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## **Two New Proposals for Public Art Approved by Palmetto Bay Village Council**

***Mosaic at Coral Reef's Park Concession Pavilion & obelisk with a public art component, planned in accordance with Village Ordinance***

**PALMETTO BAY, Fla.**, (June 15, 2010) – The Village's Art-in-Public-Places (AIPP) continues to benefit Palmetto Bay in a variety of ways, as with two exciting new pieces that were approved by the Palmetto Bay Council. On June 7, the Council approved the building of an obelisk to meet AIPP requirements at a traffic circle located at the intersection of Richmond Drive and Galloway Road; and, the recently constructed concession facility at Coral Reef Park will soon be home to a stunning glass and tile mosaic.

Palmetto Bay was the first municipality in Miami-Dade County to have adopted its own Art-in-public Places Ordinance in conjunction with the county's public art ordinance which requires both public and private development to allocate a percentage of total construction costs toward the placement or acquisition of public art which has resulted in a self-contained process to be more cost-effective.

Miami-Dade County Public Art ordinance mandates that any new public facility constructed within the county, by the county, and/or by municipalities must commit 1.5 percent of the construction costs to the acquisition of public art on the site as part of the Art in Public Places (AIPP) program. The Palmetto Bay Council integrated this requirement into the ordinance, and has installed a process by which projects are adopted.

The obelisk designed by BBC Engineering will serve as the canvass, of sorts, for a public art component planned for the Village's newest traffic circle. At present, proposals are forthcoming.

The glass and tile mosaic at Coral Reef Park's new concession stand, however, has been approved. Entitled, "Optical Illusion," the piece is designed by Cuban artist Nora M. Cervino of Miami, reputed for her unique paintings, mosaics, drawings, and photographs. ([Hyperlink](#) to select images)

The process begins with a call to artists, whereby individuals are invited to submit proposals and bids for art projects under certain guidelines and budgets. Proposals are then reviewed by the Palmetto Bay AIPP Advisory Board, which is composed of five members each appointed by the Mayor and Village Council. Each member must hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree in at least one of the following fields from an accredited university:

- Architecture
- History of Architecture
- Urban Planning
- Landscape Architecture
- Graphic or Product Design
- Interior Design
- History of Art
- Fine Art.

After the proposals and bids are submitted, this advisory board makes recommendations to the Mayor and Council for final approval. All of the meetings are open to the public and are posted in advance.

This process at the municipal level saves the Village money by not having to pay an administrative fee to have the county approve projects.

“We opted to go beyond simply offering a mirror image of the county’s requirements, said Director-Planning & Zoning Julian Perez, “Instead, we took the lead by providing a program that reflects the special characteristics and needs of our own municipality.

“We are doing this to preserve our cultural and historic values while stimulating the urban built environment through the installation of public art,” he added.

Projects are funded in two different ways. There is funding from private, commercial development. Under this circumstance, any new construction over \$250,000 by a private developer requires 1 percent of construction costs be donated to the Village trust fund and those funds are used for public art. If the new development wishes to have the new art on-site, the developer(s) commit 1.25 percent of construction cost. Private development may also decide to make a larger financial commitment than more than required and often developers embrace the concept of adding public art to their projects.

When new public construction takes place the county ordinance mandates that all municipalities within Miami-Dade County allocate 1.5 percent of construction costs toward the AIPP, and the county ordinance supersedes municipal ordinances.

The two AIPP projects in Palmetto Bay come at no additional cost to tax payers, as money for the projects has been accumulated over the past few years from the standard funding procedures. Not only does public art add to the aesthetics of the Village, but it can create more value, Village Planner Efren Nunez explained.

“It is statistically proven that communities which have adopted art programs have seen an increase in property values,” he said. “And now, more than anything public art is an investment in the community and lends toward enhancing the public realm.”

Coral Gables and Homestead followed Palmetto Bay’s trailblazing path and are currently the only other two municipalities in Miami-Dade County who have started their own Art-in-Public-Places program for both public and private developments.

For more information regarding AIPP, contact the Village of Palmetto Bay Village Planner Efren Nunez at 305-259-1234 or at [enunez@palmettobay-fl.gov](mailto:enunez@palmettobay-fl.gov).

**Coral Reef Park Concession Stand & Pavilion**  
[Select Images](#)  
**of Approved Public Art Project**

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