



DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, July 7, 2020, 8:15 a.m.  
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

*Historical Resources &  
Cultural Arts*

2327 SALZEDO STREET  
CORAL GABLES  
FLORIDA 33134

☎ 305.460.5093

✉ hist@coralgables.com

MEMBERS	A	S	O	N +	D +	J	J +	F	M	A	M	J	J	APPOINTED BY:
	19	19	19	19	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	
Leslie Pantin	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Dr. Fernando Alvarez- Perez	E	E	P	E	P	P	E	P	E	-	-	P	P	Vice-Mayor Vince Lago
Betty Horwitz	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	-	-	P	P	Commissioner Pat Keon
Frank Martinez	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	E	E	-	-	P	P	Commissioner Michael Mena
Geannina Burgos*												P	P	Commissioner Jorge Fors
Dr. Bernice Roth Chair	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	-	-	P	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Dr. Rosa Maria Mayorga	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P	P	Board Appointee

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

**STAFF:**

Kara Kautz, Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Interim Director

Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Dept.

**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 8:40 a.m.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 11, 2020:**

**Mr. Pantin made a motion to approve the minutes of June 11, 2020. Ms. Horwitz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. AIPP WAIVER REQUEST, THE PLAZA – MICHELE OKA DONER**

The Board received proposal materials in advance for a request to commission artwork by Michele Oka Doner for placement within The Plaza development project in partial fulfillment of the Art in Public Places requirement.

Mr. Carlos Beckmann introduced himself as a representative of The Plaza and thanked the Board for allowing him to present the proposal. He shared a PowerPoint detailing the development project and the

artwork designed by Ms. Oka Doner. Mr. Beckmann described the artwork as a monumental bronze bench and table with textures inspired by Florida fauna, circling a specimen Oak tree. The artist, he said, is also designing copper lanterns and the paving area to compliment and draw visitors to the art.

Staff informed the Board that the Arts Advisory Panel reviewed the proposal in depth and made a motion recommending the Cultural Development Board to approve the artwork as presented and recommend in favor of the waiver request in partial fulfillment of the Art in Public Places requirement.

The Board raised concerns about the surface of the artwork and whether the material would be too hot to sit on at certain times of the day. It was noted that the location provides a great deal of shade from buildings and from the large specimen oak tree. The Board discussed the benefit of having temperature control testing done and asked that this be made a condition of approval.

The Board continued with a brief discussion and made the following motion:

**Dr. Alvarez-Perez made a motion recommending approval of the Art in Public Places waiver request by The Plaza development project to incorporate artwork by artist Michele Oka Doner into The Plaza plans as presented on the condition of positive environmental testing results that ensure safe physical interaction with the surface of the artwork and as recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel. Mr. Pantin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

b. AIPP WAIVER REQUEST, THE PLAZA – ARTS BUILDING RESTORATION

This item was deferred.

c. MURALS ON THE MILE – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

This item was deferred.

d. ART BASEL 2020

The Board was provided with information about the background and work of artist Kiki Smith along with a proposal to consider her for this year's temporary public art exhibition, also in support of Art Basel and of Illuminate Coral Gables. Lance Fung of Fung Collaboratives shared a PowerPoint as he talked through the proposed concept. Patrick O'Connell and Venny Torre also attended in support of Illuminate Coral Gables.

The presentation opened with the aspects of presenting public artwork at a time when the City is requiring wearing masks in outdoor public spaces and is closing indoor dining. Benefits stated including safe access to a (free) cultural experience when people are routinely seeking this in other communities. A series of quotes were given from various community leaders in support of projects, and one specifically, that engage the community in a positive way when few other opportunities are available.

Mr. Fung presented images and details of the proposed 42 (forty-two) plus artworks by Kiki Smith. A site layout of the installation area was shown along Giralda Plaza. The artworks would be suspended, he said, within the architectural structure currently in place in the middle section of the Plaza. Each work is a largescale image based on historical renderings of animal constellations with Swarovski crystals embedded at the locations of the key stars making up the constellation.

Mr. Fung further described the installation, saying the artworks will hang at a height where they can't be touched or pulled down; and at a height where people can easily view the imagery as if looking at the stars. Further development of the project, he said, will be the creation of an augmented reality application to

function in the day and night. Mr. Fung demonstrated an example shifting from imagery of Kiki Smith's pieces to actual constellations where viewers can identify and learn about the stars.

A video clip was shown demonstrating proportion of the work and the reflective quality. Mr. Fung then showed the full-size prototype of one of the pieces, a rabbit, to get a better sense of the scale. He continued, saying a sense of scale to a real constellation is desired with enough open space amongst the trees and between each animal to support the sense of constellations (filling the sky).

The Board was provided with the enthusiastic feedback from the Arts Advisory Panel in favor of presenting Kiki Smith's artwork for temporary installation at Giralda Plaza.

The Board had a lengthy discussion about the potential of Art Basel cancelling and the current restaurant closures. It was noted that the project would be accessible for individuals, families, and small groups all using approved social distancing practices. In addition, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has stated their support to include curriculum based on the project in time for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Pantin asked if the project could be presented in 2021-2022 instead, if necessary.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez discussed the possible purchase of the artwork. The Board discussed various ways the artwork could be presented and potential partnerships with Museums.

The Board completed their discussion, supporting the artist and recommendation fully with an understanding that the project's installation could be pulled and presented the following year(s) if necessary due to public health concerns. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**A motion was made by Mr. Pantin to recommend Kiki Smith as the 2020 temporary public art exhibition artist and the proposed project as presented, including application to Art Basel as an official event and in support of Illuminate Coral Gables with the understanding that the project be moved to the following year(s) if the social situation is not optimal to proceed. Ms. Burgos seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

e. ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEMBER NOMINATIONS

The Board briefly discussed the nominations that were presented and decided not to pursue them. Staff clarified the current requirement to have 4 members with their primary residence in Coral Gables.

f. CHAIR & VICE CHAIR NOMINATIONS

Dr. Roth was nominated to continue in her role as Chair and Ms. Burgos was nominated for the position of Vice-Chair. With enthusiasm, the following motion was made:

**A motion was made by Mr. Pantin to appoint Dr. Roth as Chair and Ms. Burgos as Vice-Chair for the remainder of the term. Dr. Alvarez-Perez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

CULTURAL GRANTS:

a. GRANTEE PROGRAMS

Board members were advised that the Cultural Grant recommendations for FY20-21 will be presented to the City Commission on July 14<sup>th</sup>. After a brief discussion, the Board-as-a-Whole approved Dr. Alvarez-Perez to speak on behalf of the Board for this item at the City Commission meeting.

b. FINAL REPORTS  
This item was deferred.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

The Board was provided with a status of current and upcoming Art in Public places projects of the City and Private Developers. It was reported that the Arts Advisory Panel recommended twelve artists to move forward in the process for consideration of interviewing with the Police Chief, Fire Chief, and City staff. Mr. Pantin will continue to serve on the selection Panel as the Board's appointed representative.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

Staff reported that the Board's items including the proposed amendment to the Cultural Development Board resolution, Cultural Grant recommendations, the Art in Public Places waiver request for The Plaza, and the recommendation of the Kiki Smith artwork would be included on the Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> Commission agenda along with proposed artwork locations for the Hank Willis Thomas sculptural benches. The Board was also informed of the first budget workshop taking place on Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

The Board-as-a-Whole agreed to move the monthly meeting time to 8:30 a.m.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

There were no additional items from the secretary.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Cultural Development Board meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine J. Cathers  
Arts & Culture Specialist