



DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, April 2, 2019 8:30 a.m.
Coral Gables Museum
285 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables, Florida 33134**

*Historical Resources &
Cultural Arts*

2327 SALZEDO STREET
CORAL GABLES
FLORIDA 33134

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MEMBERS	M	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	D	J	F	M	M	A	APPOINTED BY:
	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	19	19	19	19	19	
Leslie Pantin	P	P	P	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	Mayor Raul Valdes- Fauli
Dr. Fernando Alvarez- Perez	P	P	E	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor Vince Lago
Betty Horwitz	P	P	E	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Pat Keon
Frank Martinez*												P	P	E	P	Commissioner Michael Mena
Geannina A. Burgos Vice-Chair	P	P	P	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Frank C. Quesada
Dr. Bernice Roth Chair	P	P	P	-	-	-	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Dr. Rosa Maria Mayorga	P	P	P	-	-	-	P	P	P	A	P	E	P	E	P	Board Appointee

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

STAFF:

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

GUESTS:

Adriana Meneses

RECORDING AND PREPARATION OF MINUTES: Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist,
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts

Dr. Roth called the Cultural Development Board meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. and read aloud the City's
False Claims Ordinance.

Board members introduced themselves.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 5, 2019:

**Dr. Mayorga made a motion to approve the minutes of March 5, 2019. Mr. Pantin
seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 20, 2019:

Ms. Horwitz made a motion to approve the minutes of March 20, 2019. Dr. Alvarez-Perez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES:

a. **ADRIANA MENESES RE. MENINAS STREET GALLERY**

Adriana Meneses introduced herself and addressed the Board with a proposal to present the Meninas Street Gallery project in Coral Gables.

Ms. Meneses shared her background, stating that she is Venezuelan and was the previous Director of Culture for the City of Caracas, Venezuela from 1990-1995. The Meninas project, she said, was initially presented in Spain and is a series of painted sculptural replicas of the famous Menina symbol based on the original 1656 painting of La Menina by Valázquez. Ms. Meneses stated that Antonio Azzato, also Venezuelan, is the artist and creator of the Meninas Street Gallery project and designed the sculptural form.

The Board was presented with the project proposal, which was also projected as a PowerPoint presentation, and with a book of the exhibition in Spain. The dimensions of each Menina were stated as 1.8 meters high by 1.4 meters wide with an approximate weight of 30kg. Ms. Meneses said that a series of the works would be sponsored, painted with various designs, and after a three-month exhibition the works would be auctioned to benefit charity. People mostly heard about the project, she said, through social media and an advertising campaign.

Ms. Horwitz asked who promotes the project and decides the artists. Ms. Meneses responded that in Spain, the artist sought out artists. In this case, she said, she and the project partners would be involved in the artist selection. Ms. Burgos asked if there would be a Call for Art, similar to the Venice in the Gables project. Ms. Meneses said some may be professional artists and some celebrity personalities may be asked to participate. Ms. Burgos asked if artists would be given an honorarium. Ms. Meneses did not have information to respond; however, she said that each piece would be \$5,000 and sponsors are currently being sought.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez mentioned that the artist Manolo Valdes has a residence in the community and is known for his work with the Menina image. He asked if it would be overstepping, since he is famous for using the same iconic form. Ms. Meneses said it would be great to have Mr. Valdes involved and that she knows the artist and his wife. She went on to say it is a different concept and would be happy to speak with him.

Ms. Spain mentioned that the City recently produced the Venice in the Gables project and it may be too soon to do a similar concept. The Board agreed. She mentioned that it was difficult to get sponsors at the time and the cost was much less. Ms. Meneses stated the intent is to have the project in December, before Art Basel and that she is seeking sponsors in other municipalities as well. Ms. Horwitz expressed support if the City is not paying for it.

Ms. Burgos asked how it would intersect with Art Basel. Dr. Alvarez-Perez said he thought it was more commercial than artistic and expressed concern about how compatible it would be with the City's goal of being an arts destination.

Dr. Mayorga asked what Ms. Meneses is asking from the City. Ms. Meneses responded that she would like a recommendation to the City Commission and mentioned that other cities are considering it, such as Doral. The Board was told that the project is being proposed as a county-wide exhibition. Dr. Alvarez-Perez said the time is tight and usually projects like these take at least a year.

With no further questions, the Board thanked Ms. Meneses, who thanked the Board and left the meeting.

The Board discussed the proposal and brought up the Mediterranean connection, locations, the sense that residents would assume it's a City project, similar projects through the years in multiple neighborhoods such as Coconut Grove, Little Havana, South Miami, etc.; how many the City may want and what would make it unique for Coral Gables if they were sited throughout the County. The Board discussed the proposed exhibition during Art Basel and agreed that it isn't the best time for the project. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Dr. Alvarez-Perez not to recommend the project. Mr. Pantin asked for a friendly amendment to accept it, but with a limited number of pieces. Dr. Alvarez-Perez did not accept the amendment to the proposal. The motion carried and was seconded by Mr. Martinez. Dr. Alvarez-Perez, Mr. Martinez, Dr. Mayorga, and Dr. Roth voted in favor of the motion; Ms. Horwitz, Ms. Burgos, and Mr. Pantin were opposed. The motion passed.

CULTURAL GRANT ITEMS

a. CULTURAL GRANT FUNDING MATCH

The Board discussed the number of organizations requesting program changes based on the inability to secure enough funding. Ms. Cathers stated that the current match for cultural grant funds is 30%. After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Ms. Burgos to increase Cultural Grant applicants' required match to 50%. Dr. Alvarez-Perez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. CHANGE REQUEST – CUATROGATOS

The Board was provided with a cultural grant change request by Cuatrogatos. The Board commented on the lack of clarity and confusion regarding the request, saying it appears the artists are being changed with a modification to the existing program. Discussion continued about the importance of programs not being dependent on funding from the City. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Ms. Horwitz to reject the change request. Mr. Pantin seconded the motion; Ms. Horwitz and Mr. Pantin voted in favor of the motion; Dr. Alvarez-Perez, Ms. Burgos, Mr. Martinez, Dr. Mayorga, and Dr. Roth were opposed, and the motion did not pass.

After a brief follow-up discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Dr. Alvarez-Perez to accept the proposed changes as presented by Cuatrogatos. Ms. Burgos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Dr. Mayorga stated that the organization should have had the funding in place and there should be no further modification requests from the organization. Ms. Horwitz asked what happens if they can't do the project. Staff responded that if the program doesn't occur, the City will take steps to have the funds returned.

Board members were given postcard, flyers, and marketing materials from grantees about upcoming programs and events. Ms. Cathers stated that she requested the materials for a presentation to the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce and received an overwhelming response from grantees.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. DEVELOPER AIPP WAIVER REQUEST FOR 735 & 743 ALMERIA AVE. – R & R STUDIOS

The Board was presented with a request to combine the Art in Public Places (AiPP) fee allocation for 735 and 743 Almeria Avenue to put toward a commissioned artwork, “Coral Carpet”, at Balboa Plaza to complement the existing sculptural sofa “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Staff requested the Board to consider two motions to recommend combining the fees and recommend approval of the waiver request to commission and donate the artwork “Coral Carpet” to the City.

The Board was informed that artists Roberto Behar and Rosario Marquardt of R & R Studios addressed the Arts Advisory Panel, who reviewed the proposal at their last meeting and are making a recommendation to the Cultural Development Board to recommend combining the AiPP fees and approve the proposed artwork.

Ms. Cathers presented a PowerPoint starting with background information about the artists inspiration and interest in integrating indoor space with outdoor space and vis a versa. The artists, R&R Studios, designed the artwork sofa at Balboa Plaza and noted that the “carpet” was part of the artist’s original vision for the outdoor living room space. Conceptually, she said, the artists noted the “coral carpet” adds to the domesticity in the public realm, acting as a companion piece to the artwork sofa. The material, she went on, is an unpolished inlaid terrazzo. She stated that the artists design is inspired by blooming flowers. Unlike terrazzo with metal outlining the shapes separated by color, Ms. Cathers said pre-cast terrazzo pieces will be inlaid with contrasting coral colored terrazzo poured on site.

Mr. Martinez asked if the proposal will go to the Board of Architects (BOA). Ms. Spain responded no. Ms. Cathers added that the Arts Advisory Panel had an extensive discussion with the artists regarding the materials, installation, substrate, and maintenance. Mr. Martinez asked about not using metal other than around the border. Ms. Cathers shared the artists statement that it would create more of a carpet look. Ms. Spain remarked on the benefit of having a conservator on the Panel who knows a lot about terrazzo. The Board discussed the issue of including expansion joints and all agreed that it should be allowed to crack naturally.

With no further discussion, the following motions were made:

A motion was made by Dr. Alvarez-Perez to recommend combining the Art in Public Places fee allocations for 735 and 743 Almeria Avenue; Ms. Burgos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dr. Alvarez-Perez 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. Burgos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

a. PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

Board members were advised of the Public Safety Building public art selection panel meeting currently scheduled for April 24th, following the next AAP meeting.

b. GIRALDA SKY

The Board was advised of the City Commission approval of the Giralda Sky project “Sun Stories” by Jessy Nite.

c. ART BASEL 2019

Staff reported that a response hasn’t been received yet regarding Teresita Fernandez’s availability as the City’s Art Basel 2019 artist. Staff said they would like to move forward with a proposal invitation to artist Rafael Barrios. Ms. Cathers noted the Coral Gables Museum exhibition in December focuses on contemporary Venezuelan artists. Board members agreed that reaching out to Mr. Barrios makes sense, as he is an internationally respected Venezuelan artist and has public exhibition experience, including Park Avenue.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS

a. AIPP ORDINANCE UPDATE

Ms. Cathers gave a brief history regarding the amendment to the City’s Art in Public Places program due to the County’s revised Ordinance regarding municipal art in public places programs. The Board was advised that City Commission passed the AiPP Ordinance on second reading. The amendment dissolves the Historic Art Fund and transfers existing funds to the Art Acquisition fund. In addition, new Municipal construction project will donate 1 ½ % to the art acquisition fund with an amendment to modify the \$100,000 threshold to \$500,000.

b. CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP - REPORT

Staff reported that the Mayor, Vice-Mayor, Arts Advisory Panel chair Dr. Damian, developers, gallery owners, and staff from planning and economic development departments attended the City Commission workshop to discuss incentive options to incorporate Art in Residence programs and galleries into commercial projects. Staff advised that next steps include developing a proposed zoning code change.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mr. Pantin asked about the possibility of developing a sculpture area under the Metrorail as part of the Underline project. He mentioned the new sculptures going in at Gables Station and suggested developing that area as a nexus for public art. Mr. Pantin asked if a location has been decided for the permanent installation of the David Hayes sculpture currently installed at City Hall. Staff said that no decision has been made regarding the artwork’s permanent location and Mr. Pantin suggested moving the sculpture to the Underline. Staff responded that Meg Daly will be invited to the Board to provide an update and overview of the Underline project and plans for public art.

Mr. Pantin asked about the status of the Public Art being proposed for The Plaza development project. Staff responded that the developer will be presenting a series of artworks on the property; however, there are additional funds that were originally designated for public art that are now being re-considered. Mr. Pantin stated that whatever artwork is integrated into the private development and located at Ponce Circle Part be complimentary. Ms. Cathers said that at the last meeting the Board discussed the potential donation of a John Henry sculpture that may be a good fit for the park and could be integrated into the design of the park. She gave a brief overview of the artwork and said she has been in contact with the Orlando Museum to acquire documents to assist with an assessment report.

Mr. Pantin asked about the tenant for the Fink building. Ms. Spain responded that Centro Cultural Español is the tenant currently negotiating a lease with the City through the economic development department. She reported that architect Jorge Hernandez is working on design of the buildout.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

The Board was provided with the Arts Advisory Panel meeting minutes of February 27, 2019.

The Board was reminded of the joint meeting with the Arts Advisory Panel of Wednesday, April 24th
At 9:00 a.m. and was asked to forward discussion items to staff.

There being no further business, the Cultural Development Board meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dona M. Spain", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dona M. Spain
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director