

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-6
October 28, 2025
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Commissioner Melissa Castro
Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Commissioner Richard D. Lara

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez
City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Arts and Culture Coordinator, Catherine Cathers

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-6 [Start: 1:58 p.m.]

Update regarding Art in Public Places (Agustin Cardenas sculpture, Louise Nevelson sculpture, Intervals project for Art Basal). (Sponsored by Mayor Lago)

Mayor Lago: You want to talk about F-6 also before we go to F-5 and then we'll go to lunch.

Art and Culture Coordinator: Thank you. So is F-6, City Attorney, the same as G-3. F-6 is the...is that correct?

Historic Preservation Officer Pernas: So, there's an item also G-3, so I think G-3 and F-6 are related, so it's an update of the art acquisitions that you requested. So, I think you'll knock two out.

Mayor Lago: Done.

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Art and Culture Coordinator: We also have a presentation for this but as I said I don't know if the battery is not working on this but let me see. Oh okay, it's working now. Okay. So, at the Mayor's request we are providing an update of the other of another potential acquisition and of the upcoming art week project intervals. So, we're going to start out just by talking about Sky Landscape 2. This is a piece that we've been requested to consider. It's by Louise Nevelson and Louise Nevelson is another highly recognized sculptor of the 20th century and a staple of museum and public collections. So, it's another very important artist and important work. She was influenced by pre-Columbian architecture and known for Cuba's constructivism. Based abstraction which you can see in this piece. The proposed artwork Sky Landscape 2 is one in a series of similarly titled sculptures created over seven years. The sculptures are all black, a color that the artist thought of as relating to night and the passage of the hours of the day. So, we're currently working on getting the piece appraised prior to bringing forward to the Arts Panel and Cultural Development Board for a recommendation before coming back to you with this artwork. I did view it over the weekend. It is a very large-scale work. It stands about maybe close to 10 feet tall maybe. It's a very large scale and this is one that that we think may be a possibility to have at the Art Cinema or somewhere else within the city. So, this is the dimensions of it. The title 1976. It is a direct welded aluminum painted piece and again is a unique work. So, then we also wanted to talk about an update on our intervals project for our week.

Mayor Lago: Do you mind if I just talk about this?

Art and Culture Coordinator: Yes of course. It's okay.

Mayor Lago: I just want to talk about this briefly. I proposed this work, and I would request that our director provides a little bit more information for my colleagues on the Commission. So, they have a better understanding on Louise Nevelson's work and on the fact that she's in every major museum in the world. She's represented when you go to Art Basel, probably six or seven galleries are representing her work, her estate. New York based artist who is one of the most respected artists for the last 100 years. Amazing female artist. And I think again this continues to elevate the level of work that we have here in the city. This is amazing work. And the great part about it is it's located here in South Florida. When I saw the work for the first time, again for the record, I do not have the privilege of owning a work by Louise Nevelson. I wish I did. But this is just an amazing artist that in my opinion would also require a little bit of potential protection also from the elements in regard to an overhang of some sort. And I think it would contrast well with the white Cardenas sculpture, black and white. I think it would be very nice. Something interesting and a different look. So, I wanted to bring it to your attention as something that's being considered. And again, I bring these works because I think that it continues to elevate our profile in the art world. And I think that I want to make sure that the works that we invest in, and I don't want to look at art as an investment, but let's be honest with ourselves, it's an investment. It has to be done appropriately, and it has to be curated in a way that really shines a positive light on the city. And I think this work

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is exceptional. And I hope, Mr. Manager, will you have your team put together a small memo just so my colleagues are educated. I didn't have a book. I wasn't prepared to talk about the work. But I wanted to make sure they understood the work, the artists, the museums, the galleries that represent this artist. All that comes along with this incredible artist and all the major, major retrospective shows that she's had all over the world. This is a very serious artist.

City Manager Iglesias: Yes, Mayor, we'll provide a report to the Commission.

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Fernandez: I'm trying to remember where I've seen Nevelson work. I can't remember. I thought it was at the Vatican Museum, but it wasn't there.

Mayor Lago: Oma, the Whitney, the...

Commissioner Fernandez: I know that I've seen one recently. The only thing I would say is when we're thinking of location, somewhere where it's protected from little hands trying to climb, because it does look like something that would be fun to climb. So just buffering would be ideal.

Mayor Lago: Anything else? We'll move on to the next item, Madam Director.

Art and Culture Coordinator: Okay. And then an update on our intervals project. So first of all, I just want to say I want to acknowledge the work of Arts Advisory Panel member Adler Guerrier. He's been instrumental in working on this project and has helped tremendously with all aspects that are being presented. He is not here today. He is in Paris showing work. So, we're very happy for him. But I definitely wanted to do a shout out and thank you to him.

Mayor Lago: Do you know what Paris show he's showing at?

Art and Culture Coordinator: He is in a gallery show.

Mayor Lago: Okay. Can I ask you a question? Can I ask you a question through the Manager? I made a request to have Mr. Adler Guerrier provide us with an opportunity for work for our permanent collection.

Art and Culture Coordinator: Yes.

Mayor Lago: And the Commission, from what I remember, took a vote on it. And we asked the ___ board, do we have any update on that? I know he's very humble. He didn't know that we were going to do that. But at the end of the day, I think he's an exceptional artist. That is, again, in our own backyard. And we have to celebrate somebody of his accomplishment.

Art and Culture Coordinator: He's very thrilled and was very honored by that. We have had conversations about it. And he is enthusiastically waiting to start that project until after his term is completed with the Arts Advisory Panel.

Mayor Lago: Okay. So, we have a deadline on an idea? Because if not, it will drag its feet, and he'll hope that we forget?

Art and Culture Coordinator: He is not forgetting, believe me. We talk about it frequently. He's very excited and honored.

Mayor Lago: Make sure he knows that we mentioned it, that we're looking forward to it.

Art and Culture Coordinator: I will. I will.

Vice Mayor Anderson: We'll just have to knock him off the board.

Mayor Lago: That's what the commissioner said.

Vice Mayor Anderson: That's it. Done. Off with your head. You'll see why I made that reference on Friday.

Mayor Lago: Madam Director.

Art and Culture Coordinator: Okay. So, Intervals is a series of time-based encounters with contemporary art. Specific sites and thoughts are beyond the everyday of Coral Gables Miami and the World. Within Intervals, artists respond to the richness or limits of uncharacteristic spaces to lead toward new situations in which contemporary art intervenes in the rhythms of the city. So, it is featuring five artists in five public spaces. They are all site-responsive installations. Open and publicly accessible. It is done in partnership with hotels and other public spaces. And in partnership with galleries represented at Art Basel Miami Beach. Open to professional working artists. So, this is our current and final listing with our artists and their gallery representation. We have Emil Lucas represented by Piero Aciguri Gallery. Pepe Mar with David Castillo Gallery. Troy Simmons with Frederick Schnitzer Gallery. Mario Plessar with Frederick Schnitzer Gallery. And Ricardo Alcaide with Von Bartha. And his work is being coordinated and represented through Mindy Solomon Gallery. These are the locations that they will be installed at. The Hotel Colonnade. The A Loft. On the Plaza of our Fink Studio and two locations within the Plaza. And this is our marketing piece that you will start seeing around in some advertisements. We have an ad coming out in Coral Gables Magazine and also Art Forum, along with the Art Newspaper, Every Day of Art Basel Miami Beach. Along with some other electronic digital media. So, the artworks are actually being installed. Starting the first week of November. Most of them within the first two weeks. So, they will be on view by mid-November with an official launch for Art Week. They will be highlighted on the city's dedicated Art in Public Places webpage. Tours will be coordinated in partnership with

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the Economic Development Department, and we are also partnering with the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau on celebratory events at each of the locations throughout January. So, we're really excited because not only is it going to be our featured exhibition during Art Week, but also that we're able to extend this until the end of January and invite more people to be able to see the artworks and Coral Gables.

Mayor Lago: Thank you very much. Exciting news. Doing great things. Thank you for the update.