

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: DONA M. SPAIN
HISTORICAL RESOURCES &
CULTURAL ARTS DIRECTOR

DATE: JANUARY 07, 2019

SUBJECT: *VACUUS*, BY FREDY ALZATE
ASSESSMENT

FROM: CATHERINE CATHERS
ARTS & CULTURE SPECIALIST



At your request in response to the direction of the City Commission to establish maintenance needs of the donation *Vacuus*, professional art conservator Emily MacDonald-Korth was asked to assess the artwork and respond with her findings. The below is her brief summary:

“The piece is made of many large tubes that are simply resting on one another; these absolutely need to be bolted together for safety (they were previously). Sergio (with CIFO) said the piece does not need to be configured in exactly the same position so we/the artist could make a site specific configuration. The artist claims the piece is made from materials that can sustain an exterior location but I have doubts about this; I will get details about exact materials from the artist. I saw several areas of vulnerability including a surface that will collect dirt/dust/debris, each tube was cut in half for shipping and glued back together which means those seams are a weak spots, sharp edges and interior surfaces, possibly fragile construction overall (I need more info from the artist on this). I think placing the sculpture on a raised platform in an interior location with each tube bolted down is a good plan.”

Ms. MacDonald-Korth is awaiting further documents from CIFO along with an introduction to the artist to ask further questions.