

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-1
May 12, 2015
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Jim Cason
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick**

City Staff

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Cultural Development Director, Cindy Birdsill**

Public Speaker(s)

Time Certain: Agenda Item H-1 [10:37:35 a.m.]

A Resolution approving the concept for a work of public art in conjunction with the mixed-use project at 2020 Salzedo Street, in fulfillment of the Art in Public Places requirement for public art in private development.

Mayor Cason: We have two Time Certain Items that weren't certain, but we'll do them anyway. We'll start with H-1.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Do we need to approve the minutes from the last meeting?

Mayor Cason: I don't have any minutes.

Vice Mayor Quesada: OK.

Mayor Cason: City Manager.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Yes sir. There are only two items that are time certain. One is related to 2020 Salzedo Street, it's an Art in Public Places. You all have met individually with staff on the item. I believe all your questions have been answered, but we are prepared to make a full presentation, if the Commission so desires.

Mayor Cason: Anybody want a presentation?

Vice Mayor Quesada: What I would like, I'm in support of it. I have seen it, however just for the benefit for those at home, is it possible, at least show the art on TV on the screen?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And you'll remember where the Art in Public Places, there is a percent that has to go for public art and there is a provision that allows the developer to propose it on site and incorporate it in its exterior architecture, and so that's what this presentation is about.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I don't know if any other Commissioner needs it. I don't need the full presentation, I'm just asking if you can just show a picture and a brief explanation of what the art proposed is.

Ms. Birdsill: While they are setting up. The artist that they selected is Naomi Fisher. She is a local artist who is internationally known. She has some of her work at the PAM. She is going to be doing freezes on the exterior of the building that have a flora motif that relates to Miami's flora. She has done something similar at Fairchild and I'll let Andrew give you a little bit more detail.

Mr. Andrew Fray: Hello, Andrew Fray. I'll be very brief Commissioners. So we have an office building and a residential building at 2020 Salzedo with the Art in Public Places component, and in looking into different art options we found kind of the perfect blend of artwork that complements the architecture of the building and the aesthetic of Coral Gables. And this is as was mentioned Naomi Fisher, she does these freezes, which are carved panels that are laid on the architecture of the building for decorative and artistic effect. This is an example of her work at Fairchild, which is the first time she's done these freezes. We saw it and we said, got to have that on our building. So what we've done here is and this is the finished product, you can see how her carving and her artistic panels blend with the precast on the rest of the building as soon as we cast, and this is panel how she works.

Vice Mayor Quesada: You know it reminds me a little bit of the museum with the firefighters, but obviously with the Fairchild flower theme.

Mr. Fray: Yes – this is kind of an art form that is historically linked to South Florida. You’ll see art deco freezes in South Beach, you’ll see Mediterranean, and flora and fauna freezes here in Coral Gables. So it hasn’t happened in a long time, except for some limited examples, we are trying to bring out a very large example – so this is her process at Fairchild, she carves the panel and foam, then cast it in a resin, and then uses a plaster, a mix of...cement, sand and hardening agents to cast individual panels from the mold. So she’ll use a similar process for our building. On the office building, we have her doing a five-story massive freeze at the corner in full view of the public, so this is a freeze that will read, not only from far away, but as you approach you’ll see some rich detailing that she is proposing, and I’ll show you some example panels in a second, but you can see we have bases, have fluting around the first two stories, with palm fronds and palm trunks in the second – third and fourth floors, and kind of a topping off flourish on the top with some up-turned palm fronds, more fluting; and on the residential side of the building, the residential corner, because the Colonnade comes out right to the property line, she put the freeze in the Colonnade so that people as pedestrians are walking in the covered portion they’ll be able to experience some freeze in the Colonnade as well, and here’s what that looks like. It goes the full height of the Colonnade, framing the main residential entrance dooring and continuing the fluting, palm trunks and palm fronds motif on the larger one. We are hoping to get your conceptual approval today, and continue on with detailing and creating the artwork. We have paid Naomi to begin her sketches, her studies, her artistic endeavor, and I’m going to show you three samples of some of the sketches that she’s already produced, but obviously it’s going to be a very detailed creative process for her going forward with your approval. So this is a detail of the office corner where palm trunks and palm fronds meet a band of fluting and she’s going to create a special artistic corner piece there with a native species of bird. I’m not sure what she’s going to pick, that’s kind of a detail how the freeze panels are going to come together. This is a detail of one of her palm frond panels and it will be basically a two to three inch thick panel, and she’ll carve about an inch deep into it, so you’ll see the shadow play and contours and the texture in the panel, but then it will have a certain amount of thickness of the solid panel which will be the structural support, and then final panel. This is part of the fluting and you can see along the bottom, she is proposing to do the fluting that reads very well from across the street from far away, kind of a monumental gesture, but then when you get close she wants to put these little motif of a palm frond along the bottom, so that as a pedestrian comes closer there are still kind of details that are coming out that are revealing themselves. We think it’s a great concept, we think it’s beautiful, we think it complements City of Coral Gables greatly, supports a local artist, and will provide a beautiful artistic work really in full view of everyone in the City.

Mayor Cason: Sounds good.

Vice Mayor Quesada: If there is no other conversation, I’ll make a motion to approve.

Mayor Cason: Vice Mayor makes a motion.

Commissioner Lago: Second the motion.

Mayor Cason: Mr. Lago seconds.

City Clerk

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Cason: Thank you very much.

Mr. Fray: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you.

[End: 10:45:19 a.m.]