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**From:** Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 17, 2014 2:50 PM  
**To:** Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)  
**Subject:** Marta Canaves, Selection Committee Member on ISD Project No. A13-CUA-01 ESP GOB: A/E Services for the Westchester Cultural Arts Center/Notification of Required Services- INQ 14-246

INQ 14-246

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**From:** Singer, Miriam (ISD)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 16, 2014 7:00 PM  
**To:** Centorino, Joseph (COE)  
**Subject:** RE: INQ - Marta Canaves, Selection Committee Member on ISD Project No. A13-CUA-01 ESP GOB: A/E Services for the Westchester Cultural Arts Center/Notification of Required Services

Thank you Joe.

----- Original message -----

**From:** "Centorino, Joseph (COE)"  
**Date:** 10/16/2014 5:45 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** "Singer, Miriam (ISD)"  
**Cc:** "Cordova, Amelia (ISD)", "Samuels, Faith (ISD)", "Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)"  
**Subject:** INQ - Marta Canaves, Selection Committee Member on ISD Project No. A13-CUA-01 ESP GOB: A/E Services for the Westchester Cultural Arts Center/Notification of Required Services

Ms. Singer:

You have inquired on behalf of Marta Canaves, Selection Committee on the above-named ISD Project, regarding whether she may have a prohibited conflict of interest in serving on the committee for this project. The request is made in light of Ms. Canaves' self-initiated registration of concern over personal connections between her and several applicants, as well as similar connections of her husband, who is an architect. Both Ms. Canaves and her husband are university professors who engage with design professionals in the academic forum. They are friends with most of the listed Respondents, and have known and served with them on advisory boards, in co-teaching situations and other professional interactions. They do not appear to have any business, employment, consulting or other financial relationship with any of them or to hold any positions with their respective firms that would automatically disqualify Ms. Canaves from serving. Ms. Canaves is not positioned to experience any personal gain or other direct effect on her interests from participating on the committee. While Ms. Canaves has asserted that she can be objective in the process, her expression of concern over a perceived conflict of interest indicates that she is uncomfortable with serving on this committee.

In the absence of any of the enumerated relationships in Section 2-11.1(v) of the Miami-Dade County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance with any of the Respondent firms, and the lack of any direct effect or benefit that may accrue from her service as a voting member of the committee, it cannot be concluded that Ms. Canaves has a conflict of interest that would prevent her from voting or serving on the committee. Nonetheless, the nature, level and apparent length of some of the relationships she and her husband have with several Respondents, as well as her expressed concern over the appearance that could be created by her participation as part of the selection committee on this project, should lead to a reconsideration of her appropriateness as a member of the committee. Further, Section 2-11.1(j) of the Code would prohibit someone from serving on such a committee where that person had outside

employment “which would impair his or her independence of judgment in the performance of his or her public duties.” While Ms. Canaves’ own personal integrity is not an issue in this matter, her concerns over the appearance created by her and her husband’s noted friendships and professional relationships with those involved in this process do raise at least the appearance that her decisions or recommendations, however objective and disinterested they may actually be, could have been influenced by those relationships.

In the interest of keeping the procurement process free of such perceptions, it would be advisable for Ms. Canaves to consider removing herself from the process.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Centorino  
Executive Director and General Counsel  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

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**From:** Cordova, Amelia (ISD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 15, 2014 1:20 PM  
**To:** Centorino, Joseph (COE)  
**Cc:** Singer, Miriam (ISD); Samuels, Faith (ISD)  
**Subject:** FW: ISD Project No. A13-CUA-01 ESP GOB: A/E Services for the Westchester Cultural Arts Center / Notification of Required Services

Good Afternoon Mr. Centorino,

Pursuant to your request below is the contact information for Mrs. Marta Canaves, ASLA, IIDA:

**Telephone:** (305) 348-1886  
**E-Mail:** [canaves@gmail.com](mailto:canaves@gmail.com) / [canavesm@fiu.edu](mailto:canavesm@fiu.edu)  
**Address:** FIU, College of Architecture + the Arts  
Modesto Maidique Campus PCA 373A  
11200 SW 8th St.  
Miami, FL 33199

Should you need any additional information, you may contact me at the e-mail listed below.

Regards,  
**"Amy"**  
**Amelia M. Córdoba-Jiménez**  
**A&E Consultant Selection Coordinator**  
**Internal Services Department**  
111 NW 1 Street - Suite 1300 - Miami, Florida 33128-1909  
(305) 375-3022  
[ameliac@miamidade.gov](mailto:ameliac@miamidade.gov)  
<http://www.miamidade.gov/internalservices/>  
***"Delivering Excellence Every Day"***

**From:** Cordova, Amelia (ISD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 15, 2014 10:39 AM  
**To:** Singer, Miriam (ISD)  
**Cc:** Samuels, Faith (ISD)

**Subject:** FW: ISD Project No. A13-CUA-01 ESP GOB: A/E Services for the Westchester Cultural Arts Center / Notification of Required Services

Miriam,

Please see e-mail below and advise. The First Tier meeting for subject project is scheduled for this Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M.

Thank you,

**"Amy"**

**Amelia M. Córdova-Jiménez**

**A&E Consultant Selection Coordinator**

**Internal Services Department**

111 NW 1 Street - Suite 1300 - Miami, Florida 33128-1909

(305) 375-3022

[ameliac@miamidade.gov](mailto:ameliac@miamidade.gov)

<http://www.miamidade.gov/internalservices/>

***"Delivering Excellence Every Day"***

**From:** [canaves@gmail.com](mailto:canaves@gmail.com) [<mailto:canaves@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 14, 2014 9:38 PM

**To:** Cordova, Amelia (ISD); Clerk of the Board (COC)

**Subject:** Re: ISD Project No. A13-CUA-01 ESP GOB: A/E Services for the Westchester Cultural Arts Center / Notification of Required Services

Dear Ms. Cordova,

In an effort to prevent any real or perceived conflict of interest, I would like to disclose the potential for, or the appearance of a conflict of interest.

I had read the Neutrality Affidavit Form upon receiving the appointment notice. However, it was not until receipt of the list of Respondents that I became concerned about my participation as a committee member and the potential of a conflict of interest.

According to the Affidavit statement to the best of my knowledge neither I, nor any member of my immediate family is employed or has been employed with any of the respondents firms within the time frames indicated.

My concern stems from the fact that my husband, an architect, and I are friends ( in some cases for over 40 years) with the majority of the principals on the Respondent List. As university professors we engage with local design professionals as part of the academic forum. These professionals serve and have served as critics in our studios, our students intern and are hired at their firms, they sponsor office visits, sit on advisory committees for the school and college and in some cases sponsor design studio classes. All of these activities have the potential to be perceived as receiving benefits connected to the committee position.

As an example, this semester I am co-teaching a studio class with an employee of one of the sub-consultant firm applying twice on the Respondent List. In this case a principal from that firm is also participating as a guest critic in my studio course this semester. My husband is teaching a seminar course in the offices of one of the prime consultants for the project. Although there is no monetary gain in either situation, there is the possibility of perceived conflict if anyone deemed to misconstrue the situation.

I can be objective and impartial, but do worry about consequences to the process that can be attributed to a perceived conflict of interest or misstep in protocol by my participation as committee member.

If a conflict of interest is determined to exist, I will immediately remove myself from the committee since I feel that the integrity of the process needs to be protected and maintained.

Respectfully,

Marta

**Marta Canaves, ASLA, IIDA** \ Graduate Faculty

**Landscape Architecture + Environmental and Urban Design** \ \ College of Architecture + the Arts \ Florida International University \ Modesto

Maidique Campus PCA 373A \ 11200 SW 8th St. \ Miami, FL 33199 \ \ email \ [canavesm@fiu.edu](mailto:canavesm@fiu.edu) \ [www.fiula.com](http://www.fiula.com)

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