



DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Wednesday, October 24, 2018 9:00 a.m.**

**CORAL GABLES MUSEUM
285 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables, Florida 33134**

*Historical Resources &
Cultural Arts*

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MEMBERS	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O
	17	17	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Herbert Brito*						P	P	-	P	E	P	A
Dr. Carol Damian	-	-	P	P	-	P	P	-	P	P	P	P
Dr. Jill Deupi	-	-	P	P	-	E	E	-	P	P	P	P
Lauren Hall	-	-	E	P	-	P	P	-	E	P	^	^
Jacek Kolasiński*			P	P	-	P	P	-	P	P	P	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez	-	-	E	P	-	P	P	-	P	P	P	E
Freda Tschumy	-	-	P	P	-	P	P	-	E	P	P	P

LEGEND: A = Absent; P = Present; E = Excused; * = New Member; ^= Resigned Member;
- = No Meeting + = Special Meeting

STAFF:

Dona Spain, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director
Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts

GUESTS:

Venny Torre, President of the Business Improvement District; Barbara Tria, Vice-President of the Business Improvement District; Taciana Amador, Executive Director, Business Improvement District

MEETING RECORD / MINUTES PREPARATION: Catherine Cathers, Arts & Culture Specialist, Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department

Dr. Damian called the Arts Advisory Panel meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

The Panel was advised of the absence of Mr. Roselione-Valadez. The Panel-as-a-whole accepted Mr. Roselione-Valadez's absence as excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 26, 2018:

A motion was made by Dr. Deupi and seconded by Mr. Kolasiński to approve the meeting minutes of September 26, 2018 as presented, which was unanimously passed as by voice vote.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

a. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

Venny Torre, Barbara Tria, and Taciana Amador from the Business Improvement District came before the Panel to discuss public art in the downtown district. The Panel and staff provided an update about the Hank Willis Thomas installations taking place along Miracle Mile. Ms. Tria stated that the property

owner of McBride Plaza agreed to have one of the benches temporarily installed on site and the Panel agreed that the location is also well suited for the Art Basel VIP reception.

Discussion continued about plans for public art on Giralda Avenue and whether the truss system used for Umbrella Sky could function as an opportunity for temporary public art activations. The Panel discussed a desire to commission a well-established artist for an initial opportunity and recommended issuing a Call for Art for future installations. The Panel estimated a budget of around \$200,000 for a commission of this scope and scale.

The Panel discussed their assessment of incorporating permanent art along Miracle Mile. Ms. Cathers reviewed the artwork selection options for the City. It was agreed that previously submitted proposals were of high quality, but not the right fit. The Panel agreed that the design of the streetscape has strong visual elements including the paving, benches, and landscapes making it challenging to incorporate artwork. BID members recommended staying away from forcing an artwork onto the location. The Panel agreed to continue to let the streetscape “breathe” before moving forward with a new recommendation.

The BID expressed a desire to meet bi-annually to discuss future public art initiatives and opportunities to collaborate with the City, Chamber, and other partners. The Panel responded positively and suggested meeting in the early Spring and Fall of each year.

The Panel thanked Mr. Torre, Ms. Tria, and Ms. Amador for attending. They thanked the Panel in return and left the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. HANK WILLIS THOMAS, SCULPTURE ACQUISITIONS

Staff updated the Panel on the progress of the Hank Willis Thomas sculptural benches currently being fabricated and were advised of the locations of the benches throughout the City in parks and green spaces. Staff asked the Panel to consider recommending permanent acquisition of the artworks and stated an anticipated estimate of \$200,000 for all four benches.

The Panel asked if art acquisition funds are currently available for this purpose. Staff responded yes and said another option would be to acquire one or more. The Panel agreed that it would be a shame not to have all four.

Dr. Damian asked what the City is doing to share the message about the artist and project, noting that Hank Willis Thomas is a very important artist and the public would benefit from knowing more about the project. Staff responded that a press release is in process, a posting will be on the City’s E-News, the project will have dedicated space on the City’s Art in Public Places web-page, and ads will be placed in the Herald and other publications.

Dr. Deupi announced the Lowe Art Museum events running during Miami art week featuring the artist and branded with his support. She stated that Mr. Thomas will give a talk and tour of his works in Coral Gables. In addition, she said, the scheduled events will be sent to the Lowe’s list serve. Dr. Deupi shared that as soon as the Lowe’s 2019 speaker is confirmed, she will let the City know.

Ms. Cathers said the City is working with the Business Improvement District to use a storefront on Miracle Mile as a pop-up exhibition space with an activation of silver mylar balloons printed with speech bubbles that people can write personal truths on. The artist's studio, she said, supports social, interactive moments such as this. The intent, Ms. Cathers said, is to staff the space the first week of December and possibly additional times during the exhibition. Ms. Cathers stated that the artist has titled the Coral Gables exhibition "The truth is I welcome you."

Ms. Cathers shared that the Coral Gables Community Foundation is interested in hosting a community conversation evening in the exhibition space with leaders from the Foundation.

Dr. Damian asked about the schedule of activities. Ms. Cathers stated that on Sunday, December 9th, the City will host an early morning reception at 8:30 a.m. and a trolley will be available to take people from the reception to the Lowe Art Museum for the Bubbles and Brunch, followed by the artist's talk.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Ms. Tschumy made a motion recommending acquisition of the four sculptural benches by Hank Willis Thomas as presented. Dr. Deupi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. PONCE CIRCLE PARK

The Panel was provided with copies of a draft design layout of "Ponce Circle Park", located across from The Plaza development. Staff reported on the meeting City staff held with the developers and asked for input from the Panel regarding artist involvement in the project. The Panel discussed briefly and agreed that having an artist as part of the design team would be beneficial for including art in the project early on. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Ms. Tschumy made a motion recommending artist involvement in the design process of Ponce Circle Park. Dr. Deupi seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

a. GIRALDA AVENUE, SIBYLLE PASCHE

The Panel was invited to the dedication of the Giralda Avenue public art sculptures by Sibylle Pasche on Wednesday, November 28th at 5:30 p.m. They were informed that the artist will be installing the sculptures the week prior to the dedication and will not be in attendance. Panel members were invited to meet the artist during her time in Coral Gables.

b. BALBOA PLAZA, ARTWORK DEDICATION

The Panel was invited to the dedication of the Balboa Plaza public artwork by Roberto Behar and Rosario Marquardt being hosted by MG Developer on Friday, November 30th at 5:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. PUBLIC ART DONATION – CIFO COLLECTION, FREDY ALZATE GOMEZ

Ms. Spain advised the Panel that the Cultural Development Board expressed the same concerns as the Panel regarding the public art donation from CIFO and did not recommend acceptance of the artwork.

However, she reported, the City Commission accepted the public art donation after receiving the recommendation of the Panel through the Mayor. Ms. Spain said that the City Attorney is being asked to respond and that minutes from both the Panel and Board will be forwarded to the Commission.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were no discussion items.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

The Panel was informed that the City Manager will attend the next meeting on November 28th.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dona M. Spain
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director