



DRAFT

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 01, 2019 8:30 a.m.
Coral Gables Museum
285 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables, Florida 33134**

*Historical Resources &
Cultural Arts*

2327 SALZEDO STREET
CORAL GABLES
FLORIDA 33134

☎ 305.460.5093
✉ hist@coralgables.com

MEMBERS	N +	D +	D +	J	F	M	M +	A	A	J	J	A	S	O	APPOINTED BY:
	18	18	18	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	
Leslie Pantin	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	Mayor Raul Valdes- Fauli
Dr. Fernando Alvarez- Perez	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	-	E	E	P	Vice-Mayor Vince Lago
Betty Horwitz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	P	E	Commissioner Pat Keon
Frank Martinez*					P	P	E	P	P	E	-	P	P	P	Commissioner Michael Mena
June Morris*										P	-	P	P	P	Commissioner Jorge Fors
Dr. Bernice Roth Chair	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	E	P	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Dr. Rosa Maria Mayorga V.Chair	P	P	A	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	-	P	P	P	Board Appointee

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

STAFF:

Dona Spain, Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Director
Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Dept.

GUESTS:

Gustavo Membiela, Board Chair of Area Stage; Hugo Arza, Board member of Area Stage; Maria Banda-Rodaz, Executive Director of Area Stage

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 8:30 a.m. and read aloud the City's False Claims Ordinance.

Dr. Roth advised the Board that starting at the next meeting, time limits will be set for agenda items with the intent to keep meetings to one hour. She said that people who are present will be advised of the time limit and items may need to come back or be re-scheduled if necessary.

The Board was advised that Ms. Horwitz was unable to attend and respectfully asked to be excused.

Dr. Mayorga made a motion to accept the absence of Ms. Horwitz. Dr. Alvarez-Perez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 17, 2019:

Dr. Roth asked that the minutes of September 17 be deferred to allow Board members time to review them prior to the next meeting. The Board-as-a-whole agreed.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES:

a. AREA STAGE THEATER

Members and staff of Area Stage Theater addressed the Board and gave an overview of the history and current situation of the organization. Gus Membiela introduced himself as the current Board chair and stated that the organization is celebrating its thirty-year anniversary and has received multiple awards over the years. They've been located in their current Coral Gables location on U.S. 1 for the past ten years, he said, and described the three areas of organizational focus: professional theater production, children's conservatory and theater program, and an inclusion program allowing children and young adults with development disabilities to participate in full-scale productions. Mr. Membiela described the children's program in greater detail saying that 460 children are enrolled in acting, voice, and dance classes with scholarships offered to students in need. He shared the success of the current production of Mathilda, saying additional shows have been added and announced the upcoming productions.

Mr. Membiela continued, and shared that the Riviera Plaza (where the theater is located) is being redeveloped and soon, the theater will need a new home. He said they are looking for a permanent theater home with a strong preference to stay in Coral Gables. The Area Stage visitors discussed the great benefit of the theater to the area and asked for support and ideas to find a new home.

Dr. Mayorga asked if it was temporary or permanent and if they tried to speak with the developer. Mr. Membiela responded that a permanent location is needed; discussions were held early on with the developer. However, the space is tight and not possible to include a theater. Ms. Spain said the City also spoke with the developer.

Ms. Spain asked if they have addressed the Commission. Mr. Membiela responded that it's the next step. Dr. Alvarez-Perez commented that it seemed likely that a Commissioner would support it.

Ms. Morris asked what the organization needs specifically, how often the space is used, and if a cooperative agreement could be made with an existing space, such as the new location across from City Hall. Ms. Rodaz responded that the theater currently has 250 seats and 300 seats would be an ideal increase to address their growing audience; 10,000 to 15,000 square feet would accommodate multiple programs including a theater and classrooms with the larger space able to store sets and props. She said it's possible to have classroom space somewhere else than where productions are held; however, it's not ideal. Right now, she continued, the theater has been invited to present at the South Dade Cultural Arts Center.

Ms. Morris asked if the City currently funds the organization. Ms. Cathers responded that they're eligible as a Coral Gables based organization to apply for up to \$15,000; however, no organization receives funding at the full amount. Dr. Roth agreed, saying they received \$8,000 last year. The Board discussed other Coral Gables

based organizations such as the cinema and museum. Ms. Cathers stated that the museum and cinema are City facilities and received funds toward their build out, with the cinema as part of garage construction. In addition, she said, the museum receives \$225,000 per year. Ms. Morris said it seems the City could help with the relocation. Ms. Spain said the City budget is completed for this year. Dr. Roth said moving forward, they should make sure the Commission knows and perhaps it can be considered for the next budget cycle.

Mr. Arza introduced himself as a Board member of Area Stage, saying he and his family are there for programs six days a week. He gave his background as a zoning attorney and suggested a co-location project, such as building in a park or partnering on a construction project like a garage. Mr. Arza provided examples throughout Miami-Dade County. He added that repurposing existing sites is a good idea and the theater would be flexible.

Dr. Mayorga asked about the timeline. Mr. Membiela said the theater has a year lease, but there is a six-month notice provision. The theater runs on seasons, he said, and they're good through the fall and winter; however, they need to find something within the next six-nine months. He added that the organization can be flexible with a temporary location while something permanent is being secured.

Ms. Cathers commented that Coral Gables is known as a center for theater; however, New Theater relocated, GableStage may be relocating, and if Area Stage leaves, Actors' Theater would be the only major theatrical institution.

Dr. Roth recommended the organization approach the Commission to discuss.

The guests thanked the Board and left the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

CULTURAL GRANT ITEMS:

a. CHANGE FOLLOW-UP – DRANOFF FOUNDATION

The Board reviewed an email that was sent to the Board in March stating that the Dranoff Foundation needed to cancel an event in March. Ms. Cathers reported that the organization reached out this week regarding their Final Report and how to address the cancellation, clarifying that it was a cancellation with no replacement or re-scheduling. Ms. Cathers conveyed the grantee's request to let the Board know of her concern and asked if the Board wants to make any decision regarding the item.

Dr. Roth commented on the strong history and track record of the Foundation. She said there was no action when it was originally brought up in March and no reason to move on anything at this time. The Board agreed that it was noted, the organization followed the process, and it could be taken into consideration for the next grant cycle.

b. FINAL REPORTS

The Board was given a list of FY18-19 grantees and asked to indicate which organizations' they've attended. Staff informed the Board that Final Reports will be assigned with each Board member having about five grantees to review. They were informed that the online review process will include a pdf of the original application and a pdf of the Final Report. Once the Final Reports are completed, the FY19-20 applications can be reviewed.

The Board was reminded of the November 5 meeting date starting with the regular Board meeting at 8:00 a.m. followed by the Final Report meeting at 9:00 a.m.

c. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Ms. Cathers reported on new FY19-20 applicants. She stated two organizations have not met with staff as required in the guidelines; however, their applications have been started. The Board discussed briefly and agreed that they should be allowed to submit and, in the future, a more prominent notice could be included in the guidelines and online. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Dr. Alvarez-Perez made a motion to accept new applicants this year that haven't met with staff. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. JEAN WARD SCULPTURES

Ms. Morris reported speaking with Mari Tere Rojas regarding the Jean Ward Sculptures and said the Coral Gables School is rejecting all three sculptures due to the artworks being on loan rather than a donation. In addition, she said, they discussed the liability insurance and the school board not wanting to be responsible for the sculptures. The Board expressed their disappointment, saying it was a good location for the artworks.

Ms. Spain said the sculptures need to be taken out of storage. The Board discussed location options including installation within one of the new parks, siting them in Ingraham Park with other artworks by the artist, installing them at the Coral Gables Country Club or within the Alhambra Circle median. The Board agreed that it could be included in the scope of the Cultural Arts Master Plan.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

a. Public Safety Building

The Board asked if the selection panel for the Public Safety Building is being given direction and what the approach will be to work with Police and Fire. Staff responded that they will work with the public safety professionals and have approached an artist of interest to work with them. Ms. Spain stated that the previous artists forwarded to the Commission were eliminated and rather than opening it up again, staff has reached out to a specific artist.

Ms. Morris mentioned Paul Day as an artist the Mayor loves, saying Mr. Day is an extraordinary artist and does the kind of work being sought. Ms. Cathers said she reviewed his work and agree that he fits with what some desire, while others desire something else. Staff explained that this project has a very large budget and the Commission has expressed a desire to have a blue-chip level artist. Ms. Morris responded that the artist does work for the royal family, does monumental pieces, and is well known throughout Europe.

Mr. Pantin said the tenants of the building need to be more upfront about what they want. Mr. Martinez asked what the Commission wants. Ms. Spain said they want an artist of major standing. Dr. Alvarez-Perez stated that it's a significant amount of money that could be used to put Coral Gables on the "art map."

Ms. Cathers reflected on the panel's conversation about traditional representations of policemen and firemen, saying one of the goals discussed was how to make a more expansive depiction of a public safety professional, a family, how to capture the essence when it's not a specific person. The Board agreed that it doesn't have to

be a person. The Board discussed the small footprint of the location. Ms. Cathers noted that with more funding than originally anticipated, one idea is to have artwork at the plaza and a companion piece closer to City Hall where the memorial events take place. This would be more appealing and visible for an artist of the level being sought. Ms. Morris added that they will want a piece that easily identifies the location when people drive past.

b. Art Basel

The Board received a brief update about the Rafael Barrios sculpture that will be temporarily installed at City Hall and then moved to a permanent installation location at Ponce de Leon Park along north Ponce de Leon Boulevard. In addition, there will be a special exhibition of the artist's work at the Coral Gables Museum in the Community Room consisting of mobiles, interactive sculptures, translucent pieces, shadow works, floor pieces and various size sculptures.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were no discussion items.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

The Board was provided with the Arts Advisory Panel meeting minutes of August 28, 2019.

The Board was advised that the next Commission meeting will include: a proclamation for National Arts and Humanities Month in Coral Gables with Atena Sherry, a performer from the Sanctuary of the Arts, reciting a brief, spoken word piece; recommendation for new AAP members; and the re-appointment of Dr. Mayorga to the Board.

The Board was advised that on October 22, the Tony Cragg and John Henry recommendations will be presented. Board members were encouraged to attend both meetings.

Staff advised the Board that the next meeting will be Dona Spain's last one before she retires. Following a general outcry, the Board expressed their deep appreciation of Ms. Spain's work with the City.

There being no further business, the Cultural Development Board meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dona M. Spain
Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director