meaningful programming. Mr. O'Connell agreed, and mentioned the possibility of including empty storefronts as pop-up gallery spaces featuring video art.

Mr. Kolasiński asked how the element of sound would be addressed. Mr. O'Connell responded that some pieces may have music or incorporate live music with the artwork. Ms. Cathers mentioned that Olga Granda is developing a performative arts festival to coincide with Illuminate Coral Gables.

The Panel discussed how the project will be curated. Ms. Cathers responded that the RFP addresses curation, adding that respondents will be reviewed to see who has curatorial experience or if that person will reach out to work with a curator independently. Mr. Kolasiński agreed that producers of these festivals are not necessarily curators. He went on and spoke about the unique element of historical context in certain video mapping projects. Mr. Torre stated that a mixture of art forms will be included.

Ms. MacDonald-Korth asked where the artworks come from. Mr. Torre said some piece tour to various festivals around the world while others are commissioned. Mr. O'Connell noted that the festival will coincide with the Beaux Arts Festival, providing a daytime experience to compliment the evening happenings.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**A motion supporting Illuminate Coral Gables was made by Mr. Roselione-Valadez.  
Mr. Kolasiński seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

a. PRE-QUALIFIED ARTIST REQUEST – FABIO VIALE

The Panel received pre-qualification materials for the artist Fabio Viale. The artist's work was described as often-times whimsical representations of items that are not typically realized in marble or even associated with hard, dense material. The Panel was informed that the artist is being considered for a development project located at U.S. 1 and Ponce de Leon Boulevard. Mr. Brito said he saw the artist's work in Venice and found it intriguing. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**Mr. Roselione-Valadez made a motion to accept Fabio Viale as a pre-qualified artist.  
Ms. MacDonald-Korth seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

a. PRE-QUALIFIED ARTIST REQUEST – STEPHEN BAKER

Ms. Cathers introduced Nick Sharp, developer of the Bay 13 project; Burton Hersh, architect on the project; and Belkys Perez, interim director of the economic development department. She stated that Mr. Sharp was returning to respond to questions from the Panel and provide more information about the artist Stephen Baker. The Panel was provided with additional examples of the artist's work and Mr. Sharp spoke about the reasons for wanting to work with this artist.

Mr. Sharp gave information about his personal background, having moved to the Miami area from Melbourne 7 years ago. He opened a restaurant in Coral Gables 5 years ago and has since opened 4 more within the boundaries of Coral Gables, including one recently at the Douglas Entrance. This next venture, he said, is a micro-brewery/restaurant at Columbus Plaza with an Australian theme - specifically, Melbourne. Mr. Sharp listed familiar design aesthetics that say “Melbourne.” He explained the connection to the restaurant name of “Bay 13” and its association to a famous section at Melbourne’s soccer stadium.

In keeping with the Melbourne theme, Mr. Sharp stated the importance of working with an artist from Melbourne. The artist Stephen Baker, he said, has several visible and high-profile artworks commissioned throughout Melbourne; his style is specific, unique, and recognizable, bringing instant recognition as distinctly Melbourne; and the artist will work within the parameters of the project using his recognized design style. Mr. Sharp stated a desire to bring a bit of color and liveliness to Alhambra Plaza through this project.

The Panel discussed the development project briefly to gain a better sense of how the artwork might be incorporated. Mr. Sharp confirmed that artwork will be on the exterior structure beams and tie-in with interior pieces by the artist.

Responses by the artist to the Panel’s questions from the previous meeting were presented. Mr. Sharp acknowledged that the artist doesn’t fit the listed criteria for pre-qualification, saying the artist is an emerging young artist that isn’t highly collected and hasn’t been featured in museums; however, he brings a cultural tie-in to Melbourne. Mr. Roselione-Valadez asked if people in Melbourne really encounter the artist’s work daily and Mr. Sharp said yes.

Ms. Spain noted that the project is not a requirement of the Art in Public Places program associated with private development. Responding, Ms. Cathers suggested the Panel consider the piece without pre-qualifying the artist, which would not be a requirement in this situation. Ms. MacDonald-Korth said she’s not convinced that he’s on the level of artists included for pre-qualification. The Panel agreed and asked Mr. Sharp to return with an artwork proposal. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**Ms. MacDonald-Korth made a motion to consider an artwork proposal by Stephen Baker without having the artist pre-qualified. Mr. Kolasiński seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Mr. Sharp, Mr. Hersh, and Ms. Perez thanked the Panel and left the meeting.

b. DONATION REQUEST – JOHN HENRY SCULPTURE

Following up from a previous presentation to the Panel regarding the proposed donation of the sculpture “Quark” by John Henry, staff reported on results from a bid request for a condition assessment, de-installation, restoration, and installation of the artwork in Coral Gables. Responsive bids were presented from RLA Conservation and Art Conservators Lab.

A brief review of the sculpture was provided and bid responses were stated as comparable, in an all-inclusive range of \$150,000 (one hundred fifty thousand dollars). Staff advised that if accepted as a

donation, a location recommendation is needed, and funds could be allocated from the Art Acquisition Fund.

The Board discussed the possibility of Ponce Circle Park and how it would relate to the Tony Cragg sculpture proposed for installation at The Plaza. Mr. Roselione-Valadez asked about the current location of the sculpture in Orlando. Ms. Cathers responded that the Museum expressed interest in keeping the artwork; however, the donor, Kirk Landon, has a strong connection to Coral Gables. Ms. Spain added that Mr. Landon donated funding toward the Coral Gables Museum and other cultural facilities. This donation, she said, is coming from his estate. The Panel agreed that it's very generous. The Panel also agreed that Ponce Circle Park may not be the best location fit. Discussion continued about where it could be installed, noting that a location is needed where the sculpture has space and could be viewed from a distance.

The Panel reviewed images of the artwork from when it was most recently installed and current images showing significant fading. It was noted that the Commission recently expressed concern about continuing to accept painted artworks. The challenge and expense of cleaning and maintaining the artwork was noted.

Panel members expressed appreciation of the artwork and its significant scale. They also collectively expressed a desire to encourage creation of new artworks for the City's public art collection.

Panel members mentioned other sculptures by the artist throughout Florida and within Miami-Dade County, noting that he is well represented throughout the area and the state.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**Mr. Roselione-Valadez made a motion recommending not to accept the generous donation of a John Henry sculpture due to the expense of acquiring, restoring and maintaining the artwork; acknowledging that the artist's work is well-represented in Florida with the sculpture already accessible and on public view. Mr. Kolasiński seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

#### ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES

##### a. ART BASEL – RAFAEL BARRIOS

The Panel was informed of the City Commission's approval to accept the Rafael Barrios proposed sculpture and exhibition for this year's Miami Art Week/Art Basel. A description of the artworks was provided.

##### b. SUN STORIES

Staff reported that the last event scheduled for Sun Stories on Giralda Plaza is scheduled for Saturday, September 21; however, there is a possibility that the sculpture will be de-installed due to storm warnings.

##### c. CARLOS CRUZ-DIEZ

The Panel was informed that the City Commission reviewed the agreements regarding the acquisition and maintenance of the Carlos Cruz-Diez crosswalks and asked that payment of the artwork and maintenance be dependent on approval of the Department of Transportation. The Commission also requested greater clarity of the warranty.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS

a. ARTS ADVISORY PANEL - RESOLUTION

The Panel was updated on current nominations for the Arts Advisory Panel and advised that there are still positions open. Staff asked for additional nominations for the Cultural Development Board to consider.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were no discussion items.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

There were no items.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dona M. Spain  
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director