



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
March 25, 2015

ITEM TITLE:

A Resolution approving the concept for a work of public art in conjunction with Columbus Center Phase II /100 Alhambra Circle in fulfillment of the Art in Public Places requirement for public art in private development.

DEPARTMENT HEAD RECOMMENDATION:

Approval

BRIEF HISTORY:

Gables Residential (the "Developer") will be constructing a mixed-use building that includes 200 luxury apartment units at 100 Alhambra Circle as Phase II of Columbus Center and has chosen the option of incorporating art within the development project in partial fulfillment of the Art in Public Places requirement as specified in the Zoning Code, Article 3, Division 21.

The Developer selected Victor Arias (the "Artist") to proceed with a concept design proposal for the artwork. Mr. Arias is a local Miami artist whose works have been installed at several venues in South Florida, including Margaret Pace Park in Miami, Americas on the Park in Ft. Lauderdale and the Shelborne Hotel in Miami Beach.

The Developer commissioned the Artist to create the components for the existing plaza that was part of Phase I of the Columbus Center project and is adjacent to both the existing building at 1 Alhambra Plaza and the proposed building. The goal is to activate a little-used concrete space and make it more inviting by adding landscaping and creating seating areas. The proposed work would pay tribute to the project's namesake, Christopher Columbus, by incorporating the theme of discovery.

The proposal calls for two rows of sail-shaped, powder-coated aluminum sculptures 17 to 18 feet tall that serve as planters for bougainvillea, a circular fountain 19 feet in diameter with a mosaic in the basin depicting a globe and benches and concrete paving with wave patterns in the design. The fountain would operate 24 hours a day and would be surrounded by a seating wall and turf, creating an inviting atmosphere for adjacent restaurant seating. There would be more flexible seating in the lawn area. All of the elements except for the landscaping are considered part of the art component. The concept proposal is attached as Exhibit A to the proposed Resolution.

The cost of the proposed art piece is estimated to be \$432,000, which is less than the required 1% of the Project's budget of \$43,575,798, as shown in Exhibit B attached to the

proposed Resolution. The Developer will pay the balance of \$3,758 to the Art in Public Places fund. Staff reviewed the budget and back up materials.

The Arts Advisory Panel and the Cultural Development Board voted unanimously to recommend the art concept at their respective meetings on February 17, 2015 and February 25, 2015. The Board of Architects approved siting of the piece on March 12, 2015.

Maintenance of the art work will be the sole responsibility of the Developer, in accordance with the City of Coral Gables Art in Public Places: Funding, Goals, and Implementation Guidelines.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Date.	Resolution/Ordinance No.	Comments
N/A		

ADVISORY BOARD/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION(S):

Date.	Board/Committee	Comments
January 20, 2015	Arts Advisory Panel	Recommendation of artist qualification
February 17, 2015	Arts Advisory Panel	Recommendation of approval of concept
February 25, 2015	Cultural Development Board	Recommendation of approval of concept
March 12, 2015	Board of Architects	Recommended approval of siting

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: (If Applicable)

No.	Amount	Source of Funds
N/A		

APPROVED BY:

Department Director	City Attorney	City Manager
		

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Proposed Resolution with depiction of project concept and preliminary budget (Exhibits A and B)
2. Excerpt Minutes from the Arts Advisory Panel meeting of January 20, 2015
3. Excerpt Minutes from the Arts Advisory Panel meeting of February 3, 2015
4. Excerpt Minutes from the Arts Advisory Panel meeting of February 17, 2015
5. Excerpt Minutes from the Cultural Development Board meeting of February 25, 2015
6. Approved recommendation from the Board of Architect's meeting of March 12, 2015