

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 11:00 a.m.
Economic and Cultural Development Department

EXCERPT MINUTES

Arts Advisory Panel Members in Attendance:

Members	Jan	Feb 3	Feb 17
	'15	'15	'15
Dr. Carol Damian	P	P	P
Dr. Jill Deupi	P	P	E
Marijean Miyar	E	P	P
John Stuart	P	P	P
Freda Tschumy	P	P	P

Staff in Attendance:

Cindy Birdsill, Director, Economic and Cultural Development Department
Jorge Casuso, Business Development Analyst, Economic and Cultural Development Department
Ramon Trias, Director, Planning and Zoning

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

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

Mr. Johnson told the Board that the developer and artist had listened carefully to the Board's comments at the February 3 meeting and developed six schemes, which were narrowed down to the three being proposed. All three schemes place the sail-shaped sculptures that serve as planters for bougainvillea in two rows of five each, install concrete pavers with wave patterns that are referenced in the design of the benches and create a circular fountain with a mosaic of a compass rose inside the basin. The main difference between the proposed schemes is in the placement and size of the fountain. In Scheme 1, the fountain is 19 feet in diameter, surrounded by more open space and placed near the eastern edge of the plaza facing a proposed restaurant. Scheme 2 places the fountain at the center of the plaza. While Scheme 3 is similar to Scheme 1, only the fountain is smaller – 14 feet in diameter – and surrounded by more landscaping. Mr. Johnson said all three plans create flexible spaces for events and use lawn furniture that can be reconfigured.

Ms. Miyar thanked the developer for being thoughtful and making the different options clear. She said she favored Scheme 1 and liked the cluster of trees and the clear identity of the large circular spaces. She added that she also liked the wave patterns in the pavement and the benches and suggested replacing the compass rose mosaic in the fountain with a globe. Dr. Damian said she also favored Scheme 1 and liked a mosaic depicting a globe much more than the proposed compass rose. She added that she also liked the wave patterns and "the idea that there is a vista that provides a lovely shade path." Ms. Tschumy said she liked Scheme 1 "very much" and that the wave patterns and pavement "draw it together." She also liked incorporating the image of the map in the fountain, which should be placed near the restaurant. Ms. Miyar noted that Board's "uniform preference" was Scheme 1 and called it a "compelling space" people would use and enjoy.

Mr. Johnson was asked about the grass proposed for the plaza and said it would be "very high end artificial turf" made from recycled materials. He added that it would not need watering or maintenance and would be soft to walk on and not

hot. Mr. Stuart suggested that the developer provide staff with a sample and that there be a condition that the artificial turf could be replaced with sod at the City's option. Mr. Johnson said it was better to gauge the quality of the artificial turf once it was installed. Mr. Man said that if the City didn't like the result, the developer would replace it later with grass. Ms. Miyar noted that dogs would likely be taken to the plaza and worried about cleaning up after them. Mr. Johnson said the artificial turf was used in dog parks and posed no problems. He added that the turf also provided adequate drainage.

Ms. Tschumy made a motion to recommend a proposal for the Art in Public Places project for Columbus Center Phase II that includes sculpted planters with landscaping, paving, benches and a fountain with a globe mosaic. Dr. Damian seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jorge Casuso
Business Development Analyst