

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

--MEMORANDUM--



TO: Mayor and City Commission
City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Assistant City Manager, Peter Iglesias
Coral Gables Arts Advisory Panel

FROM: Commissioner Vince Lago



DATE: July 23, 2018

SUBJECT: Re-evaluating the Arts in Public Places Program

As our City strives to become even more transparent and progressive, it is important to consistently re-evaluate our existing processes. One specific area we should re-evaluate is our Arts in Public Places Program (AIPP) referenced in our zoning code, Division 21. Section 3-2101.

Presently, the AIPP fund requirements are vague which allow applicants to classify art as building features such as doorways. An example of this occurred during the July 10, 2018 Commission Meeting when a developer tried to claim their main entryway as public art. To avoid incidents like these from taking place in the future, we should add further clarification on our requirements.

Coral Gables is known as a city which deeply values its history and culture. As such, we should pay special attention to the neighborhoods in which any proposed developments are located and select art and/or artists that resonate with the location's history accordingly. For example, if a development is built near the MacFarlane Homestead/Golden Gate Community an artist whose work speaks to the history and honors the members of the community would be highly encouraged. Also, we should re-assess our business practices when negotiating with artists and galleries. It is my view that artists should be engaged a lot earlier in the design process.

In sum, in an effort to adopt best practices, we should compare our existing program to comparable municipalities. For this reason I have requested a Sunshine Meeting to take place on August 3, 2018 at 3:00 pm, at 2801 Salzedo St. (Police Dept, Community Meeting Room). I would like to invite everyone interested in this topic to attend so that we can engage in a healthy discussion on how to add clarity to the requirements outlined in our existing zoning code.

CC: City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
Historic Preservation Officer, Dona Spain
Arts and Culture Specialist, Catherine Cathers