



DRAFT

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
Wednesday, January 22, 2019 9:00 a.m.

CORAL GABLES MUSEUM
285 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Historical Resources &
Cultural Arts

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MEMBERS	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J
	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	20
Nelson de León*									P	-	P	P
Dr. Jill Deupi	P	E	E	E	P	P	E	-	E	-	P	E
Emily MacDonald-Korth	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	-	P	E
Jacek Kolasiński	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	P	-	P	P
Marijean Miyar*								-	P	-	P	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez	P	E	P	P	E	E	P	-	E	-	P	P
Manny Mato*											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 (remote via conference call)

GUESTS:

Bernice Roth; Bill Brady, The Plaza; Lance Fung, John Talley and Patrick O'Connell with Illuminate Coral Gables

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

Ms. Miyar called the Arts Advisory Panel meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

The Panel was advised of the absences of Dr. Deupi and Ms. MacDonald-Korth who respectfully requested to be excused. The Panel-as-a-whole accepted Dr. Deupi and Ms. MacDonald-Korth's absences as excused.

Panel members introduced themselves to the guests attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS DECEMBER 20, 2019:

Deferred.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES:

Mr. O'Connell introduced himself and Mr. Torre as the founders of Illuminate Coral Gables (ICG). Mr. O'Connell introduced Lance Fung, of Fung Collaboratives, as the chief curator. Mr. Fung proceeded to give an extended overview and update of the Illuminate Coral Gables project.

The ICG team showed a video that will be used for promotional and fundraising purposes. Mr. Fung stated that the exhibition, Mid-January through mid-February 2021, will be an inaugural event and continue annually. He gave his professional background and detailed the process of the ICG team's release of an international search for a curator and project management team. The project was described with the distinction of being art-centered and focusing on art in public spaces with some works in interior locations. Funding to date, he said, has commitments from the City, BID, and Chamber of Commerce.

As an out of town curator, Mr. Fung stated that he recently formed a curatorial team including Ms. Cathers as a representative of the City; Rosie Gordon-Wallace with Diaspora Vibe; and Jennifer Easton, Public Art Director of BART in the Bay area. In addition, an Arts Advisory Committee has been established with Jill Deupi, John Stuart, Carol Damian, and others to be added. Mr. Fung described his and Ms. Cathers' meeting with the Miami-Dade County Public School Board regarding partnership on an artist-led project interfacing with all 300,000+ students throughout the County.

Mr. Fung presented a curatorial overview of the proposed artworks. Artists are not confirmed, he said, until funding is in place and asked that artists and proposed artworks remain confidential. Mr. Fung said the theme for the first year will be discovery and joy, providing an expansive experience for visitors to learn about art, come to Coral Gables, and have a great time.

The ICG team thanked the Panel for the opportunity to present the updates.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. AIPP WAIVER REQUEST, THE PLAZA – MICHELE OKA DONER

The Panel received proposal materials by The Plaza for a monumental artwork bench and table by Michele Oka Doner. Bill Brady introduced himself and gave a brief overview of The Plaza development project. He stated that the first proposed artwork on the site, by artist Tony Cragg, has been approved by the Commission.

Mr. Brady stated the proposed location for the Oka Doner piece as behind the historic building across the street from Ponce Circle Park. He read through the proposal materials and described the artwork as a cast bronze counter with a monumental bench including a live specimen oak tree in the center, approximately 17-feet in diameter, with a textured surface and different patinas for the counter and bench. A map of the location was provided including tree installation information from the City, an artist statement, renderings, and a budget. Mr. Brady said he saw similar bench and table pieces at the artist's studio and mentioned that The Plaza worked directly to the artist.

Mr. Kolasiński asked for information regarding the growth and interaction with the tree, as requested at the previous Panel meeting (tree radius and root growth). Mr. Brady responded that the team is going by standards laid out by the City regarding the tree and proposed growth. The Panel agreed that it's important not to sacrifice the tree or the artwork.

Ms. Kautz asked about ADA requirements for the artwork. Ms. Cathers responded that it would be ideal if it adhered to ADA specifications; however, as a listed artwork it should fall under similar consideration as other artworks.

Maintenance of the artwork was discussed. Mr. Brady noted that Rosa Lowinger will be working on maintenance plans for The Plaza artwork projects.

Staff asked the Panel to review all materials presented, including the budget and reminded the Panel that another Oka Doner piece has been approved by the Commission for the Merrick Hotel. The Panel was given direction to either provide feedback for further development, recommend acceptance of the proposal as presented, or recommend not to accept the proposal.

The Panel discussed the dimensions and interaction between the counter and bench asking for further development to ensure the best ergonomic relationship between the two, suggesting a test mockup.

Panel commented on the exceptional execution of the airport piece. Ms. Miyar noted that the artist's work tends to be delicate and liked the outdoor, interactive component of the artwork.

The Panel expressed general concern about the concept, asking if it could be pushed further, enhanced, and be more exceptional. Mr. Brady stated that this is the selection of the developer. Another comment was that it looks like part of the hardscape and less like an artwork. Mr. Brady responded that it's more majestic in person.

The Panel overall felt the budget was high for the proposed artwork is and that a piece that is more unique to Coral Gables is desired. They noted the high percentage for the artist fee and recommended revisiting this item.

The Panel was understanding of the developer's desire for the piece and appreciative of their work with the artist; however, they expressed a desire to see another proposal rather than something the artist has already made. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Roselione-Valadez made a motion for Ms. Oka Doner to submit a separate proposal that is site specific, unique to Coral Gables, and not a work that has already been realized. Mr. Kolasiński seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

There were no new updates.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

There were no City Commission items.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were no discussion items.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

There were no items from the secretary.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Catherine', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist