



# DRAFT

## CITY OF CORAL GABLES CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, June 30, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

Historical Resources &  
Cultural Arts

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

2327 SALZEDO STREET  
CORAL GABLES  
FLORIDA 33134

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✉ hist@coralgables.com

MEMBERS	A	S	S O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	APPOINTED BY:
	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	
Leslie Pantin	P	P	P	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Vince Lago
Frank Martinez	P	A	P	-	-	-	P	P	E	E	P	P	Vice-Mayor Michael Mena
Frank Rodriguez*												P	Commissioner Rhonda Anderson
Ray Corral*												P	Commissioner Jorge L. Fors Jr.
Jose Valdes- Fauli*												P	Commissioner Kirk R. Menendez
Dr. Bernice Roth Chair	P	P	P	-	-	-	V	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager Peter Iglesias
Dr. Rosa Maria Mayorga	P	E	P	-	-	-	V	V	V	E	P	P	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 9:00 a.m. Board members and staff introduced themselves.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES, JUNE 2, 2021:

**Mr. Pantin made a motion to approve the minutes of June 2, 2021. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

### NEW BUSINESS:

#### a. BOARD-AS-A-WHOLE NOMINATION

The Board was advised of Geannina Burgos and Betty Horwitz' interest in serving as the Board-as-a-Whole appointment. Information was shared about both. The Board discussed briefly and made the following motion:

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**Mr. Pantin made a motion to approve the minutes of June 2, 2021. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

### NEW BUSINESS:

#### **a. BOARD-AS-A-WHOLE NOMINATION**

The Board was advised of Geannina Burgos and Betty Horwitz' interest in serving as the Board-as-a-Whole appointment. Information was shared about both. The Board discussed briefly and made the following motion:

**Mr. Martinez made a motion to appoint Geannina Burgos as the Board-as-a-Whole member of the Cultural Development Board. Mr. Valdes-Fauli seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**b. ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEMBER NOMINATIONS**

Board members were provided in advance with a copy of the Arts Advisory Panel (AAP) resolution and CVs of those interested in serving on the Panel. Staff advised the Board that additional materials were sent the previous night from one person and could be shared on-screen or printed in the Clerk's office. Ms. Cathers informed the Board that current eligible AAP members are interested in re-appointment, with one open vacancy. She continued, saying nine members serve on the Panel with seven arts professionals nominated and recommended by the Cultural Development Board. The other two, she said, are City Commission-as-a whole appointees who have been confirmed (Manny Mato and Maggie Hernandez). Dr. Roth stated that she was reluctant to vote on it at this time and would prefer to have the information of the person who recently submitted information.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli shared his previous experience serving with Miami-Dade Art in Public Places. He expressed concern about conflicts of interest that artists, art dealers, gallery owners, etc. may have. Mr. Corral asked how long the term is. Staff responded that appointees serve a two-year term up to a total of four terms (eight years). Mr. Valdes-Fauli asked if the term limits could be changed, and staff responded that it would need to go to the City Commission. The Board discussed the qualifications and staff clarified that the Commission-as-a-whole appointees do not need to meet the arts profession requirement; however, they need to be Coral Gables residents. Mr. Pantin asked for the composition of the present Panel members, including their profession, ethnicity, residency, gender, etc. to ensure diversity and consider candidates in areas that may not be well-represented.

Dr. Roth shared the history of forming the Arts Advisory Panel, noting that Cultural Development Board members are not expected to be art experts, and the Board wanted people with expertise in the arts to act as advisors. She acknowledged the points made about potential conflicts of interest and asked staff to confirm that members recuse themselves when conflicts arise. Staff confirmed.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli said he didn't want to recommend changes at this time and asked the Board to look at this for the future. He requested the guidelines for the Miami-Dade Art in Public Places program.

Mr. Martinez asked if the Panel was operational as is. Ms. Cathers explained that although the terms have expired, they may continue to meet if they have a quorum.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**Mr. Patnin made a motion to defer considering nominations for the Arts Advisory Panel. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**c. ART IN PUBLIC PLACES (AIPP) PROJECT LIST UPDATE**

Ms. Cathers gave a brief overview of Art in Public Places funding, explaining the two sources from private development and municipal development projects. Private development construction projects over one million, she explained, are required to put 1% of the construction budget into a public art fund with the City

or request a waiver through the commissioning or acquisition of public art. Municipal projects, she continued, are mandated per Miami-Dade County code to put 1.5% of the construction cost toward public art.

Ms. Cathers presented a spreadsheet with a breakdown of funding received to date with projects that have been completed and are proposed. She pointed out the area specifying the Miami-Dade County project requirements. She clarified that while commissioning or acquiring public art is required per the County, the artwork is not required to be at the project site generating the funds.

Staff thoroughly reviewed each project and its related funding status, noting hard and soft costs and temporary vs. permanent projects.

The Board asked for a presentation regarding the White Way Lights restoration that was noted on the list. Ms. Cathers responded that the Arts Advisory Panel has asked for the same and staff will coordinate for both the Panel and Board.

**d. PUBLIC ART COLLECTION – CONDITION ASSESSMENT**

Board members previously received a copy of the public art assessment report. The Board discussed the projects and were advised of the Arts Advisory Panel's recommendation to pursue restoration of the collection with certain priorities.

The Board was also informed of the Panel's request for a comprehensive report of the Jean Ward sculpture collection. The Board overall agreed with the Panel's intent to consider whether to keep the (gifted collection) intact or deaccession some or all of the artworks, and how that process may look.

Dr. Roth asked that this be part of the public art workshop (requested within the discussion portion of these minutes). Mr. Pantin added that before purchasing additional artworks, the collection should be taken care of.

**e. ILLUMINATE CORAL GABLES, PUBLIC ART - ARTIST APPROVAL & FUNDS**

Patrick O'Connell, co-founder of Illuminate Coral Gables (ICG), appeared before the Board via Zoom and provided an update regarding the project. He stated that he met with the City Manager and gave him a status of fundraising and secured sponsorships.

The Board was advised that the previous year they made a recommendation to the City Commission to approve the proposed artists for ICG. This year, the Board is being asked again to recommend proposed artists and to recommend funding of \$200,000 from the art acquisition fund toward ICG 2022. They were informed that the Arts Advisory Panel has reviewed the artist list and presentation and made a recommendation to the Cultural Development Board to approve the proposed artists.

Mr. O'Connell presented a PowerPoint outlining the project, proposed artists, and projects for Illuminate Coral Gables 2022.

Mr. Martinez asked if all the artists are confirmed. Mr. O'Connell responded that all artists have confirmed their interest and commitment to participate. He said the goal is to have them under contract by this summer so fabrication can start.

Staff advised the Board that at the previous City Commission meeting, the Mayor expressed concern about artists who may have political connections to countries that violate human rights, no specific artists were named. Dr. Roth asked if anything would change if a recommendation was made not to fund artists affiliated with countries accused of human rights offenses. Mr. O'Connell responded that ICG is seeking clarification before any decisions are made.

Mr. Corral asked about the barricade artwork at Merrick Park. Ms. Cathers clarified that ICG is purchasing the barricades this year. Mr. O'Connell confirmed, saying the lights from last year are being used with purchased barricades being welded in a slightly different, more impactful way to create a new large-scale work.

With no further questions from the Board, Mr. O'Connell thanked the Board for their time and support and left the meeting.

Dr. Roth asked what the \$200,000 would be used for. Staff responded that the City Manager's office requested use for general expenses; it was stated that this could be artist fees, fabrication expenses, event production, banners (signage), marketing, etc. Dr. Roth expressed concern about art funds being used for temporary rather than lasting items, noting that eventually there will be an end to large contributions and will affect the art acquisition fund.

Mr. Pantin asked how funds were used the previous year. Ms. Cathers responded that last year \$100,000 was used from a marketing fund (through economic development) and \$200,000+ was used from the art acquisition fund for the temporary exhibition of Kiki Smith's "Blue Night", which supported the ICG exhibition. She said the budget for ICG is over \$800,000.

Mr. Martinez commented that given the current context, contributing factors mentioned, and since the City has dedicated resources in the past to temporary work, he sees this as a viable use of the fund and asked the Board to consider what it wants to do regarding future planning.

Dr. Roth wondered if this is going to be an annual line item and if ICG will be seeking additional funds to replace funding requests from the art fund. Staff responded that the request is for this year only. Dr. Roth said it would be good to know, based on 2019 business, what kind of increase in business there was and encouraged support from the economic development department. Ms. Cathers noted additional funds may come through the economic development department. Mr. Pantin referenced reports of a great increase in parking revenue. Dr. Roth suggested looking at other City departments benefiting from the project and not rely on the art in public places fund.

Ms. Cathers confirmed that as staff, per the City Attorney's Office, her participation with ICG presents no conflict.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli recused himself from this item due to his affiliation as a Board member of ICG and left the room during discussion and voting.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**Mr. Pantin made a motion accepting the recommendation of the Arts Advisory Panel and recommend approving the proposed artists as presented for Illuminate Coral Gables 2022. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Mr. Martinez commented that there was not enough information regarding the nature of the Mayor's concerns and that the City Commission will ultimately make the final decision.

**Mr. Pantin make a motion recommending funding of \$200,000 from the art acquisition fund toward Illuminate Coral Gables 2022. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

f. ART BASEL 2021 – TEMPORARY EXHIBITION & APPLICATION

The Board was advised that annually the City has applied to Art Basel to present a VIP event in association with a public art exhibition. Last year, due to the pandemic, there were no in-person events and participants were able to preview the Augmented Reality experience associated with Kiki Smith's "Blue Night." Staff gave a brief overview of the Kiki Smith artwork "Blue Night", noting that it was commissioned for two installations over a two-year period. The piece, it was said, consists of forty-two acrylic works depicting constellations, suspended under the palm canopy on Giralda Plaza. The piece was exhibited for the first-time last January and is scheduled for re-installation.

Staff requested a recommendation to install the artwork in time for Miami Art Week and Art Basel 2021, and for application to present an Art Basel VIP event. Ms. Smith will be invited to the event and to present an artist talk sometime during Art Week.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli asked if there were changes being made this year to make it more visible. Ms. Cathers responded that different approaches are being considered for greater illumination in the evening. She said this could be through cross-lighting or a replacement of the exiting lighting treatment on the existing catenary system. Mr. Pantin concurred, commenting on the importance of lighting the artwork. Ms. Cathers noted that the Art Basel VIP event is an early morning reception.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli mentioned that an exhibit will be running concurrently at the Coral Gables Museum, which will be hosting a breakfast following the City's VIP reception.

With no further discussion, the following motion was made:

**Mr. Martinez made a motion to recommend approving installation of Kiki Smith's "Blue Night" in time for Art Basel and Miami Art Week, including application to Art Basel as an official event. Dr. Mayorga seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

CITY COMMISSION ITEMS:

The Board was updated on items being presented at the next City Commission meeting of July 13<sup>th</sup> including the Cultural Grant recommendations and Garage 7 (Minorca Garage) proposal artists. The Board

confirmed the appointment of Dr. Roth to speak on behalf of the Board and agreed to nominate her to speak on behalf of the Garage 7 (Minorca Garage) proposal artists. The following motion was made:

**Dr. Mayorga made a motion to nominate Dr. Roth to speak on behalf of the Board regarding the Garage 7 (Minorca Garage) proposal artists. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

The Board was advised that the Illuminate Coral Gables Artists and funding recommendation would also be presented on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Board was informed that the July 13<sup>th</sup> City Commission meeting will start at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Pantin stated that he will be away that week.

Ms. Cathers informed the Board of a grant award received by the Florida Department of State, department of arts and culture, for a temporary public art exhibition that will be put toward the reinstallation of the Kiki Smith artwork. This item, she said, will be placed on the August agenda.

The Board was advised of the budget workshop on July 14<sup>th</sup> and budget hearings on September 13 and 27<sup>th</sup>.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. FIRE STATION 4 – AIPP UPDATE

Ms. Cathers reported that the Arts Advisory Panel reviewed the site plans for the new Fire Station 4 and had an in-depth discussion with the project architect and Fire Chief. She shared the Panel's comments regarding the site itself and ultimate agreement that art should be in the broader community, not just downtown, but also for residents in other parts of the City. In addition, she said, they noted the building's community focus and location in a high pedestrian area close to several schools. Panel members agreed to recommend artists to consider for a pre-qualified list that would be reviewed by the Panel prior to recommending an artist, or artists, to submit a concept proposal. Staff confirmed that this is one of the options the City has for procuring public artworks.

b. LE JEUNE ROAD BRIDGE – AIPP UPDATE

The Board was provided with an update regarding the status of discussions about the Le Jeune Road Bridge (between Ingraham Park and CocoPlum circle). A slide was shown of the prefabricated bridge rendering on site. The Board was reminded that the design is set, and the County has specified that nothing may be attached to the metal, on the girders, or under the bridge. The County stated that artwork on the concrete portions would be fine, and that maintenance would be the responsibility of the City. They suggested paint, vinyl, or possibly mosaic. The Board reviewed the areas of concrete between the girders and on the entry points of the bridge.

Ms. Cathers stated that there isn't a commitment to do anything on the site at this time. Dr. Roth asked about the timeline. Ms. Cathers responded that since it's a prefabricated bridge, the County has recommended not doing anything until the bridge is in place.

Mr. Pantin stated that this is an entrance to Coral Gables for vehicles and boats on the waterway, expressing that this is an opportunity to do something special. He asked for a status on work to be done in the area of the "Vessel" artwork.

Ms. Cathers continued, sharing information from the County about the set of regulations specific to bridges. She stated that FDOT holds bridge inspections every 2 years and all connection points on the bridge are considered “fracture critical”, meaning they need to always be accessible. Anything that prevents them from inspecting could lead to potential defects that can’t be seen. She said the County is not opposed to painting, although it’s difficult to maintain to keep it looking its best. In addition, access (to install and maintain) from the waterway is problematic. It was also specified that the color black may not be used. Ms. Cathers said there is a possibility of doing something on the concrete approaches and has seen cast concrete artwork that may work; however, the area is not very large.

Ms. Martinez summarized and stated that it sounds like nothing can be done until the bridge is set in place; after, the Board may be able to propose ideas. Ms. Cathers said if part of the concrete work was art, it could be done concurrently. Mr. Martinez responded that either artists are engaged in the process now, or not, and the list of criteria would be the same if given later.

Mr. Valdes-Fauli asked if something could be done similar to the bridge in Brickell. Mr. Martinez stated that project was a competition bringing professionals together at the beginning, it was a different process.

c. JULIO LARRAZ – AIPP PROPOSAL UPDATE

Board members were provided with a copy of the Arts Advisory Panel minutes regarding their discussion of the Julio Larraz proposal and motion not to endorse the proposal at this time, leaving it open to consider another proposal that is responsive to the Panel’s comments and addresses the AiPP criteria.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mr. Pantin requested a public art workshop for the benefit of new Board members and refresher for re-appointed members. The workshop, he said, could cover how the Art in Public Places process works, the role of the Arts Advisory Panel, restoration, etc. The Board discussed whether it should be a separate meeting and agreed to include it with a regular meeting.

The Board discussed future meeting times. The Board has been meeting the first Tuesday of the month and there were numerous conflicts with other days and times. The Board agreed to continue meeting the first Tuesday of the month for now, except for August, when they agreed to meet the last week of July in lieu of an August meeting.

Dr. Roth asked about updating the Master Plan. Ms. Cathers responded that developing a Cultural Arts Master Plan was placed on hold due to the pandemic and that with direction of the Board, staff could begin the process again. She specified that the department would work through the procurement department to hire a consultant and would look at the existing Master Plan, the guidelines, and the cultural community beyond the public art program. Mr. Martinez commented on the benefit of bringing the City’s cultural initiatives together in one plan.

**Mr. Martinez made a motion to develop a Cultural Arts Master Plan. Mr. Pantin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Mr. Valdes-Fauli commended staff on the Board materials and presentations provided.



ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY:

There were no further updates from the Secretary.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Cultural Development Board meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a trailing flourish.

Catherine J. Cathers  
Arts & Culture Specialist