



DRAFT

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, December 14, 2021, 9:00 a.m.
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
Hybrid Meeting & Virtual via Zoom

Historical Resources & Cultural Arts

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MEMBERS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	J	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY:
	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	
Leslie Pantin	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Vince Lago
Frank Martinez	-	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor Michael Mena
Frank Rodriguez*							P	P	A	P	P	P	Commissioner Rhonda Anderson
Ray Corral*							P	P	P	E	P	P	Commissioner Jorge L. Fors Jr.
Jose Valdes-Fauli*							P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez
Dr. Bernice Roth Chair	-	V	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Geannina Burgos								P	P	E	P	P	Board Appointee

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 and Culture Specialist,
 Historical Resources and Cultural Arts

Dr. Roth called the Cultural Development Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, NOVEMBER 16, 2021:

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to approve the minutes of November 16, 2021.
Mr. Valdes-Fauli seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. 427 BILTMORE WAY – ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

The Board was reminded that the Commission made a motion to combine the Art in Public Places fees from the Minorca Garage, Fink Building, 427 Biltmore Way, and the Fire Station 4 projects. It was further stated that the intent is to use the combined fees toward artwork at 427 Biltmore Way.

Board members were provided with information about the artist Zilia Sanchez, and the artwork by her proposed by Mayor Lago for this opportunity.

Ms. Cathers share her screen to present the materials for discussion. The Board was advised that the Arts Advisory Panel reviewed the materials and had an extensive discussion about Ms. Sanchez, the artwork, and whether it should be a sole selection or if the artist should be included on a short-list of artists, or if the opportunity should be opened to a broader call for artists. It was reported that the Panel ultimately felt the artist and artwork merited moving forward based on receiving further information about the materiality of the artwork.

Ms. Cathers reviewed information about Ms. Sanchez, stating that she is living and working in Puerto Rico and is known for her sculptural canvas work. She described the artwork as two pieces in conversation with each other, fabricated in painted bronze and stated that it is the artist's first bronze sculpture. Ms. Cathers re-stated the Panel's recommendation to the Board approving the artwork for acquisition based on information of how the bronze was treated and the method of paint application and said the Panel also discussed how the artwork would best be placed at the site. Ms. Cathers said the Gallery has been responsive and confirmed that the artwork was made for outdoor placement. She stated that discussion with the gallery is ongoing and if acquired, staff would work with the artist and gallery on its placement and presentation, whether it's raised, at grade, re-designing the surrounding landscape, etc. Maintenance is anticipated about twice a year.

The gallery stated that the price for the sculpture is \$600,000, Ms. Cathers said; however, they are extending a 20% discount in consideration of it being a public artwork, so the actual cost would be \$480,000. She stated that additional funds would be needed for the installation, lighting, and landscape revisions.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli remarked that Zilia Sanchez is an important artist, and that the artwork is beautiful and appropriate. He went on to note that the work was conceived in the early 2000s, with it being recently fabricated – most likely as the only one to date. He asked who checks the information about the artwork and how can the Board determine if it is the best price. Ms. Cathers responded that she will ask whether it is the only piece created at this time and that an independent appraiser could be used to determine the fair market value of the work, mentioning that there are not many sculptures by the artist to use for comparison. Mr. Valdes-Fauli stated that an independent appraisal should be done before the Board makes any decision and asked what the process is when acquiring public artworks for the program. Ms. Cathers stated that she doesn't recall the City purchasing other artwork and typically commissioned works have the budget breakdown included.

The Board discussed briefly and agreed that using funds for an appraisal would be a worthy expense prior to further consideration.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Jose Valdes-Fauli made a motion recommending an independent appraisal of the artwork “Concepto 1” by Zilia Sanchez prior to making a further recommendation regarding the artwork. Mr. Pantin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board continued speaking about the artwork itself and staff confirmed that although Ms. Sanchez is not travelling, they can work remotely with the artist and gallery regarding the design and installation of the artwork. The Board agreed that it is a beautiful work.

Ms. Cathers stated that the sculpture is currently packed and in Miami, and that some time will be needed to complete the appraisal.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

The Board was updated on the status of the artwork at the Public Safety Building. Ms. Cathers reported that the artist has submitted initial design drawings and that the artist and fabricator will be meeting with the City’s project manager, Police, and Fire Chiefs. She said the project is on time with anticipated completion by this summer.

Ms. Cathers stated that the Coral Carpet at Balboa Plaza needed a particular terrazzo type, and with shipping delays, the project overall is slightly delayed.

The Board was informed that the City Manager’s office has asked for the David Hayes sculpture at City Hall be placed in storage.

The Board was also advised that signage for the public art collection is moving forward.

CULTURAL GRANT UPDATES:

At the previous Board meeting, the Board discussed the City’s policy that if a final report is late, the applicant organization is ineligible for the next two grant cycles. At that meeting, the Board asked if a representative from the Chopin Foundation would like to speak to the Board on their own behalf. Barbara Muze, the organization’s administrator, appeared before the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to speak.

Ms. Muze stated that she wanted to take responsibility for missing the deadline and came before the Board with the hope to continue the 20-year relationship with the City of Coral Gables. She stated that as sole administrator of the organization, she is responsible for fundraising and grant writing. She noted that early in her career she learned a hard lesson about grant deadlines and understands their importance. It was stated that the organization has been presenting beautiful classical music in the City for over twenty years and has never missed a deadline. Ms. Muze said it was on her schedule and had been corresponding with staff. The organization presented a concert on September 11 and as the Final Report was being prepared, noticed that it would fall within the

grant parameters; however, it was not part of the grant application, and the Board was not notified. It was the first live concert the organization presented in 19 months and no grant funds were used toward it. Ms. Muze stated that as she was waiting for final figures from the September 11 concert, she was preparing for a 3-week trip to Warsaw, where 4 of the young pianists presenting for this year's program in Coral Gables were performing at the International Chopin competition. Somehow, the grant report slipped, she said. Coral Gables activities are the mainstay of the season, she continued, and expressed her desire to do everything possible to continue the relationship and list the City as a prominent sponsor.

The Board thanked Ms. Muze, who left the meeting.

Board members discussed the circumstances and agreed that otherwise, it is a stellar organization. Dr. Roth commented on the great job the organization does of marketing and outreach to a wide age group. Ms. Burgos agreed and recommended looking at it holistically, while expressing concern about setting a precedence for other organizations. Mr. Rodriguez suggested looking at the mitigating factors and balancing those, while being aware that a process needs rules. Based on her representation, he said, it seems there are enough factors that an exception may be made this time, and in the future, they may not get the same benefit of the doubt. Mr. Pantin commented how thankful the City should be that arts organizations have survived during this time. He agreed that the Chopin Foundation has a great track record with the City. All Board members agreed and appreciated the organization appearing.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Pantin made a motion to waive the late Final Report penalty for the Chopin Foundation and re-instate eligibility for this year's grant funding. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Board was advised of Thank You letters sent by the Montgomery Botanical Center and Merrick Festival. They were also advised that tickets are available for Florida Grand Opera and Actors' Playhouse productions.

Dr. Roth reported on attending a play at GableStage and said it was wonderful. She stated that the theatre was careful regarding Covid, with vaccinations or a negative test required and that masks were also required. She urged the Board to attend and support the theatre.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

a. INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EVENTS INITIATIVE

Staff provided a presentation for informational purposes regarding the recent presentation by the Economic Development department to the City Commission of the International Cultural Events Initiative. The Board fully supported the initiative and made the following motion.

Mr. Pantin made a motion endorsing the International Cultural Events Initiative. Mr. Rodriguez seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Dr. Roth and Ms. Burgos noted that they attended the Art Basel VIP event on Giralda Plaza celebrating Kiki Smith's artwork and congratulated Ms. Cathers on the lovely presentation of the event.

Ms. Burgos reported that she also attended the event at the Coral Gables Museum, which was wonderful.

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 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist