

# DRAFT

## EXCERPT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, September 1, 2020, 8:30 a.m.  
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

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

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

**STAFF:**

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

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Dr. Roth called the Cultural Development Board meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Ms. Cathers read the False Claims Ordinance for the benefit of speakers as their items were presented.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

a. AIPP WAIVER REQUEST, THE PLAZA – JEAN-MICHEL OTHONIEL

Board members were provided with proposal materials for a waiver request by The Plaza development project to commission and install artwork by Jean-Michel Othoniel on the project site. Staff reported that the Arts Advisory Panel reviewed the proposal and made a motion recommending approval to the Cultural Development Board. Staff introduced Carlos Beckmann as representing the developer and Bill Brady as the art consultant on the project.

Mr. Beckmann stated that this is the third artwork proposed for the site and is for a sculptural water feature by Jean-Michel Othoniel. He described The Plaza development site in detail and the location of the artwork

in relation to the other approved works by Tony Cragg and Michele Oka Doner. He stated that this piece will be at the heart of the open-air plaza on Palermo Avenue. Mr. Beckmann noted that the proposal being presented has undergone revisions in response to comments from the Arts Advisory Panel.

Mr. Brady provided background information about the artist, saying Mr. Othoniel was born in 1964 and lives in France as one of the important French artists (of our time). He stated that the artist's aesthetic revolves around emotional geometry, using the repetition of modular elements like bricks or beads. The beads, he said, are the element proposed for this fountain, as was his most important commission at Versailles in 2014. Mr. Brady stated that Othoniel is the only living artist to have a commissioned artwork for permanent installation at Versailles. He listed additional sites and collections that have the artist's work worldwide, including the Museum of Modern Art. The artist was selected for this commission, Mr. Brady said, based on how well his aesthetic would work with the Tony Cragg and Michele Oka Doner sculptures. For this commission, he shared that the intent is to create an easy going, engaging sense and is based on sea life forms through the elements' shapes.

Specific features about the technical aspects of the work were presented, referencing a pneumatic pump system for the beaded elements with four (beaded) forms on the interior of the pool reflected in a mirrored column clad in stainless-steel, and four (beaded) elements reaching in from each corner. The four interior elements were said to have two fountain systems and the four exteriors ones with one system, with all playing in concert with each other.

Mr. Beckmann thanked Mr. Brady and continued, showing images of the site and details of the proposal. He said that three water features are included within The Plaza and spoke about the importance of water to provide a sense of calm, freshness, and an oasis for the neighborhood, tenants, and hotel guests.

Board members were advised that the pool itself, the mechanical features, lighting, and maintenance are being covered by the developer with the Art in Public Places fee allocated solely toward the artwork. Mr. Beckmann spoke about the need to keep the artworks immaculate especially as they are a focal point of the entrance.

Continuing, Mr. Beckmann specified the modifications that were made based on recommendations of Arts Advisory Panel members. The first was to move the outer elements inward to deter people from leaning in and to help avoid splashing of water onto the plaza area. The next was to clad the center column with a high polish stainless-steel rather than the proposed ceramic tile. It was noted that the beads will also be made of stainless-steel.

Mr. Beckmann spoke about the 24/7 security that is near the artwork, further deterring adverse interactions with the piece. He advised the Board of the steps taken to address concerns about wind blowing water outside of the fountain and assured members that the location is an area well protected from the elements of wind and rain. The mechanical system, he said, is such that the water jets can be controlled to adjust the flow (for different scenarios). A copy of the proposed maintenance plan and budget were also presented.

Board members commented that the artwork is beautiful and expressed appreciation to the Arts Advisory Panel for the comments addressing accessibility to the piece. Mr. Pantin added that the relationship of the three artworks to each other works well. 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 The Plaza development project to commission and incorporate artwork by artist Jean-Michel Othoniel into the project as presented and as recommended by**

**the Arts Advisory Panel. Ms. Burgos seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

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Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J. Cathers  
Arts & Culture Specialist