



DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, August 4, 2020, 8:30 a.m.
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

*Historical Resources &
Cultural Arts*

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MEMBERS	S	O	N +	D +	J	J +	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	APPOINTED BY:
	19	19	19	19	20	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	P	E	P	P	E	P	E	-	-	P	P	P	Vice-Mayor Vince Lago
Betty Horwitz	P	E	P	P	P	P	E	P	-	-	P	P	P	Commissioner Pat Keon
Frank Martinez	P	P	A	P	P	P	E	E	-	-	P	P	P	Commissioner Michael Mena
Geannina Burgos*											P	P	P	Commissioner Jorge Fors
Dr. Bernice Roth Chair	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	-	-	P	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 8:31 a.m.

Ms. Kautz read the False Claims Ordinance for the benefit of speakers.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM JULY 7, 2020:

Dr. Alvarez-Perez made a motion to approve the minutes of July 7, 2020. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. AIPP WAIVER REQUEST, THE PLAZA – ARTS BUILDING RESTORATION
The Board was advised that the Developer requested to defer the item to the next meeting.

b. ILLUMINATE CORAL GABLES, ARTIST LIST

Ms. Cathers introduced Lance Fung, chief curator of Illuminate Coral Gables (ICG), who gave a presentation of the proposed artists and projects for ICG 2021. Board member were provided with a copy of the presentation in advance to refer to as Mr. Fung spoke about each artist and project.

Staff reported to the Board that the Arts Advisory Panel was provided with the same presentation and made a motion recommending approval of the proposed ICG 2021 artists as presented.

Mr. Fung gave a brief background of ICG and a status update, stating that the initial list of over twenty artists being asked to create site specific new work has since been downsized to focus on eight extraordinary artists with over half from the Miami region, including Coral Gables.

The first work Mr. Fung spoke about was the Fireflies piece by Chinese artist Cai Guo-Qiang. Mr. Fung stated that the interactive piece was realized for the City of Philadelphia for the 2017 centennial celebration of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. He said Cai's mostly known for his firework installation and gunpowder drawings; however, this piece features twenty-seven custom American made pedicabs transformed with 1,000 handmade lanterns from his home village in China. The idea, he said, is for visitors to hop in, have conversations, move throughout town, rediscover the City and be taken away from technology and everyday thoughts while encouraging a resurgence of a sense of hope, joy and play. Mr. Fung addressed the need to consider health issues and how best to maintain social distancing protocols to keep project ambassadors and riders safe, including cleaning the pedicabs between every ride. He continued, saying the piece will encourage a joyful community feel that can be seen from within the Firefly and at a distance while viewing the procession. It's anticipated that the piece will run five nights a week.

Mr. Fung briefly discussed Kiki Smith's project for Giralda Avenue, which was approved by the City Commission, and thanked the Board for their support.

Next, Mr. Fung spoke about artist Carlos Estevez, saying the first time he encountered the artist's work was at his opening at the Lowe Art Museum. He later met and approached the artist, asking him if the work could be kinetic. The artist responded, he said, that he always wanted to (animate) his work and others have said the same, adding that it would be a dream to have that kind of assistance to realize the work. Mr. Fung said they will work with interns who are Pixar animators and showed a short rendition of how it could look. The animation showed movement of individual elements of Mr. Estevez' artwork. This piece, Mr. Fung said, is intended as a seamless projected panorama within the façade of City Hall.

In addition to Estevez' projection, Mr. Fung said the artist will work with Miami-Dade County Public Schools on a project offered to students within all nine school districts, K-12. Students will have an opportunity to make their own artwork in the form of a kite based on identity, diversity, and inclusion. Learning tools will be developed for distance learning and a performance element is being considered to bring students from the nine districts to Coral Gables. This portion of the project, he said, is being supported through a foundation grant and will be developed and monitored closely in response to COVID-19. Should it go forward, Mr. Fung said it will include visual elements, music, and a performative piece.

Next, Mr. Fung spoke about Miami-based artist Jonathan Perez, who is a full-time digital media artist at Florida International University (FIU). He spoke of FIU's great support of ICG and of the university

creating, funding, and developing a hybrid course for under-graduate and graduate students specifically for ICG. Mr. Perez will work with digital art students to realize his work to be projection mapped onto the high relief sculptures on the historic Police and Fire Station building. Research and interviews with Coral Gables residents, workers, etc., he said, will be transitioned into an audio narrative as part of the piece. He added that it's anticipated to combine past, present, and future elements of Coral Gables.

Mr. Fung went on to describe two sites being considered for an interactive projection piece by Martinique artist, David Gumbs, one at Scott Davidson's building (Ocean Bank) on Le Jeune, and at the Actor's Playhouse side wall along Salzedo St. Mr. Gumbs work, Fung said, focuses on the Caribbean Gulf experience of flora and fauna and includes interactive and passive elements. It will be the artist's largest commission to date with the artist exploring new narrative features including an homage to people who have passed away due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Mr. Fung stated that the location along Le Jeune Road will be activated by vehicles and pedestrians, while the location on Salzedo will be triggered by pedestrian movement, possibly including figurative elements without identifying features or details projected or recorded.

Many locations will be used for the next artist team, Mr. Fung said, of Ruben Millares and Antonia Wright. Millares is a Coral Gables native and he and his wife, Antonia Wright, will be collaborating on a series featuring the standard barricade as a sculptural element. The artists are hoping to use barricades from the City, which will be transformed by LED, fiberoptic lights. The artworks will continue to act as functional barricades, he said, in support of social distancing at key locations and will also be used for a related sculpture that is more vertical.

Mr. Fung spoke about the artist Natasha Kertes; however, he said this piece may be postponed. Ms. Kertes, he said, is a Miami-based artist who is also known for her commercial work. The proposed piece, he continued, would be an image of a young woman floating among lily pads video projected onto the historic fountains on the west end of Miracle Mile, with a related video activating the kiosks along the street.

The final artist presented was Sandra Ramos. Ms. Ramos is a Miami artist who would lend a work that was previously shown at the Venice Biennale. The artwork, Mr. Fung said, is a functional bridge that is underlit with images conveying the distance between Havana and Miami through aerial photographs

Mr. Fung concluded his presentation saying the exhibition is scheduled to open January 15, 2020, Martin Luther King Jr. weekend through February 15, 2020, President's Day weekend.

Board members asked for clarification about the barricade piece and whether it would be blocking intersections. Mr. Fung responded that the rendering is conceptual and locations would be determined later, including using (the barricades) to support social distancing in ways such as partitioning for people waiting to board a Firefly. The Board continued discussion about the concept behind the work. Mr. Fung shared the artist's intention of creating a piece that was ambiguous as to its meaning, inviting people to come to it from their own experience. He said it was not about any one narrative; rather, it presents two sides of a story.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez asked who is leading the school art project. Mr. Fung stated that school district staff will drive the art education components, help craft the materials, get information to the art instructors, and work with the artist to ensure learning points are met. The artist will create digital instruction materials and

present a hands-on project to create self-portrait kites (most likely) from recycled materials. He added that Mr. Estevez has experience developing educational workshops for different grade levels. Last year, Mr. Fung said, he was aware that there were few arts and culture activities and these opportunities will reach (up to) 330,000 students. In addition, he continued, the school will be presented with opportunities connected to Kiki Smith's and David Gumb's artworks. Ms. Cathers said ICG is also working with FIU education professionals on the curriculum development.

The Board overall agreed that the different projects are excellent and beautiful. Mr. Martinez suggested creating a walking itinerary. Mr. Fung agreed and shared his appreciation of the City following up on the Mayor's original idea for the exhibition and the initiative of ICG's leadership Venny Torre and Patrick O'Connell.

The Board completed their discussion, supporting the recommended artists 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 Ms. Burgos to recommend approving the Illuminate Coral Gables artists as presented. Dr. Alvarez-Perez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Board thanked Mr. Fung for his thorough and detailed presentation. Mr. Fung thanked the Board and left the meeting.

c. AIPP WAIVER REQUEST, SUNRISE SENIOR LIVING – ARTIST, MICHAEL KALISH

The Board received proposal materials in advance for a request to commission artwork by Michael Kalish for placement within the Sunrise Senior Living development project in partial fulfillment of the Art in Public Places requirement.

Ms. Cathers introduced Mr. David Austin as the art consultant representing the Sunrise Senior Living development, who spoke about the project, artist, and the proposed concept to commission and install artwork on the property.

Mr. Austin described Sunrise Senior Living as an assisted living facility with the developers seeking artwork that provides an uplifting experience for residents and their families, as well as a successful piece for Coral Gables. While researching artists, he said, he looked at artists who use universal imagery and settled on Michael Kalish, a mid-career contemporary pop artist with roots in Miami who now lives in Los Angeles. He showed a series of previous works by the artist placed in public sculpture gardens throughout the country and noted that the artist takes popular objects and creates works on a monumental scale.

It was mentioned that the building is maximized on the site and to minimize the footprint of the artwork, the artist designed an interactive piece that floats above the landscape and hardscape, titling it "Floral Sky." Two significant structures make up the artwork, Mr. Austin said, with each piece approximately twelve feet high, by twenty-four feet wide and twelve feet deep. The two structures are at either end of the development project with a walkable arcade connecting them. He mentioned his own experience with parents in assisted living and emphasized the developer's goal to create a bit of an oasis. In this case, he said, it would be realized as outdoor seating within the arcade designed by the Artist to relate to and further connect the two

major components. Each of the large structures, he continued, will include approximately 100-150 floating flora elements inspired by the flowers of South Florida, including the state flower, Coreopsis. Mr. Austin said that floral forms are being considered that have the most interesting sculptural aspects, will range up to 30 inches in diameter, and will be sculpted from waterjet cut aluminum, mounted on aluminum stems. Staff reported that the Arts Advisory Panel recommended a cantilevered, organic design with the possibility of one side being eliminated or having minimal structure for stability. In addition, Mr. Austin said the colors will reflect a South Florida palette.

The Board asked about the maintenance requirements for the piece. Mr. Austin responded that after similar concerns from the Arts Panel, the design was revised to be more open and less dense. He mentioned that a military grade powder-coating system will be used, requiring medium power-washing to keep it clean. The artist, he said, uses this process regularly and has work that has withstood high sun/heat conditions for over ten years with little change in the appearance. Mr. Austin provided detail about the components, saying mechanical fasteners will be used for easy removal if needed for maintenance. He also said the elements will be strategically placed and rotated on the stems so no one piece will be in the sun for an entire day. Ms. Cathers clarified that the artwork will be on the private developer's property and they will be responsible for the maintenance and condition of the piece.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Pantin made a motion recommending approval of the Art in Public Places waiver request by Sunrise Senior Living development project to commission and incorporate artwork by artist Michael Kalish into the project as presented and as recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel. Dr. Alvarez-Perez seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Austin thanked the Board and left the meeting.

CULTURAL GRANTS:

a. GRANTEE PROGRAMS

Dr. Roth reported that the Commission passed the resolution approving Cultural Grants funding. Staff added that the City Manager requested the item to be announced in the next e-News and Dr. Alvarez-Perez commended staff on representing the item.

Staff stated that applicants were encouraged to reach out to Commissioners to send their thanks and that maintaining cultural arts funding at the County level was also approved. Ms. Kautz advised the Board of the budget workshop on September 10 and of the final budget meeting on September 22.

Dr. Roth asked how the scope of work is reflected in the grant agreements. Ms. Cathers responded that agreements reference the project presented in the application. Dr. Roth expressed concern that grantees may not be able to do what was presented based on the current health crisis. She asked if staff could work with the City Attorney's Office to include language supporting program flexibility if needed. Ms. Cathers responded positively and said she will work with the CAO on wording to propose flexibility while ensuring compliance. She added that some organizations don't have the capacity to present virtual programs due to funding, staff capacity, technical ability, or other reasons; however, organizations are being creative with their offerings. Ms. Cathers referenced a variety of ways organizations are creatively addressing alternative programming including live virtual performances on Zoom or through social media platforms, pre-recorded

concerts, archival footage, interviews, podcasts, virtual galleries, and more. Dr. Roth suggested that grantees attach a “Plan B” along with their agreements that address how programming would occur should live presentations not be possible.

A hand-written thank you note from Seraphic Fire was presented to the Board, who expressed their appreciation.

b. FINAL REPORTS

The Board discussed how to address Final Reports moving forward, if they should be reviewed administratively or continue to be reviewed by Board members, and how to integrate information from the Final Reports into new grant applications.

Overall, the Board agreed it would be difficult to take Final Report information into consideration without having a report and the opportunity for discussion. Ms. Burgos asked about the County process. Staff responded that it’s handled administratively for accountability – did the applicant do what they said they were going to do, was it turned in on time, etc. County grant review panelists, like the City’s Board members, are encouraged to attend organizations’ programs to inform their own experience. It was asked how the report fits into new application scores. Ms. Cathers said she will check with the County on how they handle Final Report reviews. It was mentioned that right now Final Report scores are not used in any tangible way. Dr. Roth commented that it sounds administrative heavy, the Board agreed.

Dr. Roth asked staff to prepare options for the next Board meeting for further discussion. Dr. Mayorga asked how to work in the opportunity to ask grantees questions related to their previous programming. Ms. Cathers noted that the Final Reports are linked to the application in the grant portal and can be made accessible to Board members at any time.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

Staff reported that one hundred forty-five applications were received in response to the Request for Qualifications for the Public Safety Building public art opportunity. The Arts Advisory Panel recommended twelve artists for Police and Fire to consider, who selected four to interview. Staff advised that interviews with the four artists are happening later today and that Mr. Pantin will be sitting in on the interviews as the Board representative. A set list of questions, staff said, are being asked of each artist focusing on experience working with public safety professionals in a collaborative manner with the intent that one artist will be selected to work directly with Police and Fire prior to presenting a proposal. Once the proposal is completed, it will go back to the Arts Advisory Panel and then to the Cultural Development Board for their recommendation to the City Commission.

Ms. Horwitz emphasized the importance of having Police and Fire personnel included in the process early on. Staff responded that the Police and Fire Chiefs have expressed wanting to keep it within their immediate departments (they have also expressed being open to public comment for further development once the concept has been released).

Dr. Alvarez-Perez stated that it should not be a community effort and encouraged bringing significant art to the community in order to expose viewers to much greater art. The Board agreed that the artists selected are great. Staff confirmed that Police and Fire are also happy with the recommended artists and that it’s been conveyed that the final artwork should be reflective of the artist’s practice. Staff added that the

interviews are intended to find out who Police and Fire are most comfortable working with and have the best relationship with to develop an artwork everyone is happy with. The Board encouraged the involvement of more Police and Fire personnel involved in the (final) selection to ensure a more democratic process.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEMBER NOMINATIONS

Staff reported that they have not received any new nominations for the Arts Advisory Panel position and that the selected Panelist needs to be a Coral Gables resident and an arts professional. The preference, it was said, is for an artist to fill the vacancy.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

Staff reported Commission approved resolutions for The Plaza, Michele Oka Doner artwork, final locations for the Hank Willis Thomas artwork benches, and approval of the Kiki Smith public artwork for Giralda Plaza.

Staff reported that an amendment will be presented to the Commission to shift the Blessing Hancock sculpture originally intended as a donation, to ownership of Gables Station and installation on the Gables Station property.

It was noted that the Sunrise Senior Living Center waiver request to commission and install the artwork of Michael Kalish will also go forward to the City Commission.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. MURALS ON THE MILE – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Board was provided with the proposal for Murals on the Mile through the Economic Development department. It was noted that this is not an artist driven project.

Dr. Roth commented on the previous year's photographic showcase of people in the community through the Silence Project and the disparity between images of "shhhhhh" while also encouraging people to "see something, say something." She expressed the importance of having second looks at projects before they move forward.

Staff stated that the Murals on the Mile project will be presented at the next Commission meeting and was also presented to the Arts Advisory Panel for their feedback. The Panel's comments were shared with the Board.

Mr. Pantin stated that it is an economic development item in response to Miracle Mile and the business community needing help. He added that it was worth trying for a year. Ms. Burgos asked about the purpose and said the content should be carefully considered.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Catherine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a trailing flourish.

Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist