

IACC meeting, Tues., July 20

Addendum: Summation of Dr. Posnak's proposal for a re-instatement of the Merrick Festival in Coral Gables, under the direction of the IACC.

For many years, until 2006, Coral Gables presented The Merrick Festival, featuring artists, musicians, artisans, chefs and diplomats from many of our sister cities. It was a mixed success - too many events in too quick succession, some of high quality, some of questionable quality and taste. But the events that were successful, the private parties and concerts, were often highlights of the year, and attracted warm and enthusiastic audiences.

I was involved for several years, accompanying young musicians from Aix-en-Provence, a tenor from Pisa, etc. I loved being a part of this enterprise, saw its great benefit potential, and - despite its over-extension in quantity and mixed quality of events – was sad to see it end.

I propose, simply, that we re-instate the Festival, on a more targeted, quality-driven level - well thought out, planned and advertised - with a few chosen musicians of high quality (classical, jazz and pop), graphic and plastic artists, film makers, folk artisans, and chefs from coral Gables sister cities.

I submit that this is a win-win situation for Coral Gables, for our sister cities, and for our developing inter-relationships. It simply needs good leadership; quality control; limitation to at most five or six events , exhibitions and film showings; and the leadership of the IACC, which is in a natural position to do this.

I have some specific suggestions as to locations, type of events and exhibitions, and opportunities for both sister cities representatives' and Coral Gables residents' involvement. I would be glad to discuss the above with the Committee, either at this meeting as an added agenda item, or at a future meeting.

I look forward to our discussion of the above proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Posnak