



Board of Architects Review Application

Phone: 305.460.5238

Email: boardofarchitects@coralgables.com

Application Request

The undersigned Agent/Owner request(s) Board of Architects review of the following application(s):

(Choose one (1) from Section #1 and choose all applicable from Section #2)

1. ☐ New Building OR ☐ Alterations / Additions
2. ☐ Preliminary Approval
- ☐ Coral Gables Mediterranean Style Design Standards Bonus Approval
- ☐ Final Approval

Property Information

Street Address of the Subject Property: _____

Property/Project Name: _____

Legal description: Lot(s) _____

Block(s) _____ Section(s) _____

Folio No. _____

Owner(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax _____

Other _____ Email _____ @ _____

Architect(s)/Engineer(s): _____

Architect(s)/Engineer(s) Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: Business _____ Fax _____

Other _____ Email _____ @ _____

Project Information

Project Description(s): _____

Estimated project cost*: _____

(*Estimated cost shall be +/- 10% of actual cost)

Date(s) of Previous Submittal(s) and Action(s): _____



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Applicant/Owner/Architect/Engineer Affirmation and Consent

(I) (We) acknowledge, affirm, and certify to all of the following:

1. This request, application, application supporting materials and all future supporting materials complies with all provisions and regulations of the Zoning Code, Comprehensive Plan and Code of Ordinances of the City of Coral Gables unless identified and approved as a part of this application request or other previously approved applications. Applicant understands that any violation of these provisions renders the application invalid.
2. That all the information contained in this application and all documentation submitted herewith is true to the best of (my) (our) knowledge and belief.
3. Understand that the application, all attachments and fees become a part of the official records of the City of Coral Gables and are not returnable.
4. All application representatives have registered with and completed lobbyist forms for the City of Coral Gables City Clerk's office.
5. Understand that under Florida Law, all the information submitted as part of the application are public records.
6. Failure to provide the information required for submittal/necessary for review by the Board of Architects may cause the application to be deferred without review.
7. That applications for the Board of Architects review require the presence of the applicant and/or architect/engineer at the Board of Architects meeting unless otherwise notified.
8. That plans submitted to this office are required to be picked up at the Board of Architects counter, by the Applicant, within fourteen (14) days after the Board of Architects meeting unless the plans have received Final Approval by the Board of Architects in which case, they will automatically be processed for a building permit. Plans which are not picked up within fourteen (14) days will be discarded.
9. All fees shall be paid by 12-midnight, three (3) days prior to the meeting date (ie. Monday before a Thursday meeting) to secure placement on the meeting's docket (agenda)
10. I have received consent from the owner of the property to file this application.

NOTE: ONLY ONE SIGNATURE OR AFFIRMATION/CONSENT IS REQUIRED

Agent/Owner/Contractor Print Name:		Agent/Owner/Contractor Signature:	
Address:			
Telephone:		Fax:	Email:
ARCHITECT'S/ENGINEER'S SEAL	Architect(s)/Engineer(s) Print Name:		Architect(s)/Engineer(s) Signature:
	Address:		
	Telephone:		Fax:
	Email:		
NOTARIZATION			
STATE OF FLORIDA) SS COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE) Sworn to or affirm and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, in the year 20 _____ by _____ who has taken an oath and is personally known to me or has produced _____ as identification. My Commission Expires: _____ _____ Notary Public			



07-OCTOBER-2021

Simone Chin
Board of Architects
City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way, 3rd Floor
Coral Gables, FL 33134

RE: Board of Architects - Letter of Intent :: Fred B. Hartnett Ponce Circle Park Plan_PHASE 2

Dear Ms. Chin,

It is with great pleasure that we submit the proposed **Ponce Circle Park Design Plan_PHASE 2** for the Board of Architects' review! Urban Robot Associates, Inc., is serving as the Landscape Architect and Design Lead for the project. We received our Notice to Proceed on November 1, 2019 and since then, we have worked with various departments of the City, including Public Works, Parks & Recreation, the City Manager's Office, and others. Phase 1 (Streetscape) was approved by the Board of Architects on April 15, 2021 (AB-21-03-8624). We are now requesting approval of Phase 2 (Park Landscape and Physical Features Improvements).

Introduction

The scope of work for Ponce Circle Park Design Plan is to reshape the existing green space into a landmark plaza-park destination — embracing its location in the Central Business District of Coral Gables, and including amenities suitable for the diverse surrounding neighborhoods.

A unique aspect of the project is the Park's location — in a traffic roundabout, bounded on all sides by vehicular roadways. Ponce de Leon Boulevard is a major north-south travel way, and as such, the green space is currently difficult to access. One of the main objectives of the project is to improve pedestrian safety and access. As a result, the scope of work extends well beyond the park boundary itself to include the surrounding streets and sidewalks. The **Ponce Circle Park Plan** proposes numerous roadway & streetscape improvements to enhance pedestrian access, in addition to park landscape improvements. These streetscape enhancements are pending Miami Dade County approval, but were approved by the Board of Architects on April 15, 2021.

Park Design

The design of the park itself was influenced by several important factors. Urban Robot began the design process by taking a survey of the community, which occurred at a widely-publicized public meeting on December 12, 2019. The overwhelming feedback from residents and business-owners alike was for shade, greenery, seating, and room for a farmer's market. These priorities have served as our touchstones throughout the design process, guiding the decision to incorporate a verdant & tree-lined path system, a large number of uniquely programmed seating opportunities, and a landmark shade structure.

Inspired by the public's wish for a farmer's market, the new design features a large event lawn at its center — a potential venue for a wide range of public events, as determined by the City. From Burgerlicious and Chili Chillin' to Art in the Park and the Easter Egg Hunt, the lawn has been designed to accommodate large public gatherings when desired, with wide paths all around and innovative sod preservation methods to ensure durability.

The symmetry of the park design was inspired by the historic nature of the City of Coral Gables, including the recent designation of the street grid as historic. We have preserved the capsule-shape of the park, predicated the design on the cardinal axes, ensured a mirroring of the layout along the N-S Axis, and introduced other elements of formality into the park layout. (The existing fountain, decorative walls, and other monuments in the park are not historic and will be removed.)

The park design was also influenced by the recent extraordinary transformation of Miracle Mile, only 3 blocks away, and the ongoing construction of Plaza on Ponce on the east side of the site. A 2.1 million square foot development, Plaza on Ponce, when complete, will feature hotel, retail, office, condo and apartment uses, which will bring thousands of new residents and visitors to the area, in addition to foot traffic from local businesses and existing neighborhoods. The new park design embraces these changes by providing a forward-thinking layout that includes some contemporary elements — such as custom seat-benches, sustainable features such as rain gardens, an interactive sculpture (to be provided through the Art in Public Place Program), and a unique planting scheme called the “Rainbow Ring” — paired with traditional features and materials that exist in other Coral Gables Parks, such as the extensive use coral stone, wood, bronze powder-coat on metals (light fixtures, pergola roof), native and ornamental statement trees, and architectural elements such as ornamental corbels/brackets on the pergola roof.

Conclusion

Urban Robot is thrilled to serve as your Landscape Architect for this pivotal project! The design concept for Ponce Circle Park is in keeping with other park themes, bridging the gap between the very traditional and the more contemporary Miracle Mile. We are excited to have the opportunity to help the City and the neighborhood re-design Ponce Circle Park and the surrounding Streetscape to better serve the pressing and evolving needs of the community. We believe the **Ponce Circle Park Design Plan** achieves the stated objectives and will create an exceptional green space and an enduring landmark in the City.

We greatly appreciate your consideration and look forward to your feedback. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Justine Velez, RLA
Principal
URBAN ROBOT ASSOCIATES, INC.