

EXCERPT

DRAFT

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 9:00 a.m.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES & CULTURAL ARTS DEPARTMENT
2327 Salzedo St., Coral Gables, Florida 33134

MEMBERS	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F
	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	18	18
Silvia Karman Cubiñá^	-	P	-	-	-	E	-	^	^	^	^	^
Dr. Carol Damian	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	-	P	P
Dr. Jill Deupi	-	E	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	-	P	P
Lauren Hall	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	-	E	P
Jacek Kolasiński*											P	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez	-	P	-	-	-	P	-	P	-	-	E	P
Freda Tschumy	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	P	-	-	P	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
Carlos Mindreau, City Architect
Peter Iglesias, Assistant City Manager
Ernesto Pino, Assistant Director of Public Works

GUESTS:

Mark Trowbridge, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce President and CEO; Patrick O’Connell, EWM Senior VP and Chair Elect of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce; Laura Russo, Esq.; Sandra Cardona, VP of Development and Capital Planning at Hersha Hospitality; Aaron Yassin, studio of Michele Oka Doner; Jorge Navarro, Greenberg Traurig; Zaba Castro, Greenberg Traurig; Jerad Graham, NP International; Ninoska Huerta, gallerist; Nella Daes, Logistics Fine Arts

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

Dr. Damian called the Arts Advisory Panel meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and read the False Claims Ordinance into the record.

DEVELOPER AIPP PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR MERRICK PARK HOTEL:

Dr. Damian welcomed the Merrick Park development project team returning with revisions based on the Panel’s previous feedback. Ms. Russo introduced herself as representing Hersha Hospitality, the

developer of the hotel; Ms. Cardona, VP of Development and Capital Planning at Hersha Hospitality; and Aaron Yassin with the studio of Michele Oka Doner.

Ms. Cardona thanked the Panel for their previous comments and noted that they are very happy with the evolved imagery and greater connection to what the main entry feature will feel and look like. She commented on the key features that were addressed, stating that one of the updates is the framing itself to match and be in the same palette as the artwork itself, creating a more seamless piece than the previous framing element. Another successful enhancement, she said, is the overall site plan, addressing questions about the points of entry and where the main entry is in context to the entire building. Ms. Cardona clarified that the drop off zone is in line with the marquee (where the artwork is located).

Dr. Damian thanked the presenters for clarifying the entry points, as it was one of the questions of the Panel. Ms. Cardona responded that the close-up of the entry illustrates a moment that is unique and special to the architecture of the building.

Ms. Cathers asked Mr. Yassin to describe the material of the artwork, as it is different than what is in the detail page of the proposal. Mr. Yassin stated that the technical description will be updated from the original intent of being a screen. The material, he said, is very similar to a ceramic glaze; it is hand painted onto the glass, annealed and, fused between pieces of glass as an integrated glazing system. A sample was presented to the Panel.

Ms. Cardona stated that they are working with a lighting designer to ensure the experience of the artwork in the day can be looked at differently at night. She commented that the natural light from the outside looking in, and inside looking out will be quite beautiful in terms of shadows being cast and that there is something unique about the properties of the glazing. Ms. Cardona gave an overview of the dramatic entry to the building as an old-world concept using a deep, large marquee.

The Panel asked if the window manufacturer in collaboration with the fabricator could put together a set of information regarding the schematics to help validate the fitness, height, and parameters that have been presented.

Dr. Deupi congratulated the work that was done on the revisions. She commented that Ms. Oka Doner's work is so symbolically rich and asked whether a didactic panel describing the inspiration and representation would be installed near the piece. Ms. Cardona responded that one is being planned for installation on the left side of the artwork.

Mr. Kolasiński asked about an online presence to help further understand and investigate the work. Dr. Damian recommended including it in the hotel media, website, room TV, lobby & restaurant monitors, etc. Ms. Cardona agreed and stated that as a primary piece, the hotel will work it into the website as a highlight.

Ms. Spain mentioned the Biltmore Hotel's recent window renovation project and video that was produced detailing the process of the manufacturing of the windows, engineering, and craftsmanship, telling the story for the guests and what a great opportunity it is to share projects in this way.

The Panel thanked the developer for clarifying the points and agreed that it was much more understandable. The presenters thanked the Panel and left the meeting.

The Panel continued discussion of the project.

Ms. Cathers asked the Panel to review the budget and offer feedback to provide to the developers. The Panel unanimously stated that under ten percent (10%) for the artist fee is low. The Panel as a whole agreed that the expenses toward the plaque and lighting seemed high and out of scale with the work. Ms. Cathers stated that the developer is to provide what they would have normally spent on the door and entry and deduct it from the budget. Staff, she said, is waiting for documentation confirming the financial allocation toward the project.

The Panel asked that comments regarding the budget be presented to the developer. Ms. Cathers responded that the budget needs to be resolved prior to requesting Commission approval.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Roselione-Valadez made a motion recommending approval of the waiver request to incorporate artwork as presented by artist Michele Oka Doner into the Merrick Plaza Hotel development project. Dr. Deupi seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dona M. Spain
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director