



DRAFT

CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING

Monday, August 23, 2017 8:30 a.m.

CORAL GABLES MUSEUM

285 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Historical Resources &  
Cultural Arts

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MEMBERS	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A
	16	16	16	16	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
Silvia Karman Cubiñá	-	-	P	-	E	A	-	P	-	-	-	E
Dr. Carol Damian	-	-	P	-	P	P	-	P	-	P	-	P
Dr. Jill Deupi	-	-	P	-	E	E	-	E	-	P	-	P
Lauren Hall*						P	-	P	-	P	-	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez	-	-	P	-	P	P	-	P	-	-	-	P
John Stuart	-	-	P	-	P	P	-	P	-	P	-	P
Freda Tschumy	-	-	P	-	P	E	-	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

**GUESTS:**

Laura Russo

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

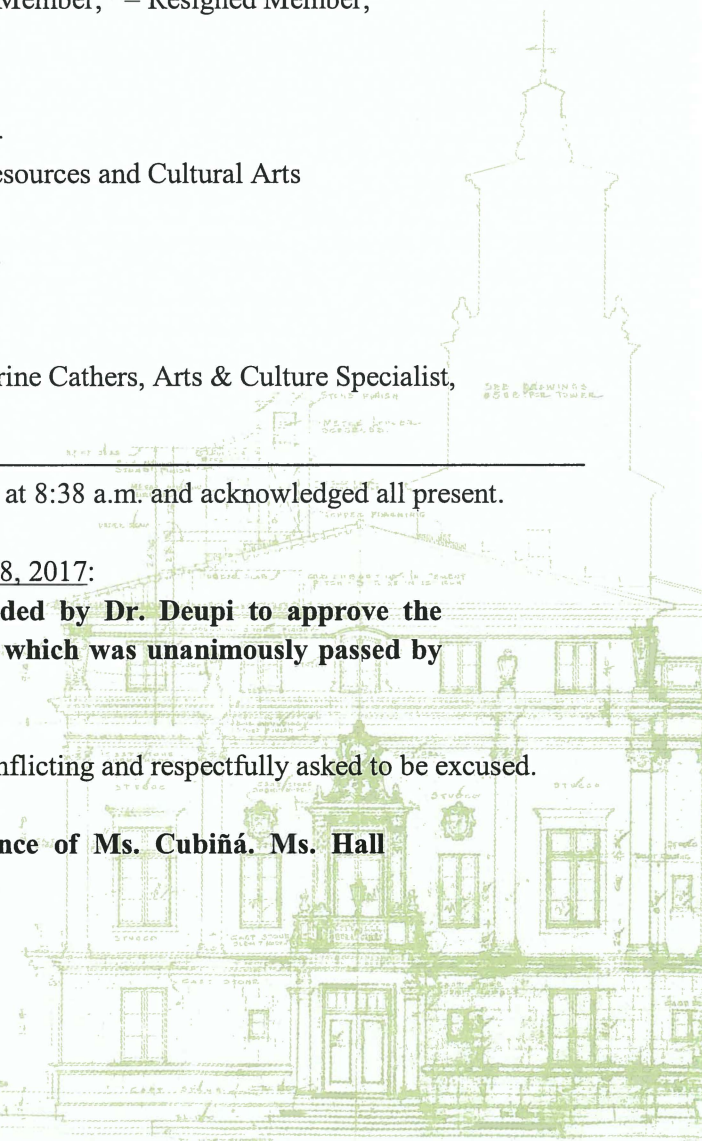
Dr. Damian called the Arts Advisory Panel meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. and acknowledged all present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JUNE 28, 2017:**

**A motion was made by Mr. Stuart and seconded by Dr. Deupi to approve the meeting minutes of June 28, 2017 as presented, which was unanimously passed by voice vote.**

The Panel was advised that Ms. Cubiñá had a scheduling conflicting and respectfully asked to be excused.

**Dr. Deupi made a motion to accept the absence of Ms. Cubiñá. Ms. Hall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**



MIRACLE MILE STREETSCAPE – ARTIST CONCEPT REVISIONS:

Dr. Damian asked the Panel to continue their discussion from the previous meeting regarding the artist proposals for the Miracle Mile Streetscape.

Ms. Cathers advised the Panel that the next step in the process is to make a recommendation for any of the proposals to be released for public comment. She stated that following public comment, the comments would be brought back to the Panel for their collective remarks back to the artists prior to any final modifications before the Panel's recommendation to the Cultural Development Board. The Cultural Development Board would then make a recommendation to the City Commission.

Dr. Damian asked Panel members to refer to the meeting minutes and consider whether to move forward with any individual proposals or the three proposals as a whole.

The Panel-as-a-Whole agreed that none of the proposed projects met the standards of the Panel. They further discussed the challenges contributing to the difficulty of meeting this mark, including the highly designed and full space. Ms. Spain reviewed the current status of the Streetscape, stating that in addition to the benches, bollards, and lighting; tables, chairs, and umbrellas will also be added.

The Panel discussed whether it would be best to see how people interact with the completed Streetscape. Mr. Roselione-Valadez stated the importance of having public art at the site, where pedestrians can be exposed to and interact with the works. Dr. Deupi suggested the Panel visit the site and experience it together after completion, adding her interest in considering digital art. Mr. Stuart continued, stating the importance of considering how the pieces would ultimately succeed. Ms. Tschumy said that at the beginning of the process, the Panel spoke about the significance of the art being a destination and something that would set Miracle Mile apart.

The Panel agreed that it would be beneficial to wait to re-address the Streetscape after completion to gain a better sense of potential opportunities and context for the art. The Panel also noted that the existing budget is limited and could possibly be re-addressed.

It was noted that the artists will receive compensation for their work and would be encouraged to apply again.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**Dr. Deupi made a motion to postpone further discussion about public art on Miracle Mile until completion of the Streetscape and to notify the artists who have submitted proposals that the City will not be moving forward with any of the proposals; however, the artists are invited to apply again when the opportunity is re-opened. Mr. Roselione-Valadez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

ART BASEL EVENT APPLICATION:

Ms. Spain reported that Mayor Valdes-Fauli and Commissioner Lago held a sunshine meeting to speak about public art in general and their support of the program, stating that both are interested in the City moving forward with an exhibition to take place during Art Basel. Mayor Valdes-Fauli is proposing a

public exhibition of Carlos Cruz-Diez possibly with banners on City Hall and the Coral Gables Museum, painted crosswalks, and possible projections. Staff said they will be meeting with Commissioner Lago this afternoon to discuss additional possibilities.

In addition to a potential Cruz-Diez exhibition, Ms. Cathers said, the City is following up on the recommendation of Art Basel to further develop a partnership with the Lowe Art Museum's annual Art Basel Bubbles and Bruch event. She went on state that the speaker this year, Michele Oka-Doner, is an artist whose work is being proposed by a developer as their Art in Public Places requirement. Staff added that the City would again provide trolley transportation from the Lowe back to Miami Beach.

Dr. Deupi continued, stating the significant draw and support of the local community for the event. She shared that the brunch will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., with Ms. Doner speaking at 12:00 p.m.

The Panel as-a-whole discussed the benefits of being recognized as an official Art Basel event and the reality that visitors to Art Basel tend to stay on Miami Beach; therefore, events off the Beach tend to appeal to their local communities.

#### TEMPORARY ART EXHIBITIONS:

Dr. Damian introduced discussion of temporary art exhibitions, following up from previous discussions regarding developing policy and process. Ms. Cathers presented a Temporary Exhibition Application draft, stating the use of New York's Park Avenue exhibition program, among others, as a model whereby proposers cover exhibition expenses. It was reported that staff met with City departments to get a sense of feasibility and details regarding such things as site preparation, insurance, security, etc. The consensus from City departments was to assist with site preparation and cleanup, which follows best practices with models of similar scope. She added that the associated agreement has not been drafted yet and that the Cultural Development Board has reviewed the application draft with a request for feedback from this Panel.

Exhibition periods, it was noted, would be scheduled outside of hurricane season with an engineering requirement for withstanding 75 mph wind loads.

Ms. Hall asked for further clarification regarding maintenance while the artwork is on site, asking for specifics of who is responsible for what while the artwork is installed. She added the importance of the City being realistic about what it can do. Responding to this, Dr. Deupi asked that a condition report, photographs, and appraisal be included with the application along with copyright verification and funds put in escrow to cover unforeseen expenses (such as extraordinary maintenance, damage to the site, or other circumstances.)

The Panel discussed the merits of the program, agreeing that the outline of the program as proposed follows comparable high-end temporary exhibition programs. Ms. Tschumy mentioned the Ft. Lauderdale outdoor sculpture program run through the Ft. Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority.

Dr. Damian asked about locations, with Mr. Roselione-Valadez stating that options proposed by the requestor could present interesting sites that haven't been thought of. The Panel agreed that a combination of proposed sites and applicant suggested locations would benefit the program.

Dr. Deupi continued, requesting a mission statement and a narrative addressing how the proposed exhibition furthers that mission. The Panel expressed support of welcoming exceptional temporary exhibitions to Coral Gables and noted that the purpose of the program is to enhance the prestige of the artist and that of Coral Gables.

### **Venetian Posts**

Ms. Cathers introduced a new temporary community art program inspired by the previously successful "Flamingos in the Gables" and similar municipal projects. As an opportunity to engage the community in a creative way, she said, the City would use the iconic image of Venetian mooring piles. Ms. Cathers referred to the Venetian style poles used as a design feature of the Venetian Pool and to a recent restoration project of Venetian mooring poles by former Vice-Mayor Kerdyk's daughter, Leigh Kerdyk.

Ms. Cathers provided an overview of the project, stating that a request for proposals would be announced followed by secured sponsors being matched with approved designs. Artistic treatments of pre-fabricated posts would be completed and after a short exhibition, the posts would be auctioned off to benefit a local non-profit organization.

The project, she said, is anticipated to pay for itself and staff would like to access the Art Acquisition Fund for seed funding. Ms. Cathers said that Mari Gallet (former BID director) is being approached to handle marketing, sponsorship, etc., with City staff handling the technical requirements of the project.

Ms. Spain noted that the project would support the opening of the Miracle Mile Streetscape, although the posts would not be attached to the tiles on the streetscape.

The Panel was shown and discussed design options of the cap tops and was informed that the proposed height will be approximately seven (7) feet tall. Staff stated the anticipated cost of the project at about \$100,000.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**Dr. Deupi made a motion recommending the Cultural Development Board to allow Art Acquisition Funds as seed funding for the *Venetian Posts in the Gables* community art project. Ms. Tschumy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

### ADDITIONAL PANEL BUSINESS:

#### **Jean Ward Sculptures**

Staff presented location options for the three recently restored Jean Ward sculptures and informed the Panel that Mr. George Volsky requested the artworks be placed at Granada Avenue and Alhambra Circle within green spaces on the east side of Granada. The proposed locations, they were told, were sent to public works for review, which responded with approved siting and marked areas that comply with traffic



visibility. Images of the restored sculptures were shown and positioning of the artworks was discussed with the Panel.

The Panel discussed the possible vulnerability of the location, agreeing that the locations are unobtrusive and the sculptures are now painted (bright) red.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**Ms. Hall made a motion recommending placing two Jean Ward sculptures on the Southeast corner of Granada Avenue and Alhambra Circle, and one on the Northeast corner of Granada Avenue and Majorca Avenue within the triangular median green space. Ms. Tschumy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

**Merrick Park Hotel**

Dr. Damian introduced Laura Russo, representing the developer of the Merrick Park Hotel. Ms. Cathers stated that the developer has selected Michele Oka Doner as the artist to incorporate a work of public art into the development project of the Merrick Park Hotel in fulfillment of the City's Art in Public Places requirement. She explained that Ms. Russo requested a concept review by the Panel to gather feedback for the developer and artist prior to their submittal of a full proposal.

Ms. Cathers stated that Michele Oka Doner is on the pre-qualified artist list and noted that she will be the featured speaker for the Lowe Art Museum's annual Art Basel Bubbles & Brunch this year. Ms. Russo provided a review of the development location. Ms. Cathers stated that the artist is proposing a treatment for the entryway of the hotel and provided a concept packet to the Panel with a project description, rendering, and limited material description. The Panel reviewed the site plan and discussed how the piece relates to public viewing from the sidewalk with the work set back about fifteen feet from the sidewalk. The piece itself, she relayed, appears to be attached to a screen.

The Panel found the site drawing unclear regarding the artwork's location and confirmed the piece's proposed placement on the entry doors and panels surrounding the doors, noting concerns about how the heavy use of the door may affect the integrity of the artwork. They questioned how the high volume of physical interaction with the piece would affect its durability and questioned how visible the artwork would be with the doors opening and closing repeatedly. The Panel also asked if safety would be an issue, as people would be unable to see each other from either side when entering or exiting the building. Mr. Mindreau and Mr. Stuart noted that attachment to the door would require greater engineering to comply with FL standards for hurricane wind loads. Mr. Roselione-Valadez referenced Cristina Iglesias' doors for the Prado as an example of an integrated entryway artwork.

Following this discussion, the Panel recommended greater consideration of the artwork's location, suggesting stationary panels and avoiding the doors.

The Panel requested further detail regarding the material itself, how it would be attached, how it would interact with the surrounding architecture, and how it would respond to the weather conditions unique to South Florida.

Dr. Deupi commented on the design as subtle, unobtrusive, and quite beautiful. Mr. Stuart added that information about the work, including recognition of the Art in Public Places program, be placed close by and visible.

Dr. Damian expressed the Panel's shared familiarity with Ms. Doner, respect for her work, and support of having a piece by her in the City. She thanked Ms. Russo, who thanked the Panel and left the meeting.

### **Galleries**

The Panel was informed that area galleries are discussing possibly moving to Coral Gables and are looking for incentives. Part of the conversation with City staff has included supporting a localized arts district to further develop Aragon Avenue or consider other locations such as the Ponce area south of the Shops at Merrick Park. Related to this, Ms. Cathers noted that there is a lack of space to develop artists outside of the university and educational institutions. The Panel discussed the merits of having an arts facility that could accommodate gallery, education, studio, and exhibition space. Dr. Damian supported exploring the area by the Underline.

Mr. Stuart stated that an educational component is important to help people understand the context of art in today's culture. He went on to express the opportunity of furthering the tradition of Coral Gables, as it was once one of the centers of arts learning in the nation. In the thirties, he said, the old post office was made into the Center for Art and offered exhibitions, education, ceramics, processes that people had difficulty doing in their homes and encouraged learning about materials and new practices.

The Panel spoke about starting a conversation with Art Center South Florida (or a similar organization) regarding establishing a satellite location in Coral Gables. Members of the Panel were encouraging, with Dr. Damian and Dr. Deupi offering meet with Dennis Scholl to brainstorm ideas.

**Mr. Stuart made a motion approving Dr. Damian or Dr. Deupi to speak on behalf of the Arts Advisory Panel with community leaders regarding establishing an arts center in Coral Gables. Ms. Hall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

### ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

Staff reminded Panel members to submit their financial disclosure statements to the City Clerk.

Staff stated that the Cultural Development Board will be making their recommendation for the next term of Arts Advisory Panel members and to let staff know if they are interested in continuing to serve on the Panel.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dona M. Spain  
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director