

From: [Tackett, Deborah](#)
To: [Laura Weinstein-Berman](#)
Cc: [Gonzalez, Jessica](#); [Fons, Monique](#); [Kallergis, Nick](#); [Seiberling, James](#); [Bueno, Lizbeth](#)
Subject: FW: Possibility for Fire Station #1 incorporating Jack Stewart's Apollo Mural
Date: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 7:53:37 AM
Attachments: [Screen Shot 2022-01-10 at 12.57.37 PM.png](#)
[Screen Shot 2022-01-10 at 1.26.21 PM.png](#)
[UPDATED - Historic Resources Report on Jack Stewart and his.pdf](#)
[LTC 480-2021 Art in Public Places Committee Motions-October 19, 2021.pdf](#)

Hi Laura,

I don't believe you were on the initial email, see public comment below

MIAMIBEACH

Debbie Tackett, *Historic Preservation & Architecture Officer*
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139
Tel: 305.673.7000 ext. 26467 www.miamibeachfl.gov

We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community.

It's easy being Green! Please consider our environment before printing this email.

From: Tanya Bhatt <tanya@launchbrand.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 6:47 AM
To: Jack Finglass <JackFing@msn.com>; mlitt.cmb.hpb@gmail.com; Nancy Liebman <nanlieb@aol.com>; NORTH SHORE HISTORIC DISTRICT 1 <kpaskal@gmail.com>; Scott Needelman <SAN1455@att.net>; barrykleinboa@gmail.com; rick.hpb@gmail.com; Tackett, Deborah <DeborahTackett@miamibeachfl.gov>; Mooney, Thomas <ThomasMooney@miamibeachfl.gov>; Hernandez, Maria <MariaHernandez@miamibeachfl.gov>
Cc: Arriola, Ricky <RickyArriola@miamibeachfl.gov>; Gelber, Dan <DanGelber@miamibeachfl.gov>; Hudak, Alina <AlinaHudak@miamibeachfl.gov>; Meiner, Steven <StevenMeiner@miamibeachfl.gov>; Richardson, David <DavidRichardson@miamibeachfl.gov>; Samuelian, Mark <Mark@miamibeachfl.gov>; Rosen Gonzalez, Kristen <Kristen@miamibeachfl.gov>; Fernandez, Alex <Alex@miamibeachfl.gov>; Chiroles, Erick <ErickChiroles@miamibeachfl.gov>; Fontani, Diana <DianaFontani@miamibeachfl.gov>; Chamberlin, Adrian <AdrianChamberlin@miamibeachfl.gov>; Callejas, Luis <LuisCallejas@miamibeachfl.gov>; Salinas, Monica <MonicaSalinas@miamibeachfl.gov>; Huff, Amadeus <AmadeusHuff@miamibeachfl.gov>; Burger, Michele <MicheleBurger@miamibeachfl.gov>; Rodriguez, Julio <JulioRodriguez@miamibeachfl.gov>; Herskowitz@miamibeachfl.gov; Paz, Rafael <RafaelPaz@miamibeachfl.gov>; Granado, Rafael <RafaelGranado@miamibeachfl.gov>
Subject: RE: Possibility for Fire Station #1 incorporating Jack Stewart's Apollo Mural

[THIS MESSAGE COMES FROM AN EXTERNAL EMAIL - USE CAUTION WHEN REPLYING AND OPENING LINKS OR ATTACHMENTS]

Deborah, I believe I have the correct distribution list for this email; please distribute to the board if I don't. Thank you!

Good morning, members of the HPB and staff.

I have attached my earlier email to the commission voicing my dismay about and opposition to the destruction of the Morris Lapidus building in favor of a new fire station. It should not be a binary choice; there are other solutions. Nonetheless, I won't belabor that point here as you can read my comments below.

Whenever and wherever the new fire station is built, I urge you to make a condition of its development the incorporation of the Jack Stewart Apollo mural. I am taking the liberty of forwarding to you the excellent references that Mitch Novick has prepared (below); I cannot improve upon his work.

I urge you, as the last bastion of historic preservation in this city, to not let yet another unique and iconic piece of Miami Beach's architectural and cultural heritage languish in a warehouse until death do us part. It's what's happening with the late lamented Log Cabin. It's what's being attempted with the Al Capone house (although if that goes, it won't be into a warehouse...it will be "sleeping with the fishes." And it's what's been proposed for the incredibly historic and important Deauville...and that's JUST what's on today's agenda.

This is a gorgeous and important piece of art which helps define and articulate Miami Beach's unique character of place. It is an easy condition to impose at this time as the structure has yet to be designed, so nothing needs to be retrofitted to incorporate the mural.

Please, use your power to do what's right in this case. Thank you.

tanya k. bhatt
617.840.4905
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[miami beach united](#) marketing
[miami design preservation league](#) board member
[city of miami beach planning board](#) historic preservation seat

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mitch Novick <sherbrookehotel@gmail.com>
Subject: Possibility for Fire Station #1 incorporating Jack Stewart's Apollo Mural
Date: January 10, 2022 at 1:46:26 PM EST
To: "Tackett, Deborah" <DeborahTackett@miamibeachfl.gov>, "Mooney, Thomas" <ThomasMooney@miamibeachfl.gov>
Cc: "Hernandez, Maria" <MariaHernandez@miamibeachfl.gov>

Good Afternoon Tom and Debra: Please confirm and distribute this email to members of the HPB. Thanks

Dear Members of the Historic Preservation Board:

You are in a unique position to impose a condition requiring the Jack Stewart Apollo mural to be incorporated into the new Fire Station facility. In 2021, both the Historic Preservation Board and Planning Board (by Final Order and Resolution) unanimously expressed their desire to see the Apollo Mural returned to our community for public viewing.

For your convenience, I provide the following:

- 1.) Historic Preservation Board 2/9/21: Discussion including an early 1960's video clip featuring the Apollo Mural installed on the Versailles annex, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Dk8HjHm4eE>
- 2.) Planning Board discussion of 2/23/21, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2JLFUSQcvYE>
- 3.) See pages 12 and 13 of the historic resources report. Note the professional relationship between Lapidus and Stewart, and finally,
- 4.) There's currently an extensive Jack Stewart exhibition now at the Morris Museum of Art in Georgia, his widow sent me the attached notice.

Please require the applicant to diligently work with all parties in order to bring Stewart's Masterpiece back to Miami Beach.

Sincerely,

Mitch Novick
305 532 0958

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mitch Novick <sherbrookehotel@gmail.com>
Subject: Possibility for Fire Station #1 incorporating Jack

Stewart's Apollo Mural

Date: December 10, 2021 at 11:51:10 AM EST

To: "Tackett, Deborah"

<DeborahTackett@miamibeachfl.gov>, "Mooney, Thomas"

<ThomasMooney@miamibeachfl.gov>

Cc: "Hernandez, Maria"

<MariaHernandez@miamibeachfl.gov>

Happy Holiday's Debra and Tom: Please confirm and distribute this email to members of the HPB. Thanks

Dear Members of the Historic Preservation Board:

While I lament the likely loss of the Lapidus designed community center, I understand the compelling need for a new fire station at this location.

In moving forward, I'm requesting the HPB to consider the possibility of requiring the City of Miami Beach to incorporate the Jack Stewart Apollo Mural onto the West facade of the development plan. Stewart's masterpiece was originally installed on the West wall of the now demolished Versailles annex and was appreciated and studied by residents and visitors for generations. I first took note of this work as a small child. On a side note, the developer of the Aman Hotel has proffered to pay all costs associated with the curation, restoration and installation of the work.

For your convenience, I'm enclosing a:

- 1.) January 2015 front page Miami Herald story on Stewart's work,
<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article8831438.html>
- 2.) Historic resources report,
- 3.) Quick rendering of what the work could look like installed

on the new fire station, and,

4.) LTC dated November 8, 2021 indicating that the Rakow Youth center cannot accommodate Apollo Mural.

Sincerely,

Mitch Novick
305 532 0958

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tanya Bhatt** <tanya@launchbrand.net>

Date: Wed, Dec 8, 2021 at 11:16 AM

Subject: Re: Lapidus vs. Fire Station

To: Ricky Arriola <rickyarriola@miamibeachfl.gov>, Dan Gelber <DanGelber@miamibeachfl.gov>, Hudak, Alina <alinahudak@miamibeachfl.gov>, Steven Meiner <stevenmeiner@miamibeachfl.gov>, David Richardson <davidrichardson@miamibeachfl.gov>, Mark Samuelian <MarkSamuelian@miamibeachfl.gov>, <KristenRosenGonzalez@miamibeachfl.gov>, <Alex@miamibeachfl.gov>, Erick Chiroles <erickchiroles@miamibeachfl.gov>, Diana <DianaFontani@miamibeachfl.gov>, Adrian Chamberlin <adrianchamberlin@miamibeachfl.gov>, Luis Callejas <LuisCallejas@miamibeachfl.gov>, <MonicaSalinas@miamibeachfl.gov>, Huff, Amadeus <amadeushuff@miamibeachfl.gov>, Burger, Michele <micheleburger@miamibeachfl.gov>, Julio Rodriguez <juliorodriguez@miamibeachfl.gov>, <Herskowitz@miamibeachfl.gov>, Rafael Paz <rafaelpaz@miamibeachfl.gov>, Granada, Rafael <RafaelGranado@miamibeachfl.gov>

Sorry for the late email on this topic...I am writing purely as a concerned resident, and not as a member of any of the organizations on which I serve.

I completely understand the life safety issues at hand with the need for a new, updated fire station.

I also understand the frustration that must be felt in wrestling with this issue for 6 years and counting.

I cannot understand the notion of destroying a unique historic Morris Lapidus building as the only possible solution. I've heard people say that it doesn't even look like a Lapidus building, therefore why bother worrying about it? That's one of

the MOST compelling reasons TO worry about - and preserve it. I won't reiterate the numerous arguments and cite the many articles; I trust you've all seen them.

We incentivize private development all the time - why are we not doing so with this significant public benefit that is so sorely needed? Why wasn't a corner of the 500 Alton project's park earmarked for this? There are numerous out-of-business retail sites along 5th, which seems a far better site for a new fire station. Let's come up with something compelling there.

One additional point - with the announcement millions of dollars in state-funded resiliency grants, including specifically for Fire Station #1, it is even more counter-productive and damaging to make this a zero-sum equation. Take a bit more time with this new factor and find a better location that can be developed, and does not harm the existing South Shore Community Center.

Let's not make the mistake made far too often in a city with such amazing architectural heritage that seems to be taken for granted too easily...keep working on this issue till a better solution is found. Once this building is destroyed and in a landfill (also not particularly resilient policy, by the way), it is gone forever.

Thank you.

tanya k. bhatt

617.840.4905

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