

DRAFT

EXCERPT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Wednesday, August 25, 2021 9:00 a.m.**

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

MEMBERS	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	A
	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Nelson de León	P	-	-	-	V	P	E	-	P	P	P
Eugenia Incer*											P
Adler Guerrier	P	-	-	-	V	P	P	-	P	P	P
Maggie Hernandez*					V	P	P	-	P	P	P
Jacek Kolasiński	P	-	-	-	A	P	P	-	P	E	P
Emily MacDonald-Korth	P	-	-	-	V	V	P	-	V	P	E
Manny Mato	P	-	-	-	V	V	E	-	V	P	E
Marijean Miyar	P	-	-	-	V	P	V	-	V	P	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez	P	-	-	-	A	P	P	-	V	P	P

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

STAFF:

Warren Adams, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director
Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist

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

The Arts Advisory Panel meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

c. AIPP WAIVER REQUEST, THE PLAZA – BRIAN DONNELLY, KAWS

Staff introduced Carlos Beckmann, representing Agave for The Plaza development project. Mr. Beckmann shared his screen and introduced Per Skarstedt, representing the artist through Skarstedt Gallery.

Mr. Skarstedt gave a brief overview of the artist and his work, saying that KAWS started as a commercial artist about twenty years ago and has emerged as an international artist. Through his appeal to diverse audiences across the globe, he comes through a tradition of Andy Warhol and Keith Haring and noted that Warhol started as a commercial artist with Haring having his beginnings as a street artist. KAWS signature pieces, Mr. Skarstedt continued, Companion and BFF, are easily recognizable and the artist has created a global language which is being appreciated and connects with experienced art lovers as well as people who have never set foot in a museum or gallery.

Mr. Skarstedt stated that KAWS offers an exploration of humanity itself. The artist's work is both playful and deeply emotional, speaking powerfully to the emotions of our time and bringing joy and inspiration to a lot of people. He said there are three large scale monumental sculptures installed in New York City, two on Park Avenue and one at the Rockefeller Center, which are in high-profile locations in New York where artists such as Jeff Koons and Keith Haring have had major installations over the years. He went on to say that the artist has 3.5 million Instagram followers. Mr. Skarstedt shared that KAWS has two museum shows, one at the Brooklyn Museum and one at the Mori Arts Center in Tokyo with more exhibits scheduled in Canada and Europe. He shared images of other large-scale sculptures the artist has done over the years including recent installations in New York, Melbourne, Toronto Amsterdam, Qatar, and Hong Kong. He mentioned that the artist has many requests, but only uses one foundry to produce about one sculpture a year.

Mr. Beckmann added that Agave has spoken directly with the artist and this piece was specifically suggested for The Plaza site. Fabrication and installation will take about a year, he said, and is set for completion in the fall of next year.

Mr. Beckmann reviewed the location, stating it will be in the center of the south, main lawn which is a multi-functional space in the heart of The Plaza where performances may happen and is also in the front of the hotel. The floor plan was shown, showing the location of already approved artworks.

The Panel was informed that this will complete the final proposed art for the project, with artworks distributed throughout The Plaza. Mr. Beckmann called out additional highlights, noting that the artwork is visible from Ponce de Leon Boulevard; encourages Instagram moments; is a friendly, approachable, refined artwork for families and neighbors.

The artwork was described as 16 feet tall from the ground, set on a pedestal, and is a seated figure with a good volume that isn't overwhelming.

The proposed budget and breakdown were reviewed, including the overall (artwork) budget of The

Plaza. During the development agreement, Mr. Beckmann said, Agave made an offer to include 2.7 million dollars toward an art contribution. He noted that verbiage was inserted by the City to also use the funds for public safety. Out of the 2.7 million dollars, Mr. Beckmann said he feels 1.5 million could go toward the original goal of dedicating to Art in Public Places. He emphasized understanding that Public Safety is of the utmost importance to the City and if this is how the funds are used, it would be fine.

It was noted that this artwork exceeds the overall (required) Art in Public Places budget. Mr. Beckmann stated that Agave is committed to putting up the difference to bring this piece to The Plaza.

The schedule and a basic maintenance plan were presented, with Mr. Beckmann noting that Agave is a longtime owner of the property and dedicated to the maintenance of all the artworks.

Mr. Guerrier asked for clarification of the 1.5 million dollars. Staff responded that they are additional funds that were dedicated to the City to use for different items, including public art. Mr. Beckmann stated that the development agreement originally included an offer to contribute an additional 2.7 million dollars for art. The City then added language that modified it so it could be used for art or other purposes, including public safety. He said there is a tentative agreement referenced in resolution 2020-199 that pending sale of property (by the City), funds may be recovered, making 1.5 million available for public art.

Staff clarified that this would be included as part of the resolution when it goes forward to the City Commission and asked if the City Manager is aware of the proposed use of funds. Mr. Beckmann responded that the City Manager is, and the agreement just needs to be formalized.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez asked Mr. Skarstedt if other works were considered. Mr. Skarstedt responded not at this point. He said the artist made a small version of this sculpture for a show at the Gallery and has since been talking about doing a larger version for public display in the U.S. He continued, saying when the project was discussed with the artist, he jumped on the idea to do a monumental scale of this piece. The Gallery asked KAWS if he had other ideas and the artist responded that he felt this would be a perfect piece for the location.

Mr. Kolasiński thanked the presenters, and the Panel continued their discussion.

Ms. Hernandez asked if other artists were recommended by Agave. The Panel discussed the process and options developers have for Art in Public Places. It was noted that the Panel does not have a say in who a Developer proposes; however, the Panel may comment and make recommendations. Ms. Cathers explained that the code specifies that private development projects over one million dollars require 1% of the construction budget be paid to the art fund or they may

request a waiver by purchasing or commission artwork at the same 1% value. It was clarified that maintenance of artworks on the project site would be the responsibility of the developer (or property owner).

At 10:15 the gavel was transferred from Mr. Kolasiński to Vice-Chair, Ms. Hernandez.

Ms. Cathers continued, saying the Panel does not have to make an approving recommendation, there is no obligation for the Panel to recommend what is presented. The Panel discussed that the developer and owner pick artwork they want, (the City) does not. Ms. Cathers added that developers and owners often work with a gallery or consultant. Mr. Roselione-Valadez remarked that if the Panel doesn't recommend an artwork, it can still pass. Staff confirmed and said if the Panel does not recommend a proposal, then comments are requested to forward on to the Cultural Development Board and Commission. The Panel discussed the significance of their recommendation and standing as arts professionals. Staff concurred and said the Cultural Development Board relies on their expertise for guidance.

The Panel continued discussing the proposal. Mr. de León stated that discussions with other presenters included suggestions to do something that is more site specific. Mr. Roselione-Valadez noted that his question to the Gallery wasn't if KAWS was presenting another piece, it was more about if other artists were considered, (knowing) the artists and estates the Gallery represents. He agreed that there may be something more compelling. The Panel agreed and stated that the developer has a difficult job.

Ms. Hernandez asked if the piece is unique, other than the small one previously made and whether there is an edition of the small work. Staff responded that they would find out if the work is part of a series.

Mr. Guerrier stated that the artwork and the artist's art practice is overtly about an image and some of the challenges are (balancing) public and private considerations.

Ms. Hernandez commented that the budget could provide for more art. The Panel agreed.

Mr. Roselione-Valadez observed that as a younger artist this is what he is making now and in ten years he may be making something else as (his practice) develops and changes.

Ms. Hernandez shared her concern that a commercial type of artist makes a lot of money making the same thing because that is what people want them to make.

Ms. Incer expressed concerns about the materials in South Florida and how inclement weather affects these works. She commented on experience with bronze works at the Lowe Art Museum

and emphasized the importance of maintenance. Ms. Cathers responded that she believes the developer is working with RLA on a maintenance plan. Ms. Hernandez asked what assurance there is for continued maintenance if the property is sold. Ms. Cathers said there is a Letter of Understanding that is sent to the developer outlining the obligations for completion of the project prior to TCO, followed by a Restrictive Covenant stating that the artwork stays with the property, must be maintained, and if the artwork is removed the amount of the original fee must be paid back to the art fund.

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 KAWS into The Plaza development project. Mr. Guerrier seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist