



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
July 9, 2024

ITEM TITLE:

A Resolution approving the purchase and installation of the sculpture “A Perfect Place” by José Bedia (recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel, approval/denial vote: 7 to 0, and the Cultural Development Board approval/denial vote: 6 to 0); authorizing an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 amended budget to recognize as revenue a transfer from the Art in Public Places reserve, and appropriating such funds to put toward the purchase cost, transportation, installation, and related expenses.

DEPARTMENT HEAD RECOMMENDATION:

Approval

BRIEF HISTORY:

Fredric Snitzer Gallery approached the city with a proposal to purchase the artwork “A Perfect Place” by artist José Bedia.

About the artist:

José Bedia is a renowned Cuban artist living and working in Miami. Early on he excelled in drawing, illustration, and draftsmanship, which led him to create large-scale paintings, drawings, and sculptures.

Bedia’s work reflects the artist’s interest in anthropological studies on Afro-Transatlantic cultures including the religious beliefs of the Artist. His imagery has strong storytelling aspects informed by ancestral cultures and the influence of popular cultures.

His work has been exhibited in Havana, Sao Paulo, Venice, and Beijing Biennales and his artworks are in prominent private and public collections including the Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan, Whitney, Guggenheim, Tate Modern, the Smithsonian, and more.

About the artwork:

“A Perfect Place”, 2001, is a large-scale public artwork spanning 23 feet across and 20 feet high. It is a unique, singular artwork of steel, telephone poles, and hardware. The artwork is currently on loan and installed at the Bass Museum of Art.

The sculpture represents Miami as a reclining figure in a hammock and presents a projection of the Artist’s animal alter-ego face, an important symbol used frequently in the Artist’s work. The piece further represents the duality of the human character and animal spirit.

Prior to presentation to the Cultural Development Board, the Artwork received an independent, professional appraisal.

Board Review:

On April 5, 2023, the Arts Advisory Panel reviewed the proposal and made a motion unanimously recommending purchase of “A Perfect Place”.

On December 19, 2023, the Cultural Development Board reviewed the proposal, accepted the recommendation of the Arts Advisory Panel and made a motion unanimously recommending approval to the City Commission to purchase the artwork “A Perfect Place”.

Funding:

Funding for the purchase, transportation, engineering, sitework, installation, lighting, and signage (est. \$153,500) is proposed through the art fund.

The cost of annual maintenance is anticipated to be minimal and is being proposed through use of the general fund as ordinary maintenance and will be included as part of the City’s annual public art maintenance plan.

ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION(S):

Date.	Board/Committee	Comments
April 5, 2023	Arts Advisory Panel	Recommended approval
December 19, 2023	Cultural Development Board	Recommended approval

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: (If Applicable)

Account No.	Amount	Source of Funds
001 1330 573 1607	\$153,500.00	Art in Public Places, Art Fund

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. **Draft Resolution**
2. **Excerpt minutes from the Arts Advisory Panel meeting of April 5, 2023**
3. **Excerpt minutes from the Cultural Development Board meeting of December 19, 2023**
4. **Appraisal of Artwork**
5. **Draft Agreement**
6. **PPT**