

**MIAMI-DADE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES
PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, June 20 – Friday June 21, 2024
(EST) 9:00 AM – 1:15 PM, EST (each day)

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) MEMBERS

Leslie Goldberg, Associate, Perez & Perez Architects
Jennifer Inacio, Associate Curator, Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM)
Melissa Hunter Davis, Editor, Sugarcane Magazine

PROJECT SITES, AUTHORITY, PHASE

- BRITISH AIRWAYS LOUNGE, MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SATELLITE E, MIAMI-DADE AVIATION DEPARTMENT, ARTIST RECOMMENDATIONS
- MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MARÍA MARTÍNEZ-CAÑAS, “AÑOS CONTINUOS” DEACCESSION

LOCATION

Zoom Online Meeting

ATTENDEES

Emily Alfonso	TGA Consulting
Victoria Allende	Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD)
Matt Callard	British Airways
Dr. Carol Damian	APP Trust
Carolina de la Horra	TGA Consulting
Pedro de la Horra	TGA Consulting
Ashley Dowell	Gensler Architects
Bianca Gonzalez LoCicero	APP
Yusimy Lara	APP
Ana Meza	APP
Tom Newman-Young	British Airways
Patricia Romeu	APP
Amanda Sanfilippo Long	APP
Fiona White	British Airways

Patricia Romeu, Chief, Art in Public Places, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM on Thursday, June 20, 2024.

**BRITISH AIRWAYS LOUNGE AT MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (MIA),
MIAMI-DADE AVIATION DEPARTMENT**

Following a welcome, Amanda Sanfilippo Long, APP Curator and Artist Manager, invited self-introductions by the PAC, APP team members, and representatives of the client team. Subsequently Ashley Dowell of Gensler Architects shared a visual overview of the upcoming British Airways Lounge, noting that British Airways will

transform the 4th Floor of the E-Satellite Terminal at Miami International Airport, into a luxurious premium customer lounge with amenities including a- la- carte dining options, a signature bar, and relaxation areas. As with some other global locations, British Airways would like to include work by local artists or artists with strong ties to Miami to further enhance the customer experience. This Miami lounge will be a first for British Airways, showcasing its new lounge design concept which merges signature British design, craftsmanship and heritage with local Miami flair.

Opportunities for public art include installation or wall-based works, stand-alone sculpture or suspended artworks intended to be placed at a focal area in front of a large window, text-based artwork(s) to activate “*Look up*” moments of hidden text embedded in specific areas including hybrid planter-seating elements, and a floor mosaic.

During the design team’s presentation and overview of the floor plan, the opportunities for public art were clarified to no longer include a large-scale wall across from check in due to the presence of required infrastructure elements including a fire cabinet. It was noted that the client team identified an additional 23 feet long wall during the proposal development phase as an option for applied two-dimensional artwork, even though this area is expected to receive low foot traffic Bearing this in mind, the two major opportunities for public art were focused in the main lounge area specifically addressing the (2) large planters and the open space in front of the large window overlooking the runway.

Subsequently, seven (7) artists shortlisted through an Invitational Call to Artists at a February 22, 2024 PAC meeting presented their concepts:

1. Gonzalo Fuenmayor
2. Autumn Casey
3. Jared McGriff
4. Rafael Domenech
6. Jessy Nite
7. Charles Humes
8. Tom Virgin

After a spirited discussion and thoughtful input from the client teams, the PAC unanimously recommended commissioning Miami-based artist Jessy Nite to be awarded the entire program budget to pursue multiple proposal concepts to create a cohesive installation or her body of work. A multidisciplinary artist, Nite specializes in interactive, experiential, and site-specific installations, often using text, typography, geometry, and illustration techniques to affirm a sense of place.

The primary recommendation was to explore Nite’s concept for the “Look Up Planters” - sculptural interventions located within three (3) table-top planters in the BA lounge. The works would appear from a surface level as an abstract geometric installation in varying shades and heights or red glass blocks, with a subtle illumination from within. However, upon viewing the works from the reflected mirror ceiling above, the work will reveal words and text. The final selection of text will be completed collaboratively between the artist, APP, and client team, at the intersection of Miami-based vernacular phrases, British wit, and the wonder of travel. The artist proposed to activate an area of the lounge where two planters are

present, making it possible for the texts or words to relate to one another as a single work. A separate part of the lounge hosts a third large planter that could also present another text-based work. To allow for illumination, the works would require a light control switch on the base. The base would be designed to be hardwired, allow easy access for replacement bulbs, and create separation from the vegetation.

Ms. Nite was also recommended to activate the prominent area in front of the window with a suspended textile work made from paracord or other durable textile material, hand-created through complex knotting techniques. The work would require overhead lighting and allow natural light from the window to activate the work. Ms. Nite provided an example of a text-based tapestry from her completed body of work as an example, but also may pursue more of a formal abstract work without text.

As recommended by the PAC, the selection is intended to allow for flexibility in its final form, scope and placement of artworks. APP will work with the artists and client teams to evolve the concepts and refine the designs within budget and schedule.

DEACCESSION: MARÍA MARTÍNEZ-CAÑAS, “AÑOS CONTINUOS” (1995), MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (MIA).

Art in Public Places Chief, Patricia Romeu, in conjunction with Victoria Allende representing the Miami-Dade Aviation Department, provided an overview of the 1995 monumental commission titled *Años Continuos* by Miami-based artist María Martínez-Cañas at Miami International Airport. APP Curator and Artist Manager Amanda Sanfilippo Long presented visuals.

Ms. Romeu presented background information, noting that since the work’s original commission in Terminal D, several construction changes have fundamentally compromised the integrity of the artwork. The integrated artwork, comprised of sandblasted frit glass and photographic techniques, was originally commissioned as a 40 feet high by 40 feet wide structural glass wall, and was sited to allow viewers to experience the work from a wide perspective. The artwork was originally conceived to serve as an exterior wall of the airport’s building envelope.

During the time period between 2005-2010, the expansion of Terminal D resulted in a major alteration to the site which changed the viewing perspective of the artwork. The work became part of a back wall partition to a restaurant’s smoking lounge. Proper viewing of the work could only be achieved by traversing a narrow utility hall behind the restaurant space. The inappropriate transformation of the glass-based work also resulted in structural damage to various glass panes posing a potential safety hazard to airport users. After an unsuccessful search for an alternative site to relocate the artwork at the airport, APP, the Artist, and MDAD determined best to deaccession the work to allow the Miami-Dade Aviation Department to proceed with the planned reconfiguration of the existing restaurant space which would require the complete removal of the work.

Ms. Romeu noted that APP has, for the past several years, worked closely with the artist to address these issues, and that the artist has executed a formal release of claim

authorizing the deaccession of the work. Given the prolific career of this Miami-base artist and her relevance to the Miami-Dade Public Art Collection, the Trust extended a commission invitation to Maria Martinez-Cañas to create a new signature work for permanent siting in another prominent location within Miami International Airport South Terminal's arrival concourse. The artist is currently completing design development for fabrication and installation of her new work before the end of 2025.

After thorough discussion, the PAC unanimously recommended deaccessioning the *Años Continuos* by María Martínez-Cañas.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00PM on Friday, June 21, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Sanfilippo Long
APP Curator and Artist Manager