



DRAFT

CITY OF CORAL GABLES CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 8:30 a.m.

Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department

Hybrid Meeting in City Commission Chambers & Virtual via Zoom

Historical Resources &
Cultural Arts

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MEMBERS	A	M	J	J	A	S	S	N	D	J	F	M	APPOINTED BY:
	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	
Leslie Pantin	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	P	P	Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Dr. Fernando Alvarez- Perez	-	-	P	P	P	A	P	-	-	-	P	P	Vice-Mayor Vince Lago
Betty Horwitz	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	V	V	Commissioner Pat Keon
Frank Martinez	-	-	P	P	P	P	E	-	-	-	P	P	Commissioner Michael Mena
Geannina Burgos*			P	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	P	E	Commissioner Jorge Fors
Dr. Bernice Roth Chair	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	-	V	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Dr. Rosa Maria Mayorga	-	-	P	P	P	E	P	-	-	-	V	V	Board Appointee

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

STAFF:

Warren Adams, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director
Kara Kautz, Assistant Historic Preservation Officer
Catherine Cathers, Arts and Culture Specialist
Edward Hudak, Police Chief
Marcos de la Rosa, Fire Chief

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

Dr. Roth called the Cultural Development Board meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

The Board was advised that Geannina Burgos respectfully asked to be excused.

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

Director Warren Adams introduced himself to the Board and was warmly welcomed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, FEBRUARY 2, 2021:

Mr. Pantin made a motion to approve the minutes of February 2, 2021. Dr. Alvarez-Perez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING – ARTIST PROPOSAL REVIEW & RECOMMENDATION

Prior to the meeting, the Board received, and reviewed, proposals submitted for the Public Safety Building (PSB). Staff gave a brief overview of the process to date, noting that the Arts Advisory Panel met and reviewed 145 qualified responses for the PSB public art Request For Qualifications (RFQ) and recommended the following twelve artists for Police and Fire to consider: Rosario Marquardt, Rob Ley, Shane Allbritton/Norman Lee, Adam Kuby, Jephson Robb, Mark Reigelman, Matthew Mazzotta, Nick Ervnick, Resa Blatman, Jim Hirschfield, John K. Melvin, and the team of MIIM + JW. They were advised that Police Chief Hudak and Fire Chief de la Rosa reviewed the qualifications of the artists and selected the artists Shane Allbritton/Norman Lee, Adam Kuby, Nick Ervnick, and Jim Hirschfield to move forward in the process; the artists were interviewed by the Chiefs and staff with Jim Hirschfield and Norman Lee requested to submit concept proposals. It was stated that the PSB Review Panel (including Police Chief Hudak, Fire Chief de la Rosa, and CDB appointee Leslie Pantin) met on October 29, 2020 and reviewed proposals which were presented by Jim Hirschfield and Norman Lee. Due to COVID19, the Panel was unable to meet the in-person quorum requirement until recently and completed their discussion on February 24, 2020 making a motion recommending acceptance of the Public Safety Building public art proposal concept by the artist team of Shane Albritton/Norman Lee, with direction to remove the bench, raise the height of the base, and increase the height of the sculpture.

Ms. Cathers provided additional information from the Panel's discussion, including that Police Chief Hudak and Fire Chief de la Rosa requested incorporating graphic symbols to reference Police, Fire, and Communication Operators, stating agreement from Panelists that specifics of the design and incorporation of iconic symbols (or text) may be worked through with the artist. She added that Arts Advisory Panel members encouraged sensitivity and inclusion for determining graphics, cautioning against the use of physical representations saying they supported the use of iconic images such as the fire fighter helmet, (five-pointed) police hat, and operator communication device. Panel members encouraged using the base for this intent rather than adding anything additional to the sculpture itself, partly to avoid the appearance of images being engulfed in flames.

The Board was informed of the overwhelming support to increase the height of the sculpture as high as possible while maintaining the structural integrity of the piece and that seating as part of the monument was not embraced due to there being no backing and the fact that people would be facing away from the memorial, not engaging with it directly. Technical concerns from the fabricator were noted about balancing the water flow if water is expected to surround the piece.

The recommended proposal was placed on the screen for viewing and reference during the discussion.

Police Chief Hudak and Fire Chief de la Rosa were welcomed and addressed the Board. Fire Chief de la Rosa thanked Ms. Cathers for the synopsis and expressed appreciation for inclusion in every step of the process, making sure that the concerns of Police and Fire were heard and met. He stated that it's a unique public art piece, meaning a lot to the people inside the building, and was the piece that best captured the

intent of Police and Fire for multiple meaning to those within the building as well as outside. He went on to say that art usually goes along with the opening of a building; however, in this case, it helped that it was delayed in order to appreciate how it would work within the space. Chief de la Rosa mentioned the benefit of not including benches as part of the artwork and how the proposed increase in height fits within the space and can be appreciated from within the building. He said he was very happy with the selection and how it speaks to everyone.

Police Chief Hudak echoed the Fire Chief's comments, adding that (the artwork) is easily understood and encapsulates everything wanted, including the co-habitation (within the building) of Police and Fire, symbolism of the flame, and honoring first responders as well as communication operators. He noted that it is a tribute to the City's officers and firefighters who have fallen but doesn't look somber. Chief Hudak said he is extremely excited about the artwork and has discussed it several times with the Fire Chief. He added that with the plaza completed, they can see how additional height, along with the lighting component, will allow viewing from inside and outside the building.

Dr. Alvarez-Perez asked for clarification about the proposed modifications and location within the plaza. Chief Hudak responded, stating that with the permanent seating in place, it isn't needed within the sculpture/memorial and now the base can be raised, also bringing the water component closer to the viewer. With the base raised, he said, symbolism may be incorporated on it and the sculpture can be higher, making it visible from the community meeting room and other offices on the first floor.

Ms. Cathers provided additional clarification of how the base would be modified, increasing the height overall and giving it more of a presence. She stated that the proposal currently references the sculpture at about eight feet and the intent to raise the piece to thirteen to fifteen feet overall.

Dr. Roth stated a preference for this proposal and asked about the existing plaza seating. Chief Hudak stated that as a secure building, there isn't a lot of seating inside; because of the way the sun sets, he said, there is a lot of shading on the plaza. He went on to say that it will be highly activated with employees using it for lunch outside, serving as a waiting area, and used for press conferences with (the sculpture) as a backdrop.

Mr. Martinez asked if the artists are on board with the changes and asked how the names will be incorporated. Chief Hudak stated that the names will be on the base with water cascading over them and that discussions with the artist were productive. Chief de la Rosa added that the artist is a pleasure to work with and did an excellent job capturing the intentions expressed. He reiterated that the plaza will be a highly active area and the arrangement allows for plenty of area for people to sit, wait, and co-mingle while raising the sculpture to further protect it from (physical) interaction.

Chief Hudak expressed appreciation for how the concept was presented, and how the flames intertwining the divisions is thoughtful and moving.

Mr. Martinez commended the process of working together to refine the piece.

The Chiefs thanked the Board, who thanked the Chiefs.

Due to the requested design modifications, staff recommended a total of \$450,000 (four hundred fifty-thousand dollars) with additional resources to allocate toward marketing and education. The Board asked if there are sufficient resources to support the requested amount and staff confirmed.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Mr. Pantin recommending the artist team of Shane Allbritton/Norman Lee and the proposed concept for the Public Safety Building public art with modifications to remove the seating element, raise the base, and increase the height of the sculpture as recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel and Public Safety Building Selection Panel. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

b. COCOPLOM ROADWAY (LE JEUNE ROAD) BRIDGE - REPORT

Prior to the meeting, the Board received a report regarding the Cocoplum Roadway Bridge replacement as it relates to Art in Public Places. Ms. Cathers reported that in response to the Board's request, she spoke with representatives of the project from Miami-Dade County. A rendering of the proposed bridge was placed on screen for reference as the report was reviewed.

In summary, Ms. Cathers noted that a prefabricated bridge structure is scheduled to replace the existing (roadway) bridge crossing the Coral Gables waterway on LeJeune Road between Ingraham Park and Cartagena Plaza. It was stated that the bridge design appeared to be the best of the choices available. Discussion with the County, it was said, included maintenance, the site overall, and how public art could be integrated. The report documented County staff's assessment that the bridge is at its maximum weight load and including a structure on the bridge itself is problematic and not possible at this time. The underside of the bridge was also discussed as an opportunity; however, access to this area for maintenance would be difficult and installing artwork here was not encouraged.

Dr. Roth asked if the Arts Advisory Panel has reviewed (the report); staff responded that they would bring it forward to the Panel at the request of the Board. At this time, staff said the County's recommendation for the City is to proceed with anything that is not on the bridge. Staff relayed their overall recommendation for the project is to match the colors of the new bridge with the existing pedestrian bridge and to wait for the installation of the roadway bridge to better assess opportunities for public art. Ms. Kautz added that the color may be revisited when the pedestrian bridge is due for repainting. Existing public artwork in the surrounding area was noted including the sculpture *Old Shoes* in the middle of the traffic circle; the collection of Jean Ward sculptures in Ingraham Park; and the marble sailboat sculpture on the upper bank of the waterway.

Mr. Pantin suggested a painted treatment, or otherwise challenging an artist to come up with a solution that does not affect the structure; he proposed artwork for both bridges in communication with each other. He mentioned that County Commissioner Regalado supported the idea (of an artistic integration).

Staff clarified that, as a Miami-Dade County project, any artistic treatment applied to the bridge by the City will require a maintenance agreement between the County and City to ensure that the work continues to look its best.

The Board continued discussion with Mr. Pantin commenting on the industrial look of the design and lack of enthusiasm from residents. Mr. Martinez suggested exploring ideas that do not affect the weight yet make visual improvements. The Board discussed the importance of the location; saying it deserves a signature piece as the main waterway entrance into Coral Gables and to the historic Old Cutler Road.

Overall, the Board agreed to continue exploring options with the understanding that it may be best to wait until the bridge is in place.

CULTURAL GRANTS:

a. GRANTEE PROGRAMS

Four grantee organizations presented updates in response to the Board's request to have presentations from grantees addressing how they are working through the pandemic and how programming has altered. The following Coral Gables Based organization leaders gave brief updates and answered questions from the Board: Barbara Stein, Actors' Playhouse; Brenda Moe, Coral Gables Art Cinema; John Allen, Coral Gables Museum; and Tracy Magellan, Montgomery Botanical Center.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

The Board was informed of the re-opening of the Garage 7 Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and that new qualifications will be accepted until March 8th. The Board was asked to share the RFQ and forward any names of artists they would like to see considered. Staff reviewed the intent to commission artwork within the stairwell features of the garage and of the Police and Fire Chief's interest in artwork that acts as a beacon for the site, making the building visible from a greater distance.

Staff reported meeting with the design team for Fire Station 4 and that they will continue attending meetings with the intent of including an artist for the project as early as possible.

It was reported that the on-site maintenance assessment from Evergreene was completed last week and a report is anticipated in time to present at the next Board meeting.

The Board was advised that Kiki Smith's exhibition *Blue Night* on Giralda Plaza will be in place until the end of April. Ms. Cathers noted that it is a highly activated piece, especially delightful during the daylight when the sun catches the mirrored reflections. She added that Illuminate Coral Gables will close the evening of March 13, one day early due to daylight savings. Ms. Cathers reported extensive local and national press and that Giralda Plaza has experienced increased activity overall. There was a regular flow of people at all exhibition sites without crowding, she said, and Illuminate Coral Gables continues to seek volunteer ambassadors and drivers of Cai Guo-Qiang's *Fireflies*.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

There were no Commission items to report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were no discussion items.

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 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Catherine", is written in a cursive style.

Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist