

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 11:00 a.m.
Economic and Cultural Development Department**

Arts Advisory Panel Members in Attendance:

Members	Jan	Feb
	'15	'15
Dr. Carol Damian	P	P
Dr. Jill Deupi	P	P
Marijean Miyar	E	P
John Stuart	P	P
Freda Tschumy	P	P

Staff in Attendance:

Cindy Birdsill, Director

Jorge Casuso, Business Development Analyst, Economic and Cultural Development Department

Guests in Attendance:

Uri Man, Area Vice President, Gables Residential

Hugh Johnson, Landscape Architect, Architectural Alliance

Mario Garcia-Serra, Attorney, Gunster

Victor Arias, Artist, Victor Steel Corporation

Motion Summary:

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2015 meeting was passed unanimously.

The Arts Advisory Panel meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m.

1. Review of Minutes from January 20, 2015

Mr. Stuart made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2014 meeting. Dr. Damien seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Review of proposed Art in Public Places project for Columbus Center Phase II, 100 Alhambra Circle

Mr. Johnson told the Board that the January 20, 2015 meeting had been productive and that the developer and artist had looked at the project “in a fresh way” and incorporated the Board’s comments into the new design. Mr. Arias said he had visited the site and toured the City’s residential areas after the Board’s recommendation that the proposed work relate better to the City. One of the sites the artist said he visited was the small public plaza at Granada Boulevard and Alhambra Circle, which served as an inspiration for the new design. He also was inspired by the use of domes and coral rock in buildings across the City. Among the major changes, the new design replaces the proposed globe with a dome that retains the map feature and places it above the fountain. The columns that support the dome would be made to more closely resemble mangrove roots, Mr. Arias said. The columns would connect visually to the abstract sculptures throughout the plaza that resemble sails and serve as planters for bougainvillea. Mr. Man said the revised concept continued to relate to “the narrative of discovery.” Mr. Johnson noted that the new design retains the longitudinal lines cut into the concrete floor of the plaza and creates shady areas that would be more intimate than those in the previous design.

Dr. Damien said that the bougainvillea sculptures “could be very dramatic,” but that the dome was “too busy and distracting.” She added that she didn’t think the columns would “resonate” as mangrove roots and that they were “terribly distracting.” Mr. Stuart said that the globe, the columns and the rectangle shape of the fountain area “don’t work together” and that the railings and ivy around the top didn’t seem integrated into the design. He said the work needed to be a “single integrated gesture.” Dr. Deupi agreed, adding that the proposed design contained mixed metaphors and that the dome clashed with the abstract language of the other features. Mr. Arias noted that the use of a map was fitting in a plaza named after Columbus and that the use of a dome was appropriate in a city that features domes in many of its buildings. Ms. Tschumy said the columns that hold up the dome and serve as the centerpiece look like tangled hair and don’t seem to relate to the rest of the design. She suggested getting rid of the continents on the dome and “integrate something simpler.”

Ms. Miyar said that she liked what the artist did with the planters depicting sails but that the rest of the design seemed “contrived” and that the columns depicting mangroves seemed “misplaced.” She would like the space to be cleaner and include more inviting places to sit. The board discussed whether the sails should point in different directions and agreed that one direction would be best. Ms. Miyar suggested that they should point in the direction of the prevailing wind currents, an idea Mr. Stuart enthusiastically supported. Mr. Stuart suggested lowering the fountain feature to ground level and including a mosaic. Dr. Damien agreed that the raised platform should be removed and suggested incorporating a mosaic map on the floor of the fountain. Mr. Man told the board that the equipment enclosed in the platform could be relocated to another part of the site and landscaped or placed in the garage of the structure. Ms. Miyar suggested that the fountain could be placed closer to the restaurant expected to occupy the ground floor. Dr. Deupi said that overall, the design could be more “restrained” and “elegant,” and Ms. Miyar agreed. Dr. Damien suggested that the developer return to the board with three options for the fountain, a proposed location and how it would be integrated into the design. The developer agreed to return to the Board with revisions.

3. Additional Panel Business

Ms. Birdsill reminded the Board that Jazz in the Gables and the Farmers Market had started and that Friday was Gallery Night and Giralda Under the Stars. She distributed a calendar of events for the City’s cultural grantees and encouraged Board members to attend. She also encouraged them to attend a meeting on Thursday for members of the City’s Boards concerning the Miracle Mile and Giralda Avenue Streetscape Projects.

Ms. Birdsill informed the Board that artist Larry Kirkland’s piece for Gables Station may not be installed after the developers who presented the project to the Board sold the property. She also said that they had heard that the art work the Board approved for the 2020 Salzedo project may not be installed because it proved too costly. The Board members said they liked the two projects and that the developers should be encouraged to move forward with the works.

Board members, however, agreed they were dissatisfied with some of the other projects they had approved. Dr. Damien questioned the qualifications of the artists chosen by the developers and noted that there are many qualified artists who have contributed towards the County’s Art in Public Places program. Board members said they felt pressured to qualify artists when the artist’s qualifications were presented at the same time as the proposed concept. The board recommended that in the future, developers bring one to three possible artists to be qualified before retaining the artist to do a concept. The board recommended that proposed artists present their resume and a portfolio of work to be considered qualified. In addition, Ms. Miyar suggested that developers be provided with a list of recommended artists from which to choose. The board members agreed that they would be able to put together a list of artists they consider qualified. The Board decided to continue the discussion at a future meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jorge Casuso
Business Development Analyst