

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

Day 1 of 2: Thursday, December 15, 2022
10:00 AM – 3:15 PM EST

Day 2 of 2: Friday, December 16, 2022
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM EST

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) MEMBERS

Germane Barnes, Assistant Professor, University of Miami
School of Architecture

Claire Breukel, Independent Curator

Gean Moreno, ICA Miami, NAME Publications

AUTHORITY, PROJECT SITES, PHASE

- GROVE CENTRAL, MIAMI-DADE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS (DTPW), ARTIST PRESENTATIONS

LOCATION

Zoom Online Meeting

ATTENDEES DAY 1

Stefania Barigelli	APP
Chris Cobb	Grass River
Bianca Gonzalez LoCicero	APP
Jacqueline Gonzalez Touzet	Touzet Studio
Irene Hegedus	DTPW
Ana Meza	APP
Alex Peraza	APP
Pablo Rincon	APP
Patricia Romeu	APP
Amy Rosenberg	The Underline
Amanda Sanfilippo Long	APP
Alvaro Santos	Terra Group
Jose Villa Sene	Touzet Studio

ATTENDEES DAY 2

Stefania Barigelli	APP
Siying Cheng	Public
Mercedes Lopez Cisneros	APP Trust
Chris Cobb	Grass River
Bianca Gonzalez LoCicero	APP
Jacqueline Gonzalez Touzet	Touzet Studio
Michael Kundin	Public
Yusimy Lara	APP
Johanna Maranon	Grass River

Ana Meza	APP
Alex Peraza	APP
Pablo Rincon	APP
Patricia Romeu	APP
Amy Rosenberg	The Underline
Amanda Sanfilippo Long	APP
Alvaro Santos	Terra Group
Jose Villa Sene	Touzet Studio
Michael Spring	Cultural Affairs / APP

Patricia Romeu, Chief, Art in Public Places, Department of Cultural Affairs called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on Thursday, December 15, 2022.

GROVE CENTRAL

Following a welcome, Amanda Sanfilippo Long, APP Curator and Artist Manager, invited self-introductions by the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC), APP team members and representatives of the client and design teams. Alvaro Santos representing Terra Group, Chris Cobb representing Grass River (project developers), with Irene Hegedus representing Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works, provided a brief overview of the project. Jacqueline Touzet, representing the design team at Touzet Studio, led a visual overview of the project. Representatives of The Underline included Amy Rosenberg.

Grove Central is a mixed-used commercial and residential hub designed for transit convenience, walkable lifestyle and environmental sustainability. The project’s central, urban-infill-location and the immediately adjacent Coconut Grove Metrorail Station provide residents easy access to Miami’s major employment centers, retail and entertainment hubs, universities, international airport, and particularly the central business districts of Coconut Grove, Coral Gables, Brickell and Downtown Miami. The project is situated at the northwest corner of SW 27th Avenue and US-1 and adjacent to the Coconut Grove Metrorail Station. The site is controlled with a 90-year lease with Miami-Dade County. Designated as a transit-oriented development, Grove Central incorporates a landscaped pedestrian plaza connecting the Coconut Grove Metrorail Station to the project’s retail spaces. Designed as a highly energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable transit-oriented, mixed-use development, Grove Central will earn FBCG/NGBC green-building certification. The project plan includes significant upgrades to the adjacent transit station and incorporates The Underline, Miami’s unique 10-mile linear park and urban trail. The Metrorail is located on the old Florida East Coast railroad right of way, which was pioneered by Henry Flagler at the turn of the last century. Coconut Grove is known as Miami’s oldest neighborhood. Dating back to the 1800s, this district holds historical significance of Bahamian migration to South Florida.

Opportunities for public art were noted to include but were not limited to station improvements to the newly built bus terminal including free standing sculpture, applications to canopies, wayfinding solutions to enhance connectivity between various modes of transportation (Metrorail, bus, vehicle garage, Underline bicycle and walking path), cladding or two-dimensional applications to exterior walls, and concepts for exterior lighting. Within the linear plaza in between the Metrorail station and the new facility, free-standing sculpture and wall-based installations are envisioned, as well as artworks that

integrate with landscape plans. Lastly, artworks that intersect with The Underline bicycle path and create a transition to Grove Central are envisioned.

Subsequently, ten (10) artists invited to create proposals from a regional Call to Artists at a September 27, 2022 meeting of the PAC presented their concepts for Grove Central:

1. Nicolas Lobo
2. Nick Mahshie
3. Octavia Yearwood and Amani Lewis (collaboration)
4. Asser St. Val
5. Rosario Marquardt & Roberto Behar (R & R Studios)
6. Juan Ledesma
7. Jared McGriff
8. Beatriz Monteavaro
9. Gavin Perry
10. Chris Friday

After careful deliberation and input from the client teams, the PAC unanimously recommended the following artists to pursue commissions:

Nicolas Lobo

Nicolas Lobo was recommended by the PAC to create 1-3 modules of a new permanent iteration of his participatory sculptural work “Brutal Workout.” Each module is characterized as a uniquely designed ten-by-ten-foot open structure of stainless steel tubes formed to mimic the stair railings and handholds used within in the Metrorail system and suggest different functionalities. The work is intended to be activated by visitors such as athletes, dancers, bicyclists, and children for non-directed play and interaction. Building upon the example of the temporary version of the artwork, the proposed design for Grove Central will include permanent footers, rubber surface treatment, and acknowledgement of US-based playground equipment industry standards. The PAC preliminarily identified two areas where The Underline’s pedestrian and bicycle path diverge as the potential sites. Mr. Lobo’s proposal also included the production of an instructional video and images relating to the use of the sculpture for access to the public and as part of his documentation for the project.

Octavia Yearwood and Amani Lewis

Artist collaborative Octavia Yearwood and Amani Lewis were recommended to pursue their concept “Say Cheese” for the underside of the canopy in the bus way and potentially other two-dimensional surfaces in that area. The proposal is rooted in engaging community members and residents of the Coconut Grove area to participate (with compensation), by participating in photo shoots and allowing their image to be translated into a painted portrait in the vibrant layered style of painter Amani Lewis. This imagery would then be translated to glass mosaic tile or other durable application for the underside of the canopy present in the bus way area. The intention of the work is for users of the bus terminal and visitors to pose and photograph themselves in context with the artwork, embracing a smiling, energetic, and friendly tone. The PAC recommended the more abstract direction of Ms. Lewis’s aesthetic when approaching the portraiture to enhance vibrant color fields rather than focus on hyper-realism.

Juan Ledesma

The PAC recommended that the sculptural proposal “Skippin’ Over the Ocean,” a sculpture, instrument, and gathering site for musical encounters by Juan Ledesma. The work, an interactive instrument that is activated by visitors use, combines the Quijada (Afro-Latin percussion made from a donkey’s jaw) with its modern counterpart, the Vibra-slap, and takes inspiration from the lyrics of an iconic song written about Coconut Grove by musician Fred Neil. This installation expands on Neil’s ode and considers the joined histories tied to the neighborhood: Bahamian migration, 60’s songwriters and Latin American influence. The PAC recommended the work be commissioned for a location within the linear plaza or adjacent location out of durable materials including cast bronze, stainless steel, and IPE Brazilian hardwood.

Asser St Val

After careful discussion the PAC recommended that Asser St Val consider pursuing one of two proposed concepts from his series “Grovehamians.” The first recommendation was to consider scaling up his proposal for his whimsical “Planter’s Busts,” inspired by the design of early twentieth century fashion and early Bahamian settlers to Coconut Grove. The bust concepts function as planters, featuring the ability for an array of charismatic tropical plants to thrive, obscuring the identity of the individual and suggesting hair or a fantastical head-dress. Rather than the proposed as life-sized bust concept, the PAC recommended inviting Mr. St Val to consider a larger scale or scaled grouping that would function as the focal point for the bus round-about area as an iconic sculpture. Alternatively, Mr. St Val was recommended to pursue his concept for “Clapping Games Benches,” organically shaped sculptural benches featuring colorful mosaic surfaces that relate to his sculptural body of work. The bench’s design includes features that would invite users to engage in an array of hand-games traditionally played by residents of the area. The siting of the benches was recommended within the bus terminal area providing seating for transit users, and the PAC recommended that Mr. St Val also potentially impact adjacent wall surfaces with two-dimensional imagery to create an immersive environment.

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.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM on Friday, December 16, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Sanfilippo Long, APP Curator and Artist Manager
Art in Public Places
Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs