



DRAFT

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

*Historical Resources &
Cultural Arts*

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

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 and Culture Specialist

GUESTS:

Joanna Davila, Katia Rosenthal

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 8:36 a.m.

The Panel was advised that Mr. Martinez respectfully requested to be excused.

Ms. Burgos made a motion to accept the absence of Mr. Martinez as excused. Dr. Alvarez-Perez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2020:

Mr. Pantin made a motion to approve the minutes of September 1, 2020. Dr. Alvarez-Perez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. AIPP WAIVER REQUEST, VILLA VALENCIA – THOMAS HOUSEAGO

Board members were provided with proposal materials for a waiver request by the Villa Valencia development project to commission and install artwork by Thomas Houseago 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 with a requirement that the developer submit specific information regarding the alloy of the material and its treatment. Staff introduced Joanna Davila as representing the developer and Katia Rosenthal as the art consultant on the project.

Ms. Davila, director of marketing for the Villa Valencia project, described the development project at 515 Valencia, stating its location on the corner of Valencia Avenue and Hernando Street with a 9,000 square foot public park. She conveyed the excitement of the development team in proposing a commission by the artist Thomas Houseago, about bringing his work to the City, and contributing to the cultural fabric of Coral Gables. She continued with brief biographical information about the artist and noted his recent exhibition at the Royal Academy of Art, showing images of the artist's past work and in environments similar to the proposed location at Villa Valencia. Ms. Davila stated that the artist works in natural textures and (is known for) figurative and geometric sculptures.

A rendering of the building and park area was shown with the sculpture in place. Mr. Rosenthal expanded on the artist's interest in the human form and stated that the proposed artwork will be made from sheets of brass with different sides that slip in and out of view as one walks around the piece. She noted that the work compliments the aesthetics of the building as well as Coral Gables. Ms. Rosenthal provided information on the foundry in Switzerland responsible for fabricating the artwork, saying it is one of the most renowned in the world. The piece, she said, will be placed on a raised plinth surrounded by a small hedge.

Ms. Davila continued, saying the artwork is six and a half feet tall, with the plinth at a height of about two feet. As an open green space in a residential area of the City, she said the idea is to add interest and welcome people in to have lunch, a picnic, etc. The artwork itself, she said, is a different take on the figure with elegance and sophistication, while also being dynamic. Context images were shown along with magazine and newspaper features about the artist.

Dr. Roth asked about seating within the park and Ms. Davila said there are benches under the pergola.

Ms. Cathers reported that the Arts Advisory Panel (AAP) reviewed another proposed sculpture for the site by the same artist, saying the Panel was divided on whether it was an appropriate piece for the space and City. They were excited about the artist, she said, and encouraged the developer to research another work. The developer returned with the sculpture presented at this time and unanimously recommended it. Ms. Cathers shared the Panel's concerns about the materiality and how it would hold up in the environment and location. She said they also discussed the scale and accessibility to the piece. In response, she continued, Ms. Davila and Ms. Rosenthal provided extensive information about the material and handling and continue to provide information as requested.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez asked if the brass was an artistic or economic choice. Ms. Rosenthal said it is an artistic choice of the artist. He stated that bronze may be a more known material to last over time in our

environment. Mr. Rosenthal said it was taken into consideration and noted other works by the artist in the same material that have fared well in similar environments, including a larger work in Hong Kong Bay.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez shared his support of the artist and stated concern about the size, saying he would like to see it larger within this space. Ms. Davila said the landscaping is continuing to be developed and that a higher base would help to see the sculpture at a larger scale. Ms. Rosenthal said she thought the size was contextually appropriate; however, they could ask the artist to scale it a little larger. For comparison, Ms. Cathers asked about the size of the work shown at the Royal Academy of Art. Ms. Rosenthal said that work is a monumental piece. Ms. Davila showed a rendering of the proposed artwork on the base, which would be concrete or stone. Dr. Alvarez-Perez said that presented with other works it may be o.k., but as a single work in the park, it appears small. Ms. Davila responded that the space is meant to be more intimate and nuanced. Dr. Alvarez-Perez asked if the Panel addressed the scale. Ms. Cathers responded that they discussed it in relation to the surrounding buildings and within the park but did not dwell on it. He noted that the artist's work is well known here in prominent collections and would like to see a more substantial work in Coral Gables.

Ms. Horwitz asked about the maintenance, echoing the concerns of the AAP regarding brass in a tropical environment. Ms. Rosenthal referenced the maintenance documents provided from the fabricator and discussed the alloys being considered. Based on the information provided, she said, oxidation will have no impact on the piece's stability. Ms. Davila added that the studio provided instructions to wipe it with a dry or slightly damp cloth on a regular basis. She said the grounds keepers will be including (this care) as part of their regular duties. The site, she said, also has 24-hour security. Ms. Davila noted that local conservator RLA has recommended more extensive cleaning once or twice a year. Mr. Rosenthal added that a complex hard oil may be rubbed on the surface to protect it from environmental factors.

Ms. Cathers noted that the developer has added a short shrub around the plinth to deter people from touching it. She said the Board should be aware that the sculpture (color and patina) will change over time and is to be expected. Dr. Mayorga asked for more information about how it will change. Ms. Rosenthal said there would be a slight color change, but it is not expected to go completely dark or green. If there is an extreme change, she said, a local conservator could be consulted to do a re-patinization and that this has been discussed with conservators at RLA and Evergreen.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez clarified that the Commission has the ultimate decision.

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 Villa Valencia development project to commission and incorporate artwork by artist Thomas Houseago into the project as presented and as recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel with consideration to increase the scale of the artwork and height of the plinth. Dr. Alvarez-Perez seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Ms. Davila and Ms. Rosenthal thanked the Panel and left the meeting.

b. TEMPORARY EXHIBITION PROPOSAL – WILLIAM BARBOSA

Board members received a proposal request for a temporary exhibition of a sculpture by the artist William Barbosa.

Staff stated that the Mayor presented the proposal through the City Manager's office to the Arts Advisory Panel, who reviewed it and made a recommendation to approve the exhibition. The artwork was described as a painted sculpture previously on view as part of the Venezuelan exhibition last year and is currently installed in the courtyard of the Coral Gables Museum. The proposed location for the temporary exhibition is within the median of Alhambra Circle at Le Jeune Road and would be for a period of one year.

Ms. Cathers said she approached Douglas Wood engineers to design a universal base, something that could be used for future sculpture installations at the same site. She reported that his team said there was a lot of (construction) work recently done in the area and there may be utilities that interfere with this location. These concerns are being investigated.

Background about the artist was presented, and that he is represented by Durban Segnini Gallery.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez asked if there is a cost associated for the exhibition. Ms. Cathers responded that there is no cost for the loan; however, there is an expense for the design and construction of a foundation. She said the gallery has been advised that typically the owner (or their representative) is asked to cover insurance and installation costs, currently estimated around \$20,000.

Dr. Mayorga brought up safety concerns at the location regarding visibility and lighting. Staff responded that staff would follow process including establishing the triangle of visibility. Lighting, Ms. Cathers said, could be applied with the solar lights currently being used for the Barrios sculpture.

Dr. Roth asked about the location and recommended reaching out to nearby residences. Ms. Kautz noted that there is an empty lot on to the north and a duplex to the South. Staff further stated that exhibition of public artwork is for all who may experience it in different ways, including people living in the area.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez noted that the artist has not shown extensively outside of his related movement and recommended that it be approved as long as there is no economic impact to the City or art in public places monies, that safety concerns be addressed, and the neighbors informed. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Dr. Alvarez-Perez made a motion recommending approval of a temporary exhibition of the sculpture Untitled by William Barbosa contingent on neighbors being informed, safety concerns addressed, and that no art in public places funds are used. Ms. Burgos seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

CULTURAL GRANTS:

a. GRANTEE PROGRAMS

Ms. Cathers reported that many organizations have moved to virtual programming. The Board discussed having grant agreements this year reflect flexibility to approve changes depending on individual situations. Staff encouraged Board members to attend as many virtual programs as possible.

b. FINAL REPORTS

The Board continued their discussion of how best to process Final Reports. It was understood that the primary function of the report is to assess how each organization is doing and if they are in compliance with the program or project proposed. Ms. Cathers stated that reviewing the reports is helpful; however, scoring them seems to have little purpose. Dr. Roth agreed that a score is not needed.

Mr. Pantin noted that many items on the report seem to be administrative, such as budget compliance and wondered if this was something staff could review. Ms. Cathers suggested a hybrid approach of staff reviewing the financials and board members addressing content accountability. She stated that the Final Reports could still be divided among Board members with each member reviewing for content matching the original application.

The Board discussed the importance of reporting throughout the year on programs they've attended and agreed that a dedicated meeting should still take place to discuss the reports as a Board. The Board further discussed the situation this year and agreed to be flexible. Dr. Mayorga suggested instilling an interim report that would be submitted before the next round of grant applications are due and all agreed.

Dr. Alvarez asked if those organization which haven't been able to change their programming can carry their project and funding into the next fiscal year. Ms. Cathers responded that their Final Report may be extended, and this was the case for a couple of the FY19-20 grantees.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

Ms. Cathers reported on the status of various Art in Public Places developer projects including the installation of the Jaume Plensa sculpture at the Paseo de la Riviera. She added that the Gables Station project is preparing for installations of artworks and that the Commission approved rescinding the donation of the smaller Blessing Hancock piece in order to place it on the development site close to its larger companion piece.

Ms. Cathers stated that the Kiki Smith installation date was moved to align with the opening of Illuminate Coral Gables. Illuminate Coral Gables, she said, will be going to Commission in October with a detailed update.

Staff reported that the Public Safety Building public art proposals from artists Norman Lee and Jim Hirschfield are due in October.

The BID's recent "Studios on the Mile" project curated by Dr. Carol Damian was announced. For this project, artists are in residence with their studios in empty storefronts from October through December.

OLD BUSINESS:

Following up on the Board's interest in the Le Jeune Road Bridge, Ms. Cathers reported that the County Art in Public Places program does not have a project planned at the site and a request has been sent to Jenny Lopez to discuss further.

Staff provided an update on Ponce Circle Park, stating that staff has asked for artist-designed elements such as pergolas. A design is scheduled to be presented to the City Manager in October and presented to select Boards in October and November with community meetings scheduled for January. Staff will once

again request artist-designed elements and/or sculptures within the park, noting that there will be an Art in Public Places fee allocation. Mr. Pantin stated that construction of the park should coincide with The Plaza construction and perhaps there could be an artistic way to connect The Plaza to the park; staff said they will include this in their comments. The Board was informed that the Arts Building restoration in lieu of Art in Public Places fees for The Plaza will go to the Historic Preservation Board.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

There were no Commission items to report on.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mr. Pantin asked about the area within the roundabout where Ponce de Leon intersects various roadways by the Shops at Merrick Park and what the status of the fountain is that is currently in the center of the roundabout. Staff will request information about the site and report back to the Board.

Mr. Pantin asked that as planning moves forward for the new fire station on Sunset, that Art in Public Places be considered from the beginning. Following a short discussion, the following motion was made:

Mr. Pantin made a motion recommending that an Art in Public Places plan for the new Fire Station on Sunset Road be included at the beginning of the design phase of the project. Dr. Alvarez-Perez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez recommended creating an Art in Public Places brochure in time for the next Art Basel to promote Coral Gables as a cultural destination. Staff responded that it may be possible to include it in the Art Circuits guide as an insert (note: Art Circuit is not currently producing a print version at this time). Ms. Cathers informed the Board that staff is working on a tour map for the Kiosks on Miracle Mile and revamping how the collection is presented on the website.

ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

There were no additional items from the secretary.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Cultural Development Board meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist