



DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Wednesday, July 22, 2020 9:00 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	F	M	A	M	J	J+	J
	19	19	19	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Nelson deLeón*		P	-	P	P	P	-	-	-	P	P	E
Dr. Jill Deupi	-	E	-	P	E	E	-	-	-	P	P	P
Emily MacDonald-Korth	-	P	-	P	E	P	-	-	-	P	P	P
Jacek Kolasiński	-	P	-	P	P	E	-	-	-	P	P	P
Marijean Miyar*	-	P	-	P	P	P	-	-	-	P	P	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez	-	E	-	P	P	P	-	-	-	P	P	P
Manny Mato*				P	P	P	-	-	-	P	P	P

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

STAFF:

Kara Kautz, Interim Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director
Catherine Cathers, Arts & Culture Specialist

MEETING RECORD / MINUTES PREPARATION: Catherine Cathers, Arts & Culture Specialist,
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department

Dr. Deupi called the Arts Advisory Panel meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

The Panel was advised of the absence of Mr. deLeón, who respectfully requested to be excused. The Panel-as-a-whole accepted Mr. deLeón's absences as excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING JUNE 24, 2020:

A motion was made by Ms. Miyar and seconded by Mr. Kolasiński to approve the meeting minutes of June 24, 2020, which was unanimously passed by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. AIPP WAIVER REQUEST, VILLA VALENCIA – THOMAS HOUSEAGO

Panel members were provided with materials in advance from the Villa Valencia development project for a waiver request of the art in public places fee. Ms. Cathers introduced representatives of the developer, Joanna Davila, CMO of Marketing and branding for Villa Valencia, and Katia Rosenthal, consultant for the project, who proceeded to walk through the proposal presentation of an artwork by Thomas Houseago for placement on the Villa Valencia site.

Ms. Davila described the development project in detail, stating that it is a thirty-nine-unit boutique residence on the corner of Valencia and Hernando, steps away from Le Jeune Road and City Hall, with an over 9,000 square foot public park on the corner. The park, she said, is in a very visible area where the community can enjoy it. A rendering of the building was shown, and Ms. Davila described the architecture as bringing together nature and technology, saying these were elements considered when looking for an artist and artwork. The artwork, she said, is intended to mirror the project.

Ms. Rosenthal continued the presentation with remarks about the proposed artist, Thomas Houseago, noting that he's a world class artist who fit in well with the project and would be exciting to have as part of the Coral Gables art collection. He is an artist from Leeds, she said, and gave an overview of his credentials. Ms. Rosenthal stated that the artist currently resides in Los Angeles, CA, where he creates his large-scale sculptures.

Different options for the park on the side of the building were considered, Ms. Rosenthal continued, saying the developer wanted something figurative and inviting, and something that would add value and attention to the space. She said he has done several outdoor exhibitions and commissions in New York and in several sculpture parks throughout the world, noting a familiarity with the landscape environment.

Ms. Davila stated that a figurative work was preferred to reflect the residential (character) in a public space. The artwork "Standing Figure" was selected as one that blends modern elements with the historic elements of the building. Images of the artwork were shown from its exhibition at the Gagosian Gallery in Los Angeles.

A description of the piece was given by Ms. Rosenthal, noting the fluid views from the front, back, and all sides. She stated that the expressive sculpture incorporated rebar and plaster into the slender and large piece.

A site plan was shown with two proposed locations, one in a grassy area of the lawn and the other along the building. Ms. Rosenthal said it was desired for the work to be in public view and intended as a place to pause, reflect, or have a picnic. The sculpture will be on a raised base, she said, and weighs over seven hundred and thirty pounds. She continued, saying there is a natural break in the pathway where it could also set and be a contrast with the columns of the building as a nice backdrop for the sculpture. Museovault was noted as working with the developer on the installation.

Ms. Davila and Ms. Rosenthal stated that the artist is represented by Hauser and Wirth, and Gagosian Gallery and they are seeking to purchase the artwork as soon as possible. Mr. Housego, they said, would attend a dedication ceremony.

Dr. Deupi asked if the artwork was an editioned piece or unique and asked about the provenance. Ms. Rosenthal responded that it is a unique work from 2014 and has been held in the artist's studio.

Ms. Miyar asked for clarification about access to the park. Ms. Davila said the park is open and the initially proposed low wall around the park was removed to allow freedom to move through the park.

Dr. Deupi commented on the context of the artwork to the site and stated that the piece may not be the best selection of the artist's work. She shared her thoughts that while the artwork was fine on its own merit, the artwork appears menacing and not uplifting. As a place for reflection, she said, she felt it was the wrong work and did not think it would be well received by the public. Ms. Rosenthal responded that the work is contemplative in its contrapposto pose and an elegant piece reflective of Henry Moore, Rodin, Picasso, Brancusi. Dr. Deupi repeated her concerns about the success of the work and consideration of the artist, who it may reflect poorly on should it not be successful. She acknowledged his blue-chip status and that he is a great artist, questioning the choice of the specific piece only, and asked if they could consider other options by the artist. Panel members agreed and reiterated that it is a contemplative space and this is not a contemplative piece. Mr. Mato added that it doesn't feel like there is harmony between the park and the piece and would like to see other options.

Ms. Davila said the development staff preferred his figurative over geometric work. Dr. Deupi said she is confident about the artist and comfortable with considering other pieces by him. Ms. Davila added that the owners are collectors themselves and have asked for gallery walls within the project. Panel members were excited about this and about the possibility to have a work by Thomas Houseago on the site.

Mr. Valadez shared that he has a long-term relationship with the artist and prefers his figurative work. He asked for views of figurative pieces in landscape environments and noted that the figurative forms look quite beautiful outside. He wondered about the color and if an ochre or rust might be more successful.

Ms. Rosenthal said they would speak with the gallery and see if they can work with the artist's studio on other options. Ms. Davila and Ms. Rosenthal thanked the Panel and left the meeting.

b. ILLUMINATE CORAL GABLES, ARTIST LIST – LANCE FUNG

Staff introduced curator Lance Fung, who appeared before the Panel to speak about the proposed artists and projects for Illuminate Coral Gables 2021. Mr. Fung presented a PowerPoint of the overall project and spoke in detail about each artist, site, and the projects proposed.

Mr. Fung noted that the artists represent emerging, mid-career, and established artists. Originally, he said, twenty-eight were being considered for new commissioned work with over thirteen from the Miami area. Since March, Fung Collaboratives have been waiting to see if the initiative would move forward. With the support of the Commission approved artwork by Kiki Smith and reports of a positive meeting with the City Manager, Mr. Fung expressed confidence about the status of fundraising and the project moving forward.

Mr. Fung shared reasons for presenting a smaller-scale exhibition, including the intent to attract regional visitors while not having a negative impact on the community due to the health concerns and conditions.

Therefore, he said, eight projects are proposed at this time that are manageable, realizable, and still very ambitious with art works primarily installed along Miracle Mile to create a full-bodied show.

The first artist Mr. Fung presented was Cai Guo-Qiang's Fireflies project, curated for the City of Philadelphia's centennial of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and funded by the Pew Trust with a budget of over one million dollars. Mr. Fung stated that the artist is consigning the project to Coral Gables of twenty-seven custom American made pedicabs adorned with 1,000 handmade Chinese silk lanterns from the artist's home village. He expressed the gorgeous visual impact the public artwork has from a distance, appearing like flitting fireflies around town and the importance of visitors to see the kinetic artwork up close while unplugging from technology to experience a joyful, hopeful, playful piece that engages dialogue and conversation. He added that social distancing will be a key part of how this project moves forward.

Kiki Smith was next, with Mr. Fung reporting that a foundation grant was received to assist with production of a children's coloring book and single sheets to distribute to the businesses along Giralda Plaza.

Mr. Fung continued, stating that painter and sculptor Carlos Estevez is very excited to be creating a piece with new technology. With the assistance of Pixar animators, he said, his work will come alive and be projected on City Hall.

Carlos Estevez, Mr. Fung said, will be featured as lead artist for an educational partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The partnership, he said, also features collaborations with Kiki Smith and David Gumbs to potentially reach up to 330,000 kids. Mr. Estevez' piece, he added, is based on portraiture, identity, and inclusion, with students creating individual kites. Through a social distancing event, he said, it's possible that select artists, musicians, and performers will be brought in.

Mr. Fung moved on to present a project proposed for the side of the Museum utilizing the high relief sculptures. Jonathan Perez, he said, is a full time faculty member at Florida International University (FIU), who teaches digital art. FIU has created a dedicated digital art course where they will work with the artist to realize an artwork that will be projection mapped onto the busts with audio. The intended content, he said, will incorporate film and audio interviews with residents and workers of Coral Gables incorporating the present, past, and future. He added that the piece has potential of being a very resonating project coming from a younger generation.

David Gumbs, based in Martinique, was next with Mr. Fung describing a diptych projection – one on Scott Davison's building, Ocean Bank, and the other on the side of Actors' Playhouse. Mr. Fung stated that as a black artist, Mr. Gumbs wants to introduce the narrative of racial and social equity to his work for the first time, while also honoring those who have lost their lives due to the pandemic. The work, he said, will incorporate his usual imagery using flora and fauna of the gulf region and will be interactive with the larger project triggered by vehicular noise and movement, and the smaller work activated by pedestrians. In addition, he added that the artist wants to include a competition through the school district of student created butterflies, a selection of which will be incorporated within the everchanging projections.

Mr. Fung introduced Antonia Wright and Ruben Millares, both with connections to Coral Gables. He described their work as conceptual and shared their proposed concept of a series of lighted barricades. Their

artwork, he said, is intended to be functional for wayfinding and social distancing with a separate work utilizing them in a more sculptural way.

Natasha Kertes, a fine art and commercial artist, Mr. Fung said, has a body of work that is seductive and gorgeous; her project will use projected video on the historic fountains and on the digital displays along Miracle Mile.

The last project and artist presented was a consignment piece by Sandra Ramos, with the possibility of having her create a larger installation. The existing work was described as a bridge and a sculpture that one can walk across using aerial photographs the artist took between Cuba and Florida.

The Panel overall expressed their hope that the exhibition will take place. Mr. Fung responded that the beauty of Illuminate is that it's a public exhibition, is temporary, and has different ways in which it can be experienced including online, by foot, bicycle, or by car. Ms. Cathers noted that the City is tracking the status of social distancing and health protocols, adding that the Kiki Smith agreement will include language for the City Manager to have the authority to pause it should the need arise.

Dr. Deupi articulated the sentiments of the Panel, applauding Illuminate for the direction as an imaginative, dynamic, exhibition. Dr. Deupi needed to leave the meeting and passed the gavel to Ms. Miyar.

After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Kolasiński made a motion recommending acceptance of the proposed Illuminate Coral Gables' artists as presented. Mr. Mato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Fung stated that Illuminate is intended to be an annual show. He said they are always looking for artists to meet and asked the Panel to forward any artist recommendations. Mr. Fung thanked the Panel and left the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. AIPP WAIVER REQUEST, SUNRISE SENIOR LIVING – MICHAEL KALISH

The Panel continued their discussion from June 24 regarding the proposal submitted by Sunrise Senior Living for a commissioned work of art by artist Michael Kalish. The Panel received the revised proposal from the artist prior to the meeting and Mr. Austin attended to address the Panel's comments.

Mr. Austin reported that he spoke with the developer, who is seeking an uplifting work of art with a universal form for the benefit of the project's residents, visitors, and Coral Gables residents. The developer, he said, restated their preference for the floral vernacular of Michael Kalish.

Maintenance was discussed in greater detail, noting that the artist revised the design to include larger elements, less of them, and more open space. Mr. Austin stated that the Panel's comments were productive and appreciated, including the direction to research flora and a color palette that has a closer connection to

South Florida. He said that forms such as Coreopsis and Hibiscus were preferred for their interesting sculptural elements.

Given the scale and weight of the larger elements, Mr. Austin said it may be difficult to engineer the cantilevered design. The Panel discussed options for how a system could work that would give the organic, less-symmetrical look that was favored by the Panel.

Mr. Austin included renderings of a series of benches that would be placed within the arcade and could be used to encourage residents to spend time with their families while visually connecting the two end structures.

Maintenance was further discussed regarding the choice to use powder-coating. Mr. Austin assured the Panel that the process is familiar to the artist and is the same military-grade used for aircraft. The florals, he said, would be canted for limited sun exposure and referenced another piece by the artist that has withstood high sun and heat with little change. In addition, he said, the individual elements will be secured with mechanical fasteners, allowing for easy removal if maintenance is needed.

The Panel appreciated the update and the incorporation of using native flora and colors. They commented further on the stem structure, encouraging more organic, intertwined lines and use of a cantilevered system that would take away from the symmetry and arch like appearance. Mr. Valadez added that the preferred structure has a suspended, weightless quality that adds to the feel of sprawling flowers or vines. Mr. Kolasiński encouraged the artist to look at biomorphic forms for inspiration.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Roselione-Valadaz made a motion recommending approval of the waiver request to incorporate artwork as presented by artist Michael Kalish into the Sunrise Senior Living development project with a preference for less symmetry, use of a strong cantilevered design and more organic form. Mr. Mato seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Austin thanked the Panel and left the meeting.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

Ms. Cathers provided an update on current art in public places projects, including the Commission's approval of the Kiki Smith project and The Plaza's Michele Oka Doner proposal. She reported that the Police and Fire Chief submitted their short-list of artists from the recommended pool and would forward the list to the Panel.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

There were no City Commission items.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were no further discussion items.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

There were no items from the secretary.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Catherines", is written in a cursive style.

Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist