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Daniella Levine Cava, Mayor

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

Thursday, March 26, 2026
10:00AM – 4:45PM, EST

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) MEMBERS

Melissa Hunter Davis, Editor, Sugarcane Magazine
Marie Vickles, Director of Education, Pérez Art Museum Miami • PAMM
Wanda Texon, Visual Arts Faculty, New World School of the Arts

PROJECT SITES, AUTHORITY, PHASE

- BRISAS DEL SOL I AND BRISAS DEL SOL II (FORMERLY KNOWN AS JOSE MARTI VILLAS: GARDENS AND JOSE MARTI MIDRISE) MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, ARTIST RECOMMENDATIONS
- OVERTOWN TRANSIT VILLAGE, MIAMI-DADE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE ARTWORK DESIGN, ARTIST QUALIFICATIONS
- MARLINSLIVE! - LOAN DEPOT BALLPARK, ARTIST QUALIFICATIONS

LOCATION

111 NW 1st Street, Suite 625, South Conference Room (Inspiration Room)
Zoom Online Meeting

ATTENDEES

Jose Fernandez de Castro	Related Urban Group
Jorge Cibran	Related Urban Group
Kathinka Chambers	APP Apprentice
Dr. Carol Damian	APP Trust Chair
Patricia Hanna	Related Urban Group
Yusimy Lara	APP
Tatiana Rengifo	Tatiana Rengifo Designs
Patricia Romeu	APP Chief
Amanda Sanfilippo Long	APP
Veronica Vera	APP

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APP Curator and Artist Manger, Amanda Sanfilippo Long, called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM on Thursday, March 26, 2025.

Brisas Del Sol I and Brisas Del Sol II *(Formerly Known as Jose Marti Villas: Gardens and Jose Marti Midrise)* Miami-Dade County Department of Housing and Community Development

Following a welcome and introductions of client team members, APP staff and the PAC, Jorge Cibran and Jose Fernandez de Castro, representing the developer the Related Urban Group, provided an overview of the project. The Jose Marti Villas Apartments, an affordable housing development for seniors and families in Miami's Little Havana area, is comprised of two different facilities. The developer has completed a build of 146 affordable units, consisting of an 8-story mid-rise building with 110 units (Midrise) and a 3-story garden-style building (Garden) with 36 units. The affordable units at Jose Marti Villas will feature ceramic tile bathroom floors and high-efficiency central A/C in each unit, a club room for meetings and celebrations, and feature one to three bedrooms units. Apartments will be available for income-qualifying residents. Jose Marti Villas Gardens and Jose Marti Midrise are two separate sites in close proximity to each other replacing old public housing facilities. It is envisioned that public art will honor or acknowledge the seminal Spanish-Cuban author and activist José Martí and his poem "Guantanamera" famously interpreted by renowned singer Celia Cruz.

At Jose Marti Midrise (Brisas Del Sol I) opportunities for public art included, but were not limited to, a sculptural wall-based installation to be mechanically applied to the façade wall to the left of the entrance and in ramp-entry door area including "half wall" near accessibility ramp and column, large-scale tile or glass mosaic mural for exterior wall façade to left of main front entrance. Interior opportunities include creating 2D applied artworks for the multipurpose room, wall-based installation for the elevator core and adjacent double-door area, and the potential of an artist-designed wallpaper or wall art for the mail room.

At Jose Marti Gardens (Brisas Del Sol II), artists were invited to explore free-standing sculptures, screening elements, artist-designed seating, or other durable exterior installations for the northern lawn area and screening feature behind the existing gazebo area in the back of the property.

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Subsequently, seven (7) artists shortlisted by the PAC from a Regional Call to Artists presented their proposals:

1. Maritza Caneca
2. Nereida Garcia Ferraz
3. Francesco Lo Castro
4. Isabel Oliva
5. Marlon Portales
6. Jacoub Reyes
7. Carolina Sardi

After careful discussion and thoughtful input from the client teams and APP staff, the PAC unanimously recommended commissioning the following artists for commissions:

Jose Marti Villas Gardens (Brisas del Sol II)

Francesco Lo Castro
South Florida-based Artist Francesco Lo Castro was recommended to enhance the gazebo at the rear of the Gardens facility. Highly visible to all residents exiting the facility into the parking lot, the proposed artwork, *Arcadas,* treats the threshold between building and street as an architectural event. Ornamental ironwork drawn from the pointed arch — resonant across Mediterranean, Caribbean, and Latin American civic traditions — repeats in compressed rhythm across the back and side panels, creating a screen that is simultaneously permeable and monumental. Hardwood cladding drapes the existing structure, emanating warmth and comfort. The garden beyond remains visible and was proposed to be further enhanced by addition of native Florida landscape. The artist also suggested add-on amenities such as a projector screen for outdoor movie screenings. All ironwork would be hot-dip galvanized prior to powder coating for long-term corrosion resistance in Miami's coastal climate.

Jose Marti Villas Midrise (Brisas del Sol I)

Nereida Garcia Ferraz
Award winning and institutionally recognized Miami-based Cuban artist, Nereida Garcia Ferraz, was recommended to pursue a large-scale glass mosaic tile mural for the exterior of the facility. The original work will be based on an existing body of work exemplified in her painting *"Everything Will Pass"*, 2024. Imagery in the artist's signature color palate of verdant greens, flesh tones and pinks will depict human figures engaged in various community and family-oriented activities among abstract geometric forms that suggest a vibrant urban environment. Revealing layers of heritage, community memory and a sense of reverence

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for those who have come before, the mosaic tile work will greet both pedestrians, residents, and street traffic.

Maritza Caneca
Miami-based artist Maritza Caneca was recommended to create a large-scale artwork for the interior of the community room as part of her ongoing exploration of water, light, and the color blue within architectural space. Through a series of round shapes mounted on a stainless steel grid, the artwork recalls portholes or underwater windows, suggesting a view into a deeper aquatic space. The PAC recommended working with the artist to develop a scaled version of the proposal aligned with the available budget and location for the work and budget suggested by the client team and APP staff.

Marlon Portales
Miami-based Cuban artist Marlon Portales was recommended by the PAC to create a large-scale painting depicting the tropical landscape, light and atmosphere rooted in the artist's visual memories of Cuba and the Caribbean. The paintings do not depict specific locations, instead, construct imagined environments where nature becomes a space of emotional and symbolic resonance. The PAC was particularly interested in his proposal referenced as "El Valle", oil on canvas and wood panel, 12 x 7 feet (triptych) for placement on the wall opposite to the front entrance to allow for a prime vantage point for residents. Should additional funds be available, a single panel work such as the artwork "Azul", oil on canvas and wood panel, 5 x 5 feet was recommended for the elevator core wall directly to the left of the main entrance.

Jacoub Reyes
South Florida-based artist Jacoub Reyes was recommended to activate the mail room area with artworks exploring themes of individual ancestral cultural heritage and metaphorical explorations of the complex internal emotions of the diasporic experience. Reyes was recommended to create a series of original works including a site-specific laser cut polycarbonate installation of a boat reminiscent of improvised sailing vessels used by Caribbean migrants, as well as a series titled "Animals" of framed screen prints, each 24 x 36 inches depicting familiar domestic and wild animals of the region and agricultural machinery. The PAC also recommended acquiring framed screen prints from the artist's series *Taino Vessels* depending on available funding.

The PAC recommended that APP work with the artists and client team to identify the final location and scope of each of the recommended concepts.

Miami-Dade Housing and Community Development (HCD) Office Artwork Design, Overtown Transit Village Offices

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APP Curator and Artist Manager, Amanda Sanfilippo Long noted that Natalie Leon, Chief Communications and Engagement Officer for the Miami-Dade County Housing and Community Development approached Art in Public Places with a request for artwork, graphic design and photography enhancements for the department's main offices located at the Overtown Transit Village facility located at 701 NW 1st Ct, Miami, FL 33136. Following a site visit to the HCD offices and further discussion, APP staff recommended shortlisting a group of artists to develop proposals to address HCD's needs including creating a site-specific installation in vinyl, fabric, or wallpaper for main entrance lobby incorporating inspirational phrases, themes, and brand guidelines provided by HCD, a site-specific mural and / or applied artwork for primary corridors, break room, and public areas of HCD offices, and a select photo reproduction of APP's artwork commissions at completed public housing for display at HCD conference rooms. This project will be funded 50% - 50% with a direct contribution from HCD and unencumbered internal contingency APP funds from housing-related projects.

Based on this scope, APP staff presented credentials and representative images of five (5) South Florida-based artists to invite to create proposals:

1. Beth Bru
2. Edny Jean Joseph
3. Christopher Mitchell
4. Rosecoe B. Thicke, III
5. Tom Virgin

Following discussion, the PAC unanimously recommended the above five (5) artists to create proposals for the Miami-Dade County Housing and Community Development Office enhancement project at Overtown Transit Village North.

Marlins - Loan Depot Ballpark: Miam Live! Additions to the Invitational Shortlist

APP Curator and Artist Manager Amanda Sanfilippo Long noted that a meeting of the PAC on February 26, 2026, convened to review an invitational list of ten (10) Miami-based artists with robust credentials and a diversified portfolio of past work that aligned with the public art commissioning goals for the public-private partnership at *Miami Live!* a development project at the loan Depot Ballpark, home of the Miami Marlins. The development includes a year-round dining and entertainment facility and outdoor area, offering opportunities for a large-scale sculpture and mural. The client team envisions that the artwork's thematic approach will combine images related to baseball, civic pride, Miami, and the Marlins. Due to the fast-track nature of the project (estimated completion

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spring of 2027) and the narrowness of the creative approach to implementing the artist's work, a shortlist of invited artists was approved by the APP Trust on March 10, 2026. Subsequent to the approval, three (3) of the artists declined the invitation reducing the diversity in creative options. To rebuild the shortlist, APP staff recommended adding artists to create a well-rounded group that could widen the range of proposals for both the mural and the sculpture opportunity.

Based on this scope, APP staff presented credentials and representative images of three (3) South Florida-based artists:

1. Alexandre Arrechea
2. Troy Simmons
3. R & R Studios (Rosario Marquart and Roberto Behar)

After careful consideration, the PAC unanimously recommended the above three (3) artists to create proposals for the Miami Live! Loan-Depot Marlins Ballpark project.

With no further business, the meeting of the PAC was adjourned at 4:45PM on Thursday, March 26, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Sanfilippo Long
Curator and Artist Manager
Miami-Dade County Art in Public Places