

LIBERTY SQUARE REDEVELOPMENT
Community Engagement Session 05:
Art in Public Places + Public Spaces and Public Transportation

Liberty Square Community Center
Nov 3, 2016 | 6:00 – 8:00pm

SUMMARY

The meeting focused on the art in public spaces, community amenities, historic structures, and public transportation services that will form part of the new Liberty Square Redevelopment project. The goal of the session was to provide the community with updates, and to solicit input from attendees. Several visual presentations followed. These included the proposed artwork to be displayed around the community and recreational areas, information on plans for the historic wall and linear park, and information on public transit stops in Liberty Square. Presenters responded to questions and comments from the community [See Meeting 5 Agenda]. Attendees were informed that a summary of the proceedings, accompanied by the full visual presentation, would be posted after the meeting at: www.newlibertysquare.com.

PROJECT UPDATE

The process of transferring families to newly refurbished units has begun. The first three families have been transferred to new quarters, and two other families will be moved in the coming week.

PRESENTATIONS

Albert Milo, Principal at Related Urban opened the presentation segment by expressing his belief in the power of art to transform and enrich the community.

ART PLAZAS | ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

Addonis Parker, Artist, *Art Forever Studios*

Xavier Cortada, Artist in Residence, *Florida International University*

- Art has the power to reach out, transform, heal and inspire. Bringing art into the Liberty Square community represents an exceptional opportunity.
- Future meetings will solicit feedback from the community about the new artwork in Liberty Square

Michael Spring, Director, *Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs*

We can work together to create something great. Glad to work with this team. Art in Public Places Program was established in 1973 by Miami-Dade County Ordinance:

- Allocates 1.5% of overall project costs towards art in public places. More than 700 works of art have been installed throughout Miami-Dade County, created by international as well as local artists.
- Art has been incorporated in architecture, landscape and wayfinding projects, encouraging people to engage with their surroundings, educating, entertaining, and provoking thought. Examples include: Adrienne Arsht Center, Miami International Airport, MDC Fire Rescue Training Facility, South Dade Cultural Arts Center, Marlins Ballpark, African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, Jackson South Community Hospital, Stephen P. Clark Government Center, Port MIAMI, MDC Children's Courthouse, Verde Gardens Plaza, MDC Animal Services + Protection Center

Elaine Black, President/ CEO, *Liberty City Trust*

- Linear Park: Historic Wall along NW 12th Avenue.
- Deep in the heart of Liberty City, at the edge of Liberty Square, a wall was erected to separate Miami's white and black communities. Created during Segregation, the 10-ft high wall was demolished in the late 1950s/ early 1960s. Some remnants are still visible today.
- We created a timeline tracking the history of Black Miami from 1896-2000. The idea for Liberty Square dates from 1930, when residents of Overtown needed a better place to live. Black community leaders traveled to Washington DC to ask President Roosevelt for assistance.
 - Infrastructure has been built and a committee has been established. The plan: A linear art park with a glass 'wall' recounting the history of the Black community in Miami.

LIBERTY SQUARE REDEVELOPMENT

Community Engagement Session 05: Art in Public Places + Public Spaces - Public Transportation Liberty Square Community Center

Page 2

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Carlos Cruz-Casas, *Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works*

- Public transportation is described as vital. Existing bus routes to remain: 12, 21, 62
- A discussion of transportation services specific to the area of Liberty City and Liberty Square, including a circulator/ trolley for the local neighborhood. Currently this is at a conceptual stage.

Ivo Fernandez, Principal, *Modis Architects*

- Liberty Square will include 4 main/ Art Plaza Squares along its North/South roadways. These will serve as traffic calming devices as well as places for public art.
- Types of public spaces incorporated in the New Liberty Square plan:
 - Art Plaza Squares [4] –The two plazas near 62nd Street will include signage that announces arrival in Liberty Square
 - Green open spaces [2] – Places for children to play
 - Community Park [1] – Central public open space, including recreational and sports fields.
 - Tot lots [3] – Play areas embedded in the residential areas.
 - Landscaped Cross-walks – To enhance pedestrian movement through the site.

Zamarr Brown, Principal, *Design2Form*

- Landscape
 - Tree-lined streets
 - Landscaping around perimeter of medians
 - Community spaces
- Amenities
 - Sidewalk connections
 - Parking areas next to residential buildings
 - Wider and safer crosswalks
 - Community center
- Sustainability
 - Designed to meet National Green Building Standard
 - Water conservation; energy efficiency
 - Materials – low VOE paints, formaldehyde-free cabinetry, etc
 - LED lighting in parking lots and streets
 - Native plants – minimal irrigation
- Vehicular Access
 - Secured parking behind buildings and new parallel street-side parking
 - Enhanced bus stops and routes
 - Traffic calming devices
 - Change in how streets and blocks are defined
- Infrastructure will be improved over 9-block area:
 - Road improvements; new street lighting; wider sidewalks; upgrade to utilities – water and sewer
 - New, reliable internet connectivity

The Honorable Carlos Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County

- Mayor Gimenez made an unannounced visit to the community engagement meeting.
- Assured the community that everything promised would be delivered.

LIBERTY SQUARE REDEVELOPMENT

Community Engagement Session 05: Art in Public Places + Public Spaces - Public Transportation

Liberty Square Community Center

Page 3

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS | COMMENTS | RESPONSES:

Q. Miss Black, you said that you wanted a glass wall?

R. The idea is to have an installation to indicate the height of the original wall and where it was located, but nothing has been decided yet.

Q. Can residents be involved in the planning?

R. Yes, absolutely.

Q. Regarding the proposed circulator route: Do you mean a trolley? Will the trolley take residents from Liberty Square to downtown Miami?

R. It is primarily local to the neighborhood, but may include stops at other transit stations.

Q. Storm drainage: Will it remove the water that accumulates when it rains hard?

R. Yes, the new infrastructure will include storm drains and gutters.

Q. Will the crosswalks be wider?

R. Yes. The sidewalks will also be wider, and public art will be a part of these.

Q. You mentioned new signage: What will it say?

R. We're not certain yet, as we're still receiving input –including the names of prominent people in the history of Liberty Square. Everyone who sees the signage will know they are in Liberty Square.

Michael Liu, Director, *Miami-Dade County Public Housing + Community Development*

- We plan to hire residents to do most of the ongoing rehabilitation work in Liberty Square. We will have a job fair in the coming days with an agency to hire skilled temporary workers.
- People with handyman skills are needed and will be hired to work.

NOTE:

This document, drafted by FIU and finalized in consultation with Miami-Dade County PHCD and Related Urban, was prepared as a brief summary of the topics discussed on 11.3.2016. It does not constitute full minutes of the meeting.