

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

**Arts Advisory Panel Members in Attendance:**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb 3</b>	<b>Feb 17</b>
	'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

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**Motion Summary:**

**A motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2015 meeting was passed unanimously.**

**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 passed unanimously.**

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The Arts Advisory Panel meeting was called to order at 11:01 a.m.

**1. Review of Minutes from February 3, 2015**

**Dr. Damian made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2015 meeting. Mr. Stuart 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 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.**

### **3. Additional Panel Business**

Ms. Birdsill informed the Board that the developer of the proposed project at 2020 Salgado had been asked to present an update of the proposed Art in Public Places Project by artist Naomi Fisher approved by the Board last year. She said the developer had increased the height of one of the buildings and was not yet ready to make a presentation. Ms. Birdsill distributed a Miami Herald article titled “The Arts Bring in Big Bucks,” which describes the economic impact of the arts on a community.

The Board continued its discussion of how to better insure the quality of artists chosen for Art in Public Places projects. Dr. Damian suggested compiling a list of artists based on those recommended for public art projects by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs. She agreed to provide a preliminary list of artists from which the Board can choose. Board members agreed developers would not be restricted to the names on the list but would present several candidates for a project. They also agreed that the artists should not be present when the Board discusses their qualifications. The Board agreed to continue the discussion at its next meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Jorge Casuso  
Business Development Analyst