

To: Village Council
Village Manager
Todd Hofferberth & Ana Colls

From: Frank Caplan, for the Art in Public Places Board

cc: APP Board & Council Liaison
César Trasobares, APP Board Artistic Advisor

Re: APP Board Report to Council – 2019 Plans

Date: February 11, 2019

Introduction

At its January 22nd meeting, the Art in Public Places Board discussed preparations for presenting its 2019 plans to Council, which had been scheduled for the Council's February 5th meeting. Although my service as Council liaison had ended, the Board invited me to attend the January 22 meeting and, more generally, to remain involved with the APP program in some manner or another. The Board also asked me to make the February 5th presentation to Council on the Board's behalf, which I agreed to do. This memorandum captures the information discussed at the APP Board meeting on January 22nd that I was to present to Council on February 5th. Inasmuch as that presentation was deferred by Council, I prepared this summary with the Board's and César's input after speaking with the Manager on February 6th.

Summary

The Art Board intends to advance in 2019 three new acquisition projects; (i) artistic benches, (ii) the historic timeline installation conceived to be a part of the 530 Crandon park, and (iii) the final already-designed Bedia plaza that was place-held for a spot adjacent to the 530 Crandon park. Also in 2019 the Board will unveil an educational video that was developed as part of the Jim Drain Sundial commission. The video is something in the nature of a biography of the artwork, in near-final draft form following much editing. The purpose – apart from depicting the artwork and how it came about - is to equip the schools and others with an interest to use the film as a teaching tool. The *Pleated Gnomon* itself and the film invite educational opportunities about history, astronomy, engineering, climate science, and of course art. And lastly, the Art Board intends to continue public

outreach and enrichment activities – art-oriented gatherings, lectures and the like, along the lines of successful events in past years.

New Acquisitions

The new projects envisioned for 2019 are, first, artistically-designed benches or chairs to be commissioned from a number of selected artists, to be placed in selected public places. The Board and César are working now on a project description to support a call-to-artists describing the purpose and soliciting responses. This will take into account design requirements encouraging both artistic expression and functionality. Functionality considerations include comfort, accessibility and suitable materials bearing in mind safety, maintenance and insurance. The work thus far has been to look at examples from other communities (which are numerous and varied) and to assess site selection ideas within the Village.

Potential sites identified as placeholders include the northeast corner of the Village Green near the Bedia Pelican Plaza, the east and west sides of the Green along the south-side playing field, along the linear stretch of the Butterfly Park on Fernwood, the Beach and Lake parks, the Library pond, in front of the Community Center, possibly Mashta Bridge depending on sensibilities about encouraging more active use of that particular public realm, and possibly the Hacienda Canal overlook, although seating and plantings there are done; nicely in my view.

The park bench idea has a number of drivers: functional art in popular, activated locations; an additional enhancement in the parks; deference to the outdoors-oriented active lifestyle habits of residents; a perch to watch a game or a butterfly. The examples from other communities are interesting. The Board sees this project as another opportunity to create public art that draws from Key Biscayne's distinctive characteristics.

The second new project in the works is the Key Biscayne historical timeline projected for 530 Crandon. This featured in Council's design review work for 530 Crandon. The Art Board and Historical and Heritage Society anticipate an opportunity to work together to develop content and a design presentation for a pathway in the park that would invoke benchmark elements of our local history. Assuming Council interest in this particular element for 530 Crandon has not changed, fabrication and installation would be another public art commission. The working ideas anticipate a decorative pathway within the park, basically channeling something of the Heritage Trail timeline – our Island ecology and pre-history state of nature; the Tequestas, Ponce de Leon, the Spanish, the English,

shipwrecks and our first industry; the Lighthouse; the Seminole insurrection; a military camp; early homesteading; a working Plantation; a Village. While the design is to-be-done, at least one decision continues to guide planning. That is, that the content should not be personal, biographical, invoking historical personages and Village founders by name. This necessarily requires a decision about who's in and who's out. That would put us on a dark road instead of an evocative path.

The third new project is a carry-over from the previously-installed Bedia work. An eighth Bedia plaza is to be located at the corner of Crandon and McIntyre, adjacent to and connecting with the new park at 530 Crandon. The new plaza features the Frigate bird design illustrated on the second floor of the Community Center. It will be fabricated in terrazzo and articulated in a manner similar to Anhinga, Mariposa, Pelican, Manta Ray, Dragonfly, Barracuda and Manatee. Unlike the others, this particular subject, the *Rabihorcado* bird with its long deeply forked tail, could serve as a compass-rose of sorts with the bird's beak pointing North. At the appropriate time, the Board and César will re-engage with the artist and park planner, to fix the location and final scale of the terrazzo surface, and to decide on general site details, including metalwork.

Administrative

The APP Board members are Lourdes Jofre Collett, the chair, Rosa de la Cruz, Joan Matheson, Dede Moss, Karen Llorente, Gina Coleman and Gloria Kahn. César Trasobares has served as consultant to the Board and the Village since inception of the Art in Public Places program in 2001. Because of their personal expertise and connections, their broad knowledge and sophistication, and their ability to work well together, the APP Board members are unusually well-suited individually and as a group to lead our public art program.

While César remains at the helm, he has signaled that he will be retiring in the foreseeable future. His successor (replacement is not the right word) will be a coming important decision. César will assist with recommendations.

Todd and Ana serve as staff liaison, succeeding Jud Kurlancheek in that role. While Jud had a particular interest in public art, BPZ was not the most natural connection for APP, in my view. I sought to understand whether Todd and especially Ana might be interested in working with APP before suggesting to the Manager and Council that the staff role shift to Parks and Rec. I believe Todd and Ana, and the Manager, considered this a good idea when it was proposed. Approximately one year later, it is self-evident that the staff liaison function is working well.

My role at present is informal. I was Council liaison to the Art Board during my tenure on Council. Prior to joining Council, I served as a member of the Art Board. Earlier, my work on the 2020 Vision Committee included collaborations with the Art Board on Sarah Morris and Bedia, and with special events. As immediate past Council liaison, I propose to debrief with the new Council liaison, to relate my understanding of APP history and the Board's philosophy.

I draw your attention to the APP website (artinkeybiscayne.org), which can be linked from the Village website. The materials include a description of the entire collection, and a map for self-guided touring, with an interesting narration prepared by an art critic, Helen Kohen. In case anyone is interested, I will provide transcripts of my remarks at public events about the Sarah Morris pools, the Bedia Plazas and the *Pleated Gnomon*.

Budget Considerations

The *Pleated Gnomon* educational film was fully funded, as was the eighth Bedia Plaza. The park bench and history timeline projects are not funded. The APP program has been included year-by-year in carried and accumulating "earmarks" in the CIP. The Community Center expansion construction costs presumably will supplement APP funding as per Section 2-141 of the Village Code.

Last fall, near the end-of-term, there were a number of conversations about the CIP and what "earmarks" really mean. I went thru the CIP with Lourdes Abadin, Ana de Verona, the Clerk and the Manager to clarify what CIP funds were – I'll use the word "allocated" - to programs and projects, recognizing that some projects were and are conceptual; placeholders, aspirations - not necessarily fully articulated or planned to occur in a given year. I don't know definitively what sum of money allocated to CIP in past years can be drawn to do the new APP projects in 2019. I believe some money was dedicated to CIP year-by-year for this purpose. This can be determined with ease, I believe.