

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING  
Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 9:00 A.M.**

**Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department  
Hybrid Meeting & Virtual via Zoom**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</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>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>
Nelson de León	P	P	-	P	-	E	P	A	P	-	P	P	P
Eugenia Incer	P	P	-	P	-	P	P	A	A	-	E	P	P
Adler Guerrier	P	P	-	P	-	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P
Maggie Hernandez	P	P	-	P	-	P	E	A	A	-	P	P	A
Dr. Jacek Kolasiński – Vice Chair	E	P	-	P	-	P	P	A	P	-	P	P	E
Dr. Jill Deupi* - Chair						E	P	P	A	-	E	P	P
Manny Mato	E	P	-	E	-	P	E	A	P	-	A	A	A
Marijean Miyar	P	P	-	P	-	P	P	A	A	-	P	A	P
Alexandra Perez*						P	E	P	A	-	P	P	P

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

**STAFF:**

Anna Pernas, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director  
Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist  
Yvelisse Bonilla, Administrative Assistant

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

The Arts Advisory panel meeting was called to order by Chair Deupi at 9:00 AM.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

**A motion was made by Mr. Guerrier, seconded by Ms. Incer, to approve the March 6, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**A. NEW BUSINESS:**

A.1- CORAL GABLES CENTENNIAL – COMMEMORATIVE ARTWORK PROPOSAL  
REVIEW / ROUND 2

Staff reviewed the goals and description of the commemorative public artwork project. Artists and representatives presented proposals in person and via Zoom.

Morel Doucet appeared in person and provided an overview of his history as an educator, his work, and the location of permanent pieces. He continued with a detailed description of his revised proposal depicting a boat carrying families and related cultural objects. Flowers were proposed for incorporating within the artwork or surrounding it.

Yanira Collado appeared in person and presented her proposal revision, alluding to the architecture of many Bahamian homes and stated that it is indirectly influenced by the youth living in the community, including direct descendants.

Tavares Strachan appeared through a pre-recorded video followed by his studio representative, Christophe, appearing via Zoom and speaking on the artist's behalf. In the video, Mr. Stachan discussed his proposed large-scale sculptural bust as a story of the Bahamians that came to Coral Gables, contributing to the development of the city.

Panel members commented and asked questions of the artists after each presentation.

Members of the public were invited to speak. Gay Bondurant, Merrick House Docent Coordinator and Coral Gables resident, read a quote from a hand-written 1937 draft by George Merrick, "When our true pioneers are fittingly monumented there must surely be an inspiring one for our Black Bahamins." Ms. Bondurant shared her thought that the statement should be a part of whatever art piece is selected.

Joanne Meagher, Merrick House Advisory Board Chair, reinforced Ms. Bondurant's statement and discussed George Merrick's relationship with the Bahamians.

Mr. Carl Leon Prime, president of the Lola B. Walker H.O.A., expressed the importance of the piece having a lasting legacy that tells a story without needing a lot of explanation. He supported a concept showing simplicity and legacy.

Martha Pantin, City of Coral Gables Communications and Public Affairs director, shared that she is working with all city departments as they develop centennial projects, including interactive programming with the city's public art collection.

Terrance Cribbs-Larrant, Director for the Historical Black Police Precinct Courthouse Museum in Overtown and Dade Heritage Trust Board member, stated his interest in preservation and how to connect the past with informing the future. He stated that he appeared at the invitation of artist Morel Doucet.

Following public comment, the Panel discussed briefly and overall expressed interest in Mr. Doucet's proposal, noting the strong connection to the community and stating a preference to have live, native flowers within the sculpture. Mr. Doucet stated that he would continue to work with the community being commemorated and refine the proposal. Panel members spoke about maintenance concerns and asked respectfully that the final proposed design be brought back to the Panel for review.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**A motion was made by Ms. Incer, seconded by Ms. Miyar, to recommend Morel Doucet to move forward in the process to the Cultural Development Board. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

#### A.2.- PONCE CIRCLE PARK

Responding to direction from the City Manager's office, Staff asked Panel members for artist or artwork recommendations to consider for Ponce Circle Park with a preference to site two to four works in the park.

#### A.3.- ART IN PUBLIC PLACING ZONING CODE – AMENDMENT

Panel members reviewed the most recent draft of the Art in Public Places Zoning Code amendment and made the following motion:

**A motion was made by Mr. Guerrier seconded by Ms. Miyar, to accept the amendments to the Art in Public Places Zoning Code. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### E. OLD BUSINESS:

None

#### F. ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

##### F.1.- AiPP UPDATES

The Panel was provided with a list of municipal and private development AiPP projects.

#### G. CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

None

#### H. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

None

#### I. ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

Panel members were reminded of upcoming events celebrating the temporary public art installation “The Water Below Us” on Giralda Plaza and the launch of the public art and poetry activation “Dear Human.”

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J. Cathers  
Arts & Culture Specialist