



**CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING  
Wednesday, April 22, 2016 2:00 p.m.  
Coral Gables Youth Center, Conference Room  
405 University Ave., Coral Gables, Florida 33134**

*Historical Resources &  
Cultural Arts*

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<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>
	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
Silvia Karman Cubiñá*										E	P
Dr. Carol Damian	-	-	-	P	P	-	-	-	P	P	P
Dr. Jill Deupi	-	-	-	E	P	-	-	-	E	P	P
Marijean Miyar	-	-	-	P	P	-	-	-	P	P	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez*										P	P
John Stuart	-	-		P	E	-	-	-	P	P	E
Freda Tschumy	-	-	-	P	E	-	-	-	P	E	P

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

**STAFF:**

Dona Spain, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director  
Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts  
Ernesto Pino, Assistant Public Works Director  
Javier Betancourt, Economic Development Director  
Rayza Collazo, IT Specialist  
Yesenia Diaz, Administrative Assistant, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts

**GUESTS:**

Marina Foglia, Business Improvement District; Earl Jackson, Cooper Robertson (remote access); Meridith McKinley, Via Partnership (remote access); Andy Cao, Artist (remote access); Sibylle Pasche, Artist (remote access)

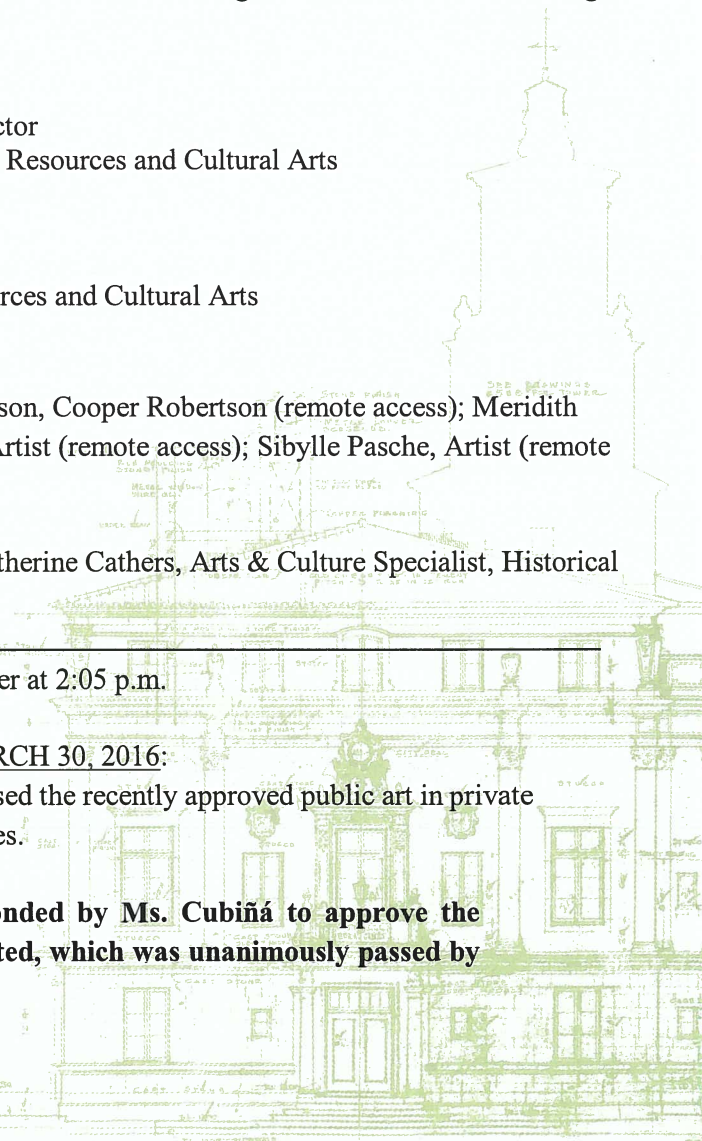
**MEETING RECORD / MINUTES PREPARATION:** Catherine Cathers, Arts & Culture Specialist, Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department

Ms. Miyar called the Arts Advisory Panel meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MARCH 30, 2016:**

For the benefit of new members, the Panel briefly discussed the recently approved public art in private development proposals included in the March 30<sup>th</sup> minutes.

**A motion was made by Dr. Deupi and seconded by Ms. Cubiñá to approve the meeting minutes of March 30, 2016 as presented, which was unanimously passed by voice vote.**



**Dr. Damian made a motion to accept the absence of Mr. Stuart as excused. Dr. Deupi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Panel members and guests introduced themselves. Ms. Cubiñá was warmly welcomed as a new member of the Arts Advisory Panel.

MIRACLE MILE/GIRALDA AVENUE STREETScape – ARTIST PROPOSAL PRESENTATIONS  
(ACTION):

Mr. Jackson, the lead designer on the Streetscape project, provided a brief history of the project and gave an update on the current status, stating that construction began about two weeks ago. There are weekly progress meetings and the concept has moved forward with minimal changes. Mr. Jackson noted that site locations for public art on Giralda Avenue are still under discussion.

Ms. Miyar led a discussion describing the initial artist selection process and site considerations, explaining that four artists presented concept sketches considering both Miracle Mile and Giralda Avenue. The Panel's decision was to accept Sibylle Pasche's proposal for Giralda Avenue, asking her to further develop her concept, and requesting Andy Cao to return with a fresh proposal for Miracle Mile.

Ms. McKinley entered the conversation, stating that the two artists would have a limited time to present their proposals at this meeting, followed by a period for the Panel to ask questions and discuss. She went on to explain that the goal of this meeting is to make a recommendation to accept the concepts or provide further feedback. For this presentation, artists were asked to provide concept renderings, a proposed budget, and timeline. The artists were not asked to complete engineered drawings or bid the project at this time. If the Panel requests changes after this meeting, the artists will be asked to come back to this Panel prior to moving on for Commission approval.

Presentation by Andy Cao:

Mr. Cao introduced himself and began his presentation by sharing his and his partner's inspiration based on the element of stone. He described their admiration for the work of Bernini and Michelangelo, and how during their research, they perceived that stone evoked an emotional response with repeated viewings, revealing more dimensions, including the subtle sound and feel of walking on stone, the stone as a part of daily life, and went on to reference the poetry work of Wislawa Szymborska and Louise Glück, travels to India and China, observing natural materials as living sculptures and developing an interest in what Mr. Cao referred to as "Incidental Placemaking", allowing the material to have a voice. Mr. Cao stated that he noticed similar situations in Coral Gables, such as the rock quarry being turned into the Venetian Pool and the coral rock walls around City Hall with plants growing on them. These inspirations led the artist team to consider an artwork that allows the material and natural elements to interact.

Mr. Cao then presented his proposal titled "Cloud Peak", a large scale sculpture with a proposed location on the west end of Miracle Mile close to Douglas Road, situated within the ten foot median and anchored in a shallow, stainless steel lined concrete pool. The sculpture itself was presented as a coral stone column with a shape similar to a swirling cloud, twisting and turning, and approximately twenty-five feet high. The artist stated that the visual experience would be reminiscent of a walk in the sky and clouds. The second element to

the piece is a medium scale banyan tree growing on the form. Mr. Cao described the intended interaction of vehicle drivers and pedestrians to view the piece repeatedly while inadvertently seeing different shapes and forms with each passing. The piece would appear as if it had been there forever, sculpted by the wind with the contours shaped by invisible forces of water; removing the look and feel of the sculptors' hand. Over time, moss and ferns would grow and transform the artwork into a vertical garden.

Mr. Cao presented drawings showing side and straight-on views. He stated that the piece would be kept moist to encourage plant growth on the artwork and would have a structural support in the middle. A preliminary budget and timeline were also included in the presentation.

Mr. Jackson confirmed that the piece would be in the widest portion of the median. Ms. Cathers also confirmed for the Panel that the City's Public Works department had reviewed the drawings and approved the location.

The Panel discussed how viewers would physically approach and view the artwork with Dr. Damian expressing concern about seeing palm trees rather than the artwork if coming from the West. Ms. Miyar also noted that the intersection approaching from the East is problematic and would not allow drivers time to view and reflect on the work.

Dr. Deupi congratulated the artist on the imaginative, cinematic quality of the proposal and speculated how it would translate from the schematic representation to real life. She expressed that the subtlety of the concept and design may be lost to the casual visitor who may see it as a pile of coral rock rather than an intentional work of art. Mr. Cao responded that the quiet, noble presence of the stone would be an unexpected experience welcoming visitors to pause and respond to the element of surprise. He expressed confidence that it would have its own force.

Ms. Cubiñá spoke about the scale compared to the intimacy of walking along the mile and that it may not connect with this experience.

Ms. Tschumy stated that she saw the sculpture's form similar to a ginger root or smoke column and encouraged the artist to spend additional time observing the cloud formations unique to the area's weather conditions. Mr. Cao stated that he did not attempt to present a cloud form in a literal rendering, rather as more suggestive of clouds.

Ms. Miyar stated that local residents associate coral stone as an element below the feet rather than in the air and that the stone's heavy quality would be a challenge to express successfully with the ephemeral quality of clouds.

The Panel thanked the artist, who logged off from the conversation and continued their discussion.

Ms. Cubiñá said that the monumentality of the piece within the space competed with so much information, visual and otherwise. She expressed concern about the visual site lines, appropriateness of the material selection, and her vision of walking along Miracle Mile encountering pieces on a more pedestrian scale. The Panel and staff shared the history of the previous proposals that addressed this issue.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez raised an ethical concern about the material of coral rock, adding that the scale of the vegetation on the work does not read as the artist intends.

The Panel discussed their options at this stage. Ms. McKinley outlined considerations for the Panel to offer further feedback to Mr. Cao, reach out to previously considered artists, or start with a fresh pool of artists. The Panel as a whole agreed to pause the discussion until after Sibylle Pasche's presentation.

Presentation by Sibylle Pasche:

Ms. Pasche logged into the meeting. Mr. Jackson provided additional details regarding the status of Lot 25 as it relates to the Giralda Avenue streetscape project and impacts the location for Ms. Pasche's proposed artworks. He stated that Ms. Pasche will present different sites that may or may not be in the final design.

Ms. Pasche began her presentation by thanking the Panel and showing images of typical south Florida characteristics that are reflected in the artwork's themes, such as: color contrasts responding to natural lighting conditions; sand and water patterns appearing due to reflected sunlight; and shapes and patterns of corals. Ms. Pasche described the artworks' timeless and contemporary quality as peaceful and joyful, fresh and strong, having a close material relationship to persons, touching their senses and souls, and transmitting everlasting, time-independent values. The artist spoke of the important aspect of corals within the work, describing impressions of constant change, growing, pulsing, and breathing. Ms. Pasche spoke about her background research into these concepts and how they would translate to the artwork.

Continuing her description of the artwork, Ms. Pasche expressed her intent to contribute to the unique and sophisticated nature of the Giralda Avenue streetscape using the precious material of marble as a compliment to the granite installed on the street itself, adding that the spherical shapes of the sculptures also reflect the circular pavement pattern.

Ms. Pasche proposed installing a grouping of three pieces at the East end of Giralda Avenue, "Coral Forests" with an additional solitary piece on the West end of the street, "Secrets of the Sea".

Ms. Pasche presented images of models made in the proposed material of Carrara marble. The models showed various views including a close up of the pattern and texture. Renderings of the artworks on the existing and proposed location demonstrated how the artworks might look together in context to the environment and proportion to their surroundings. The artworks, the artist explained, will have no main view and the grouping will have the effect of swimming through the works.

Ms. Pasche went on to describe details of the pattern and finish texture, emphasizing the play of light and shadow; and the high quality of the Carrara marble being refreshingly cool, strong, durable, and requiring minimal maintenance. Details on the dimensions and weight were provided, noting that the largest piece would not exceed human scale, with the smaller pieces creating dialogue elements.

Technical information was given regarding the load (weight) with the artist stating that the artworks may easily be installed and re-installed with a crane. It was noted that no lighting is needed, as the pieces (reflective quality) will easily be visible during the evening.

Additional information regarding the maintenance was specified, referencing the smoothly polished surface as ideal for easy rainwater run off and suggesting high pressure cleaning once a year.

The artist presented a proposed budget inclusive of all costs and completed her presentation. Discussion continued with Panel members making comments and asking questions.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez asked about the possibility of people climbing the artwork and if the ridges as shown on the model and renderings would possibly break. The artist stated that the ridges would not be high and would be smoother than presented.

Dr. Deupi expressed appreciation of the human scale and material in this environment. Speaking to the solitary work on the West end of Giralda Avenue, Dr. Deupi stated that the work appeared lonely, needing the colorful pavers and infrastructure of the streetscape to support the work. The Artist agreed that the color contrast would be nice and if the streetscape design is created to welcome the sculptures, it would be a nice compliment to the surroundings.

Ms. Tschumy also remarked favorably on the material selection.

Ms. Pasche logged off from the meeting and the Panel continued their discussion.

Staff remarked that eventually, the intention is for the street to be closed to vehicular traffic and reviewed the process that led the Panel to select Ms. Pasche's work specifically for this location.

Discussion concluded and the following motion was made:

**Ms. Tschumy made a motion to recommend approval of Sibylle Pasche's proposed artwork for the Giralda Avenue Streetscape. Dr. Damian seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The Panel resumed their discussion regarding the artwork for Miracle Mile and Andy Cao's proposal.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez asked about the project budgets for each location. Ms. Cathers responded that based on the two related projects as proposed, staff determined the budgets as follows: \$700,000 for Miracle Mile and \$370,000 for Giralda Ave.

Ms. Cubiñá asked that new proposals be presented, expressing an understanding and appreciation the time that has already been put into the process.

Ms. McKinley stated that if the Panel is not comfortable with Mr. Cao's proposal and does not wish him to present a follow-up, the Panel may consider reviewing artists from the previous list who were not contacted, include additional artists, and start the process over. She encouraged the Panel to consider whether multiple artists or a single artist is best to develop a concept.

Ms. Miyar responded that the two new Panel members are museum directors with enormous resources and experience, voicing support to explore new possibilities. Dr. Damian agreed and the Panel unanimously

conveyed a desire to expand the project timeline and emphasize a concept that specifically speaks to the location.

The Board agreed as a whole to present artist names to staff and include them with recommendations from staff and consultants.

The Panel agreed to meet on June 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to review a new list of artists.

**Dr. Damian made a motion to decline the concept proposal of Andy Cao for the Miracle Mile Streetscape. Dr. Deupi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROJECT UPDATES (DISCUSSION):

Ms. Cathers gave an update on the status of various public art projects including the new completion timeline for the Alice Aycock sculptures being installed in the Segovia Street traffic circles; Miracle Mile Streetscape groundbreaking planned for April 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.; and the de-installation of Jean Ward sculptures scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

ADDITIONAL PANEL BUSINESS:

Ms. Cathers advised the Panel of proposed adjustments to the Art in Public Places ordinance, code, and guidelines. Panel members were given hard copies of these documents and asked to review and forward comments to staff for future discussion.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

There were no items from the secretary.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dona M. Spain  
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director