



DRAFT

CITY OF CORAL GABLES CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 8:30 a.m.

Historical Resources &
Cultural Arts

Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department
Hybrid Meeting in City Commission Chambers & Virtual via Zoom

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

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 8:35 a.m.

The Board was advised that Dr. Alvarez-Perez and Geannina Burgos respectfully asked to be excused.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MARCH 2, 2021:

Dr. Mayorga made a motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2021. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. YES/NO – ILLUMINATE CORAL GABLES, PUBLIC ART PURCHASE PROPOSAL

Prior to the meeting, the Board received and reviewed a purchase proposal submitted by Antonia Wright and Ruben Millares for one of the artworks presented as part of Illuminate Coral Gables (ICG). Mr. Millares attended the meeting virtually and addressed the Board.

Mr. Millares thanked the Board and provided further details about the site-specific artwork. He described the artwork installation as four sets of six (6) barricades each, stating that the proposal before the Board today is for acquisition of one set. Conceptually, he said, the use of barricades has infiltrated the civic landscape without much notice or question; barricades are made to disappear into the landscape as part of their makeup, yet they work to control the movement of bodies around spaces, from concerts to festivals, protests, anywhere where the motion of beings needs to be controlled in some manner. Mr. Millares said that they (the artist team) selected locations where barricades may be placed for function and in locations that were interesting visually. He continued, saying that barricades on loan from the City were fitted with LED strip lighting to appear as neon lights in a clean, simple, yet effective manner. Different arrangements were presented, and it was noted that the piece may be installed on a temporary or permanent basis.

Mr. Millares referenced their extensive research around the barricade, including discovery of its first use in the French Revolution, to today's times where its use has remained as a tool of protection, safety, and the control of movement. At the same time, he noted that it is a loaded object and was enhanced with the light to have greater impact.

Staff thanked Mr. Millares, mentioning that the photographs in the proposal packet were taken during Illuminate Coral Gables. Ms. Cathers re-stated that the artist's gallery is proposing acquisition of one set of the (modified) barricades for twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00). She stated that the Arts Advisory Panel is recommending the acquisition. Discussion with the Panel included longevity of the custom light fixtures, about 15-20 years. Ms. MacDonald-Korth, the conservation professional on the Panel, recommended purchasing additional fixture sets in case of electronic failure or unforeseen damage, this would add an additional five thousand (\$5,000.00) per set with a staff recommendation to have three extra sets.

Ms. Horwitz remarked that the concept is interesting; however, during the day it would look like regular barricades and not a sculpture, especially in summer when the sun sets later. She expressed concern about purchasing a piece that would be seen for very few hours out of the year. Ms. Horwitz added that she also found the brightness distracting when driving. Dr. Roth agreed that no matter how they are placed, they will read as barricades. Dr. Mayorga asked if the light intensity could be adjusted. Mr. Millares responded that he would check with the manufacturer.

Dr. Roth thanked Mr. Millares for his work and presentation. Mr. Millares stated that he is proud of the work and how it was received as part of ICG from different groups of people including various age groups and backgrounds.

The Board continued discussion. Ms. Horwitz expressed her understanding of the powerful concept, especially its connection to today's social unrest; however, most of the time it will look like it is for construction and not like a sculpture. She said this was a problem as a permanent installation.

Mr. Martinez asked how the proposal came before the City. Staff stated that any of the pieces accepted into ICG were available for consideration of purchase and noted that one of the pieces was acquired by a building owner.

Mr. Millares stated that the artwork could be brought out on occasion and does not need to be on permanent display. He added that the play of the visual is an important part of the piece; the duality of “is it a work, or not a work” is part of the piece itself.

Staff advised that a motion from this Board will move forward to the City Commission if the artist chooses.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

Ms. Horwitz made a motion not to accept the recommendation of the Arts Advisory Panel and not purchase the sculpture “Yes/No” by Antonia Wright and Ruben Millares. Dr. Mayorga seconded the motion, which passed with the following votes: Mr. Pantin, Yes; Ms. Horwitz, Yes; Mr. Martinez, Yes; Dr. Roth, Yes; and Dr. Mayorga, No.

CULTURAL GRANTS:

a. GRANTEE PRESENTATIONS

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: Mark Hart, Community Arts Program; Lauren Schiffer, Seraphic Fire; and Bari Newport, GableStage.

b. GRANTEE PROGRAM UPDATES

Mr. Pantin initiated a conversation about requesting additional funding for the City’s cultural grantees. The Board discussed the amazing work being done by arts organizations during this difficult year and wondered if it would be possible for the City to grant COVID relief funds to Coral Gables based (arts) organizations to help them catch up from economic shortfalls. Staff responded that arts organizations gained access to COVID relief funds through Miami-Dade County and that the economic development department administered small businesses grants to those eligible.

Ms. Cathers gave a status of proposed FY2022 cultural grant funding, stating that the allocation is the same as last year when it was frozen due to revenue loss because of the pandemic. She went on to say that the Board has historically made recommendations to the Commission regarding cultural grant funding.

The Board continued discussion, noting that organizations are suffering economically and that the recent presentations to the Board have shown how active and productive the different groups have been (despite the situation). Overall, they agreed that the Commission should know; and Dr. Roth asked if a proclamation could honor their work during the pandemic.

Discussion continued and it was agreed to request a three percent (3%) increase for FY2022 cultural grant funding; the following motion was made:

A motion was made by Mr. Pantin recommending an increase of 3% for FY2022 Cultural Grant funding. Ms. Horwitz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion of general grantee updates continued. The Board was reminded that as part of the last grant cycle, the agreement included a request for grantees to submit a preliminary/interim report in response to the Board's request to know the status of the year's programming. In addition, grantees were requested to submit an alternative plan if venues did not open yet (and programming was not able to proceed as originally presented). Ms. Cathers noted that less than half a dozen were able to stick with their original programming and that the majority have changed dates or presented programming virtually, with a small number not able to complete their programming within this fiscal year. She said programs are continuing to fluctuate and encouraged Board members to visit organization websites and attend virtual programs.

Ms. Cathers advised Board members that the annual Cultural Grant workshop will be held on Thursday and asked Board members to attend if possible.

Ms. Cathers asked for input regarding the one-to-one match and clarification of the match as cash and/or in-kind. Ms. Horwitz asked for greater oversight of in-kind matches. The Board agreed they need to be documented. Overall, the Board agreed to maintain the option to match with cash and/or in-kind.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES UPDATES:

Mr. Pantin asked for an update of the Gables Station public artworks. Ms. Cathers responded that the three sculptures have been installed with the large, Corten-steel sculpture (by Arturo Berned) visible on Grand Avenue and two sculptures by Blessing Hancock in the central plaza area of the project. She said the City is waiting for final closeout documents.

Mr. Pantin mentioned the Kiki Smith installation at Giralda Plaza and asked about lighting. Staff stated that the piece is primarily activated by daylight, especially when sunlight catches the holographic stars. Ms. Cathers stated that the lights on the grid are not working and have different color temperatures; therefore, the artist asked that it be turned off. She continued, saying staff is working with public works and economic development on a solution, including switching the existing lighting with bistro lights to have a more pin-pointed, consistent look while being easier to maintain. The intent, she said, is to have it in place when (the artwork) is re-installed in November. Ms. Cathers shared that cross lighting of the artwork is also being explored with the artist, who liked the way marquee lights from adjacent businesses lit the piece.

Staff provided an update on the maintenance assessment, stating that restoration of the artwork has been submitted in the budget for the next fiscal year (from the art acquisition fund); once the initial restoration work is done, a regular maintenance plan will be established. Staff stated that there were no surprises in the report and that the Alice Aycock and Carlos Cruz-Diez artworks have existing maintenance plans.

The Board received status updates for the installation of the William Barbosa installation, plans to move the Rafael Barrios artwork, and discussed the Alice Aycock sculptures. It was reported that the smaller sculpture was struck by a vehicle and will be repaired as soon as possible. Staff stated that numerous conversations took place with the artist about the color. Ms. Aycock, it was shared, is happy with the current shade, saying it has stabilized and blends well with the environment. After receiving images, samples,

options, and after thoughtful consideration, the artist gave her recommendation to leave the artworks as they are. Recent maintenance cleared the misting nozzles which are now operating as expected.

The Board was informed of the Arts Advisory Panel's recommendation to move seven (7) artists forward for interviews with members of the Arts Advisory Panel, police chief, fire chief, and a representative from parking.

Regarding the Cocoplum Bridge project, staff reported the County's recommendation to wait until the bridge is in place before further considering how to incorporate public art. The County project team received the Board's comments to include artwork on the bridge. They have stated they are open to (the City's) continued exploration of options that would not affect the weight load. At this time, staff said, there is critical work being done to the existing bridge separate from the replacement.

Ponce Circle Park was briefly discussed, with staff reporting their input to the design team to include public art opportunities throughout the project. The Board was told that the consultant has recommended incorporating a kinetic sculpture on one end of the park.

The Board continued to encourage early integration of art into construction projects. Staff confirmed they are requesting to do so.

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 10:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine J. Cathers
Arts & Culture Specialist