

Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee Meeting  
September 24, 2012

**Discussion Regarding A Proposal For A Donation Of Art Pieces To Be Displayed On Lincoln Road.**

*Commission Item C4G, October 19, 2011*

*(Requested by Commissioner Libbin)*

*Last discussed at NCAC December 8, 2011*

Max Sklar, Acting Assistant City Manager

**ITEM 3**



## COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee Members

FROM: Kathie G. Brooks, Interim City Manager

DATE: September 24, 2012

SUBJECT **A DISCUSSION ON A CALL TO ARTISTS FOR THE FORTY-FIVE BOLLARDS LOCATED ON LINCOLN ROAD AT THE FOLLOWING CROSS STREETS; DREXEL AVENUE, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, MERIDIAN AVENUE, JEFFERSON AVENUE AND LENOX AVENUE.**

### **BACKGROUND**

The above referenced item was referred to the Art in Public Places (AiPP) Committee by the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee at their December 8, 2011 meeting for consideration.

The process of approving a Call to Artist, in this particular case an artistic intervention on the forty-five bollards located on Lincoln Road, is governed by Sec. 82-562 of the City Code. A copy of Section 82-562 (Exhibit 1) and the City of Miami Beach Art in Public Places Guidelines Site Evaluation Form (Exhibit 2) are attached for your reference.

On December 20, 2011, AiPP Committee met and, as per the AiPP Guidelines, the members were asked to complete Site Evaluation forms to assist in determining whether or not to recommend the subject call to artists.

The AiPP Committee met again on January 17, 2012, AiPP met, and the members submitted their Site Evaluation Forms, and discussed the project. The Committee expressed concern that the bollards are sited in a high traffic and crowded location and the possibilities of public abuse are heightened as a result of the location. Locating art in a densely populated area such as Lincoln Road tends to be problematic. The Committee believes the location would require monthly care to remove dirt, grime and damage caused by scuffing, chipping and human interaction. The following is a list of more detailed concerns inherent to the site(s), which could damage the art work and increase the cost of maintenance:

- Sited on black and white stripes which are repainted regularly;
- Pavement is pressure cleaned regularly;
- Adjacent to designated emergency and authorized vehicle parking ;
- Adjacent irrigation system may cause daily water damage;
- Exposure to ultra-violet rays;
- Used as seating;
- Frequent loading and unloading of deliveries;
- Adjacent to bicycle parking;
- Adjacent to taxi drop off and pick-up;
- Near or adjacent to permanent garbage cans;
- Near or adjacent to permanent recycling cans; and
- Near or adjacent to fire hydrants.

The following pictures illustrate the concerns expressed by the AiPP Committee:



Following discussion a motion was made and unanimously passed by the AiPP Committee not to consider a Call to Artists and/or artistic intervention on the forty-five (45) bollards located on Lincoln Road at the following cross streets, Drexel Avenue, Pennsylvania Avenue, Meridian Avenue, Jefferson Avenue, and Lenox Avenue for the following reasons and concerns:

- High number of daily users;
- High number of visitors each day;
- High number of pedestrians passing;
- High number of cars driving by; and
- Locations overly crowded with a maze of competing signs, street furniture and other uses. Site is used by pets, cyclist, skateboarders, and Segways.
- The cost of siting art work in a densely populated location such as Lincoln Road is costly and would require at a minimum, monthly cleaning and inspection to maintain the art work in accordance with recognized principals of conservation.
- It would be a historically inappropriate application of art to a locally and nationally designated historic site.

Additionally, on May 9, 2012, Planning Department staff opined on the concept of a Call to Artist for the bollards on Lincoln Road. The City Code stipulates the any improvement within public-rights-of-ways which are located within local historic districts requires Historic Preservation Board approval.

Further, AIPP projects require two (2) public hearings before the Historic Preservation Board. Planning Staff believes that it is unlikely the Historic Preservation Board will approve the placement of public art on traffic bollards, as this would detract from the special character of the historic district. In addition, the proposed location would render the artwork highly susceptible to vandalism and adverse impact from encounters with vehicles, dogs, bicycles and other detrimental effects. The Planning Department would also note that maintenance of art located on the bollards would likely be intensive and costly.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Art in Public Places Committee recommends against the issuance of a Call to Artists and/or an artistic intervention for the forty-five bollards located on Lincoln Road at the following cross streets, Drexel Avenue, Pennsylvania Avenue, Meridian Avenue, Jefferson Avenue, and Lenox Avenue.

**EXHIBIT 1**

**Sec. 82-562. - Powers and duties.**

The art in public places committee shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) To recommend to the city commission whether a particular proposed city construction project is an appropriate site for works of art and whether all or a part of the appropriation required by section 82-587 should be utilized at the site or, reduced or waived in its entirety or, placed, whether in its entirety or a portion thereof, in the art in public places fund for other acceptable uses.
- (2) To recommend to the city commission the selection of existing works of art or to determine whether to recommend the selection of new works of art, and screen submissions therefore, for the fulfillment of the requirements of this article.
- (3) To conduct contests and competitions in order to select works of art to be recommended for a particular site.
- (4) To recommend a professional advisory committee to advise the committee and city commission regarding selection of particular works of art for a city construction project.
- (5) To recommend to the city commission the maintenance and insurance necessary to preserve and protect works of art.
- (6) To make a recommendation to the city commission regarding proposed projects that include works of art and to participate in the planning of such projects.
- (7) To recommend legislation concerning public works of art in the city.
- (8) To make recommendations to the city commission regarding the placement of proposed donations of works of art for placement on public property in the city.
- (9) To perform all other duties and functions as requested by the city commission.

*(Ord. No. 95-2985, § 2(4A-7), 4-5-95; Ord. No. 99-3162, § 1, 1-6-99; Ord. No. 2004-3448, § 1, 6-9-04)*

**EXHIBIT 2**

**To evaluate a potential project:**

- Visit the Future Site
- Walk the site
- Drive to the site from various directions
- Create lists of both positive opportunities and negatives
- Discuss with City Staff
- Determine YES or NO on Facility

**To evaluate a potential site, define project possibilities with architect or capital project staff**

- Understand the scale of the potential artwork based on budget
- Determine construction elements (walls, floors, ceilings, etc.) that will provide physical support for artwork
- Understand locations and artwork types that would benefit the facility and not create additional problems
- Walk and drive-by the site from various directions
- Create lists of both positive opportunities and negatives to avoid
- Brainstorm and select site for artwork
- Complete draft Call to Artist

**FACILITY SELECTION FORM**

AiPP has two choices regarding sites for artwork on any new project. First: Should a work of art be sited at the facility that generated the funding? Second: If so, where at the facility should the artwork be sited? Below is a set of questions to consider in evaluating a public facility.

Research: Budget

What is the budget for the artwork? Budget \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
What kinds of artwork are feasible within this budget?

- Indoor Intimate                       Outdoor Walking                       Outdoor Driving

Research: Site Access

Number of Daily Users	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> High
Number of Visitors Each Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> High
Number of Pedestrians Passing By	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> High
Number of Cars Driving By	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium	<input type="checkbox"/> High

Special Considerations

Yes             No            Special Circumstance: Is there something very special about the site that demands artwork for reasons of social or political issues or tourism/civic image making?

If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes             No            Potential for Collaboration: Is there something about the collaboration with the people at the facility that will lead to the creation of a very special and unique work of art that would inspire other works of art in the City?

If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes      No      Matches Other City Goals: Does the City have some goals that match well with a particular site such as gateways, special districts, recreational areas, nature sites, etc.

If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes      No      Public Art Reputation: Does the site or project contribute to any art goals of the AiPP?

If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

Satisfaction of Citywide Access

Yes      No      Does this site geographically balance and enhance citizen access to public art across the City?

Yes      No      Does this site balance and enhance cultural and economic diversity of citizens with access to public art across the City?

Evaluate the Citywide considerations based on the budget/scale. For example, the drive-by may provide visibility; however, the budget does not afford the purchase of a work of art in the appropriate scale.

Suitability

Yes      No      Can the artwork be appreciated in its context? In other words, are there elements that interrupt appreciation such as overly crowded lobby, a maze of competing signs, or an inappropriate social context?

If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

Appropriateness

Accept      Reject      Does the budget for the project permit a work of art that will enhance the quality of life by the citizens and/or will it satisfy a unique opportunity for art for the citizens.