

# MIAMI BEACH

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### Staff Report & Recommendation

### Design Review Board

TO: DRB Chairperson and Members

DATE: October 4, 2022

FROM: Thomas R. Mooney, AICP *MB For TRA*  
Planning Director

SUBJECT: **DRB22-0879, 1809 Meridian Avenue – Pride Park**

An application has been filed requesting Design Review Approval on an advisory basis, for the installation of an Art in Public Places (AIPP) project within the park.

#### **ADVISORY REVIEW MEMORANDUM:**

The Art in Public Places Ordinance (No. 95-2985) was adopted in 1995 and was created to “enhance the aesthetic environment of the City of Miami Beach by including works of art on public property within the City and in City construction projects.” The goals of the AiPP program are:

- Overseeing the City's public art collection.
- Enhancing the physical environment of Miami Beach with artworks of the highest level of quality and suitability for the site.
- Serving as the coordinating body for all public art projects on City property.
- Building partnerships with the private sector, non-profit and community groups that connect the AiPP projects to the life of the City.
- Encouraging participation by artists based locally, nationally and internationally.
- Serving as a source of information about public art.

On November 23, 2021, Richard Gray Gallery (Chicago), on behalf of the donor Norman Braman, presented to the City's Art in Public Places Committee the proposed artwork, Jaume Plensa's *Minna* (2022). The following is a summary of the proposal:

1. Photographs of proposed work

Images of the proposed work are referenced in the included submission documents.

2. Artist Resume

Over the past thirty-five years, internationally celebrated Spanish artist Jaume Plensa (b. 1955) has produced a multifaceted body of work creating sculpture that speaks to the capacity and beauty of humanity. Conventional sculptural materials like glass, steel, and bronze blend with unconventional media such as water, light, and sound to create hybrid works of intricate energy, psychological weight, and symbolic richness.

Jaume Plensa has received many national and international awards including the Honorary Doctorate from Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in 2018 and the 2013 Velazquez Prize awarded by the Spanish Cultural Ministry. His solo museum exhibitions include MMOMA—Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, Russia; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain; MAMC—Musée d'art moderne et contemporain Saint-Étienne Métropole, Saint-Étienne, France; Max Ernst Museum Brühl des LVR, Brühl, Germany; Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Yorkshire, England; and Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, Texas. He lives and works in Barcelona.

3. Project Description

*Minna*, the proposed donation to the City of Miami Beach, is a monumental sculpture composed of marine grade stainless steel, measuring approximately 17' x 17' x 12'.

4. Proposed Location

The Art in Public Places Committee, along with artist, gallery and donor, have identified the western edge of Pride Park as the ideal location for installation, as referenced in the submission

5. Project Budget

The proposed donation is inclusive of costs associated with the acquisition of the artwork. Costs associated with shipping, installation, site work, permitting, plinth design, and lighting need to be identified. These costs are estimated at approximately \$175,000.

6. Maintenance Plan

The artwork is a large-scale depiction of a human head composed of 316L marine grade stainless steel rods, shaped and welded into five (5) sections mechanically fastened together. The routine maintenance guidelines for the artwork will ideally be performed by dedicated staff overseen and in collaboration with a local professional art conservator.

Following a presentation of the proposed work by artist Jaume Plensa and upon reviewing the required submission materials, the Art in Public Places Committee made a unanimous motion to accept the work as part of the City of Miami Beach Art in Public Places Collection and further recognize the generosity of Mr. Norman Braman in gifting this monumental work of public art to the city of Miami Beach. On January 20, 2022, the City Commission approved the donation of the artwork for installation in Pride Park.

The Design Review Board serves as advisor to the City Commission which makes the final determination with respect to AIPP projects. On May 3, 2016, the DRB reviewed and provided recommendations on the installation of other art work in the park. The proposed art installation would be in addition to those already approved. Staff has no objections to the proposed location near the entrance to the park along the Center of Convention Center Drive, provided that the design of the base be evaluated in context with the current paving and landscaping in the proposed location. The recommendations of the Board will be transmitted via LTC to the City Commission.