



DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING**

Wednesday, March 27, 2019 9:00 a.m.

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

*Historical Resources &
Cultural Arts*

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MEMBERS	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	19	19	19
Herbert Brito*	P	P	-	P	E	P	E	P	-	P	P	P
Dr. Carol Damian	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	P
Dr. Jill Deupi	E	E	-	P	P	P	P	E	-	P	P	E
Emily MacDonald-Korth*								P	-	E	E	P
Jacek Kolasiński	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P		P	E	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez	P	P	-	P	P	P	E	P	-	P	P	E
Freda Tschumy	P	P	-	E	P	P	P	P	-	A	P	E

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

Carlos Mindreau, City Architect

GUESTS:

Roberto Behar, R & R Studios; Rosario Marquardt, R & R Studios; Jessy Nite; Samantha Gonzalez

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 9:04 a.m.

All present introduced themselves.

The Panel was advised of the absences of Dr. Deupi, Juan Roselione-Valadez and Freda Tschumy. The Panel-as-a-whole accepted Dr. Deupi, Juan Roselione-Valadez and Freda Tschumy's absences as excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 27, 2019:

A motion was made by Mr. Brito and seconded by Mr. Kolasiński to approve the meeting minutes of February 27, 2019, which was unanimously passed by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. DEVELOPER ART IN PUBLIC PLACES FEE WAIVER REQUEST FOR 735 & 743 ALMERIA AVE. – ARTWORK PROPOSAL BY R & R STUDIOS

Ms. Cathers advised the Panel of two motions being sought: one recommending approval to combine the Art in Public Places (AiPP) fee allocations for the two properties of 735 & 743 Almeria Avenue; and the other recommending approval of a waiver of the Art in Public Places fee in lieu of commissioning and donating the public art piece “Coral Carpet” by R&R Studios (Roberto Behar and Rosario Marquardt).

Ms. Cathers reviewed the process of this Panel making their recommendations to the Cultural Development Board, which will review the recommendation of the Panel and makes a final recommendation to the City Commission.

Ms. Cathers stated that the concept is similar to the process and ultimate approval of the artwork “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”, which combined AiPP fees of two development projects and used the fees toward commissioning and donating artwork at Balboa Plaza. This project, she said, also seeks to use combined fees to commission a companion piece for “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” by the same artists, Roberto Behar and Rosario Marquardt, at Balboa Plaza. Ms. Cathers explained that neither project has enough AiPP required fees for an artwork and combining the fees will allow for a more substantial and impactful piece.

Prior to reviewing the artist’s proposal, the Panel discussed the combination of the AiPP fees and made the following motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Brito to recommend combining the Art in Public Place fee allocations for 735 & 743 Almeria Avenue. Ms. MacDonald-Korth seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Behar and Ms. Marquardt presented a PowerPoint presentation for the Panel. The artists referred to previous work, including “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and stated how the project was dear to them as a community artwork, not just a sculpture, acting as a social sculpture at the transitional space between the commercial and residential neighborhoods.

Mr. Behar spoke of inspiration throughout their career of bringing interior space outdoors and bringing landscape components indoors, including a reference to their work in the garden room at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens.

Ms. Marquardt continued, saying the original project proposal for Balboa Plaza included a “carpet” in front of the sofa and there were not enough funds to incorporate the piece at that time. Mr. Behar agreed, saying this proposal completes the project and compliments the original piece. He showed examples of how rugs or carpets are used in domestic space.

The material for the proposed artwork carpet, the artists said, is terrazzo with flower (design pieces) inlaid within the terrazzo. Mr. Behar stated that the pattern of the flowers is designed in various stages of blooming, in action, and the flower is a symbol of friendship, bringing people together. The terrazzo, the artists said, will be a coral color and the pattern will allow viewers to see the carpet more than the “floor.”

Mr. Behar showed images of the proposed artwork carpet in context to the artwork sofa. With the sofa, lights, and banyan tree, he said the carpet completes the living room. He provided dimensions of the artwork, stating that the size was determined for greater harmony between the pieces and sized not to overtake the artwork sofa.

Material samples were passed around to Board members.

The artists stated that terrazzo is being proposed to create a softer and more textile look. Ms. Marquardt added that the mixture of the terrazzo is being worked on to further this objective. Examples of previous terrazzo work by the artists was shown and Mr. Behar added that the material will wear well outdoors and won't be slippery.

Mr. Behar explained the process of laying a concrete foundation of about 6-8 inches thick with a steel edge around the perimeter to be flush with the terrazzo. He explained that each piece will be inlaid with no division between the colors to further the look of a carpet. The crucial part, he said, is laying out the pattern piece by piece, then pouring the additional (terrazzo) color.

Dr. Damian thanked the artists and asked for comments from the Panel. She asked about maintenance and how it will respond to weather conditions and sunlight.

Ms. Marquardt responded that there are two types of terrazzo, old and new, and they will be using the new version with epoxy, most suited for outdoors. Ms. Spain stated that the Miracle Theater includes both old and new terrazzo with the new portion around the outer rim. Ms. Marquardt stated that the material is more durable and has better color choices. Ms. MacDonald-Korth noted the terrazzo type referenced in the materials is a polyacrylate. She went on to say that the polyacrylate has acrylic and fillers that act like cement and should be very stable and fine for exterior use. She asked that the artists confirm the materials and offered to confer with the artists. The artists responded with appreciation.

Ms. Cathers asked how the material would respond to plant material, as it would be placed under the tree and will be further exposed to grass clippings from landscape maintenance. Ms. MacDonald-Korth said she was concerned about surface marring and cleaning. Ms. Spain agreed that more information is needed about maintaining the artwork.

Mr. Brito asked how expansion will be avoided, if there are expansion joints, and how the artwork will be contained. The artists responded that they are trying not to have expansion joints and have been discussing with the Engineer how to address this. They expressed how it would be a pity to divide the work and that the long and narrow shape may help. Mr. Brito suggested a French type, or even burying underground. Mr. Behar stated that there will be an edge around the work and showed an image of the steel plating and thickness. He said it will go around the slab and will be flush with the terrazzo.

Mr. Kolasiński asked about roots or possible soft ground. Mr. Behar said a much larger foundation will be used and there will be further discussions regarding the site and expansion joints.

Ms. Spain noted that the terrazzo within the Museum was allowed to crack. The artists stated that this could be done and is beautiful and unique. Ms. Cathers agreed and, if so, the public needs to know from the beginning of the project that natural cracking is possible.

Mr. Brito asked about access to the site and adherence to ADA. Ms. Cathers responded that as a work of art, the City determined it complies. She went on to say that if there is a City sponsored event at the space, temporary access will be included through police assistance, MOT, and mats placed on the grass.

Ms. MacDonald-Korth asked if the artists have done terrazzo like this on a similar substrate. The artists said yes, in Arizona, where they also received a national terrazzo award. She asked how the work looks now and if there are cracks. They responded that it looks great and are unaware of cracks. Ms. Cathers asked if it was possible to do a test section. Mr. Behar stated that the reputation of the developer and construction company are at stake and they will do what is needed to make sure the work is in good shape and looks good. He said they want it to last permanently. Ms. MacDonald-Korth said she has further questions and can continue the conversation with the artists via email. Ms. Cathers asked that notes and comments be forwarded to staff to keep on file with the project.

The Board agreed that the design is beautiful.

The artists thanked the Panel, who thanked the artists, and left the meeting.

Dr. Damian asked if Panel members had questions about the budget. No one had questions. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Mr. Brito to recommend approval of the waiver request to commission and donate to the City the artwork “Coral Carpet” by R & R Studios as presented. Ms. MacDonald-Korth seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES

a. GIRALDA SKY – JESSY NITE

Ms. Cathers reported that the City Commission approved the Giralda Sky “Sun Stories” project by Jessy Nite. She introduced the artist and studio manager, Samantha Gonzalez. The artist, she said, is addressing the Panel to provide an update and request any feedback regarding the text. Ms. Cathers said the artist has met with staff and conducted a site visit of Coral Gables. The PowerPoint presentation used for the City Commission meeting was projected for reference.

Ms. Nite expressed her excitement about the project and spoke about the concept of the sun activating the piece as it moves, and the day progresses, making the text move and change. She stated that the material is a ¼ inch UV proof plexiglass in a range of colors, color being a theme within her work.

The Panel was presented with a draft of the text. Ms. Nite stated that the text continues to be developed and is intended to be fun, aspirational, thoughtful, nostalgic, with references to culture, punny, and includes deeper and obscure (words and phrases). She noted the use of other languages and Ms. Cathers referenced the Hank Willis Thomas speech bubble artwork signs on Miracle Mile that also include text and languages spoken in Coral Gables.

Ms. Nite provided information about the fabricator and their experience. She noted that she is using individual letters as they are easier to contain and install for stability. Ms. Nite added that additional work is being done developing the hardware and installation method so the letters will not hit against each other. She added that the acrylic material is extremely difficult to break.

Each word (or phrase), Ms. Nite said, is a different color with the idea to have a canopy of letters. Having the truss system in place, she added, is important and helpful for this project.

Ms. Spain stated that Vice Mayor Lago asked where (the artwork) is going after (the installation) is over and will the City own it. She said the Commission was very enthusiastic and it's a conversation (the Panel) may want to have.

Mr. Kolasiński asked about the suspension system and weight of the materials. Ms. Nite responded that it's designed to handle the weight and is working with the same people she worked with on previous suspension pieces. Ms. Nite added that the piece is easy to disassemble and once the piece is on the cables, the cables can be removed. The hardware, she said, is easily adjustable on site and expressed she's confident the installation will be straight forward.

Mr. Kolasiński shared that he worked on a project with huge structures that required withstanding high winds. The company he worked with, the Swiss company Jacobs, did a lot of rigging and offered to forward information about the company to the artist.

Mr. Brito expressed concern that the hardware shows a lot of metal that, when hot, could affect the plexiglass. He suggested creating a buffer between the hardware and plexiglass. Ms. Nite stated that she has not encountered this with similar projects, each piece is individually mounted, and she will research further.

The Panel thanked Ms. Nite and Ms. Gonzalez for addressing the Panel. With no further comments they thanked the Panel and left the meeting.

b. PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Staff reported that over 100 public comments have been submitted regarding the Public Safety Building public art proposals and the review meeting needs to be scheduled with this Panel, the Police and Fire Chiefs, and representative of the Cultural Development Board. The Panel was asked if the meeting could follow the next regularly scheduled Arts Advisory Panel meeting of April 24th. The Panel agreed.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS

a. ART IN PUBLIC PLACES ORDINANCE

Staff reported that updates to the Art in Public Places Ordinance passed on second reading with an amendment to modify the Municipal threshold from \$100,000 to \$500,000. The Panel was reminded that the Historic Art Fund is being eliminated and the balance of the Historic Art Fund is being transferred to the Art Acquisition Fund.

b. CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP - REPORT

Staff reported that the Mayor and Vice Mayor attended the City Commission workshop to discuss incentives for gallery and artist in residence programs. Dr. Damian attended along with staff from planning and zoning, economic development, gallery owners, and private developers. Staff reported that the meeting was well received with interest from the Commission, developers, and gallery owners to move forward in developing a proposal. Staff stated that next steps include meeting further with internal staff and continuing discussions with developers/owners and galleries.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Ms. Cathers reported that the Cultural Development Board is attending the next Arts Advisory Panel on April 24th.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

There were no items from the secretary.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dona M. Spain
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director