

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 8:00 a.m.
Economic & Cultural Development Department
1 Alhambra Plaza, Suite 617, Coral Gables, Florida 33134**

MINUTES

MEMBERS	A#	S	O	O*	N^	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	COMMISSIONERS
	'14	'14	'14	'14	'14	'14	'15	'15	'14	'14	'14	'14	'14	
Meg Daly (Chair)	E	-	P	E	P	-	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	Mayor Jim Cason
Erica Guzman	P	-	A	P	P	-	A	A	P	P	P	P	P	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Bruce B. Litwer	P	-	P	P	P	-	P	P	~	~	~	~	~	Commissioner Patricia Keon
Nan Markowitz	P	-	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	Commissioner Vince Lago
Andrea Cole (Vice-Chair)	P	-	E	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Frank Quesada
Irene Tapanes	P	-	P	P	E	-	P	P	~	~	~	~	~	City Manager
Rosa Maria Mayorga	P	-	P	P	P	-	P	E	P	P	P	A	P	Board-As-A-Whole

Regular Meeting + FY2013-2014 Grants Workshop
*Regular Meeting + FY12-13 Grants Final Report Review
^Regular Meeting + FY13-14 Grants Scoring Review

A = Absent
P = Present
- = No Meeting
~ = Prior to appointment
E = Excused

Additional Attendees:

Uri Man, Area Vice President, Gables Residential
Hugh Johnson, Landscape Architect, Architectural Alliance
Mario Garcia-Serra, Attorney, Gunster
Victor Arias, Artist, Victor Steel Corporation
Margie Lopez, General Manager, Miami Bach Society
Cindy Birdsill, Director, Economic & Cultural Development Department
Jorge Casuso, Business Development Analyst, Economic & Cultural Development Department
Laura

Motion Summary:

A motion to approve the minutes from the January 28, 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.

A motion to accept the changes to the Miami Bach Society's schedule of concerts in Coral Gables funded by the City passed unanimously.

Ms. Daly called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

1. Review of Minutes from January 28, 2015

Ms. Markowitz made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2015 meeting. Ms. Tapanes seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Birdsill informed the Board that the proposed artwork would be installed in the plaza of a 200-unit luxury apartment building with the lower floors comprised of retail and commercial use. Mr. Man said that the total construction cost of the development would be \$43,757,000, 1 percent of which would go towards the proposed Art in Public Places Project. Staff was asked if it had reviewed the proposed budget, and Ms. Birdsill said she had and that the proposed project met the requirements. Mr. Garcia-Serra told the Board that the existing plaza is underutilized likely because of its exposure to the sun and elements. The goal is to “activate the space” and “provide shade and enhancements.” The proposed work would pay tribute to the project’s namesake, Christopher Columbus, by incorporating the theme of discovery. Mr. Johnson said the developer had been working with staff and made three presentations to the Arts Advisory Panel before the current proposal was recommended. He said everyone on the panel and on his team was pleased with the proposal.

Mr. Johnson displayed renderings of the concept and explained that the plaza’s existing fountain is “very bare” and the space is “very hot.” He said the proposed work would “elaborate on the age of discovery, bringing the old world to the new world.” The proposal calls for two rows of sail-shaped, powder-covered 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. Mr. Man said the goal is to create an inviting space that would be comfortable and added that two public paseos would lead into the plaza, which would serve as the proposed project’s “front door.” The Board said they were pleased with the proposal.

Ms. Cole 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. Ms. Tapanes seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. Miami Bach Society Grant Schedule Change (Action)

Ms. Lopez informed the Board that the Miami Bach Society had modified the Tropical Baroque Music Festival and was requesting a modification to its grant agreement. She said the group’s board had voted to shorten the festival to four days but would consider the concerts given during the year part of the festival. The Board also decided to increase the number of events in Coral Gables from five to seven, including three musical fundraisers at private homes that charge more than the concerts. Ms. Cole noted that the City only funds events that are open to the public and that the fundraisers would not count. Ms. Lopez said that four of the events in the City met the criteria.

Ms. Markowitz made a motion to accept the revision of the Bach Society grant to include all public events held within the City of Coral Gables during the current fiscal year. Mr. Litwer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Other Topics (Discussion)

Ms. Markowitz suggested that written correspondence, like the one from the Miami Bach Society, be emailed to the Board before the meeting for review. Ms. Birdsill said that staff would do so. Ms. Daly noted that the Board had discussed holding fewer meetings. Ms. Birdsill said that there was no pressing business in April and that the makeup of the Board would change after the April election. Ms. Cole noted that she would term out after having served on the Board for eight years. The Board agreed not to hold an April meeting, since there was no action item on the upcoming agenda. Ms. Cole said Board members have a responsibility to attend the cultural events the Board votes to fund that they can gauge audience size and response, as well as the quality of the performances of the presenting groups. Ms. Birdsill distributed a schedule of cultural events in Coral Gables; a schedule of performances by Shen Yun, which promotes ancient Chinese culture, and a Miami Herald article titled “The Arts Bring in Big Bucks,” which describes the economic impact of the arts on a community. Ms. Tapanes reported that she had participated in a branding meeting and was impressed.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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