

PLAZA OF THE AMERICAS AT PONCE DE LEON, HARTNETT PARK



Artistic rendering of proposed Plaza of the Americas

This Master Concept is envisioned to be Coral Gables “Central Park,” an urban park setting with a multitude of passive and active recreational activities, both with daytime and night time enjoyment. The revitalization of this park will promote the Arts, Culture, Entertainment and Tourism as well as a venue for a direct connection with visitors to the Central Business and Retail District.

This park will incorporate a majestic “fountain of youth” circa 1500’s, era when Spanish Explorer Ponce de Leon came to Florida in search of the famous fountain of youth. The fountain is enhanced by a 70’ high “Art in Public Spaces” sculpture piece. This work of art incorporates a 70’ ship’s mast with a crow’s nest and a gold leaf finish statue of Ponce de Leon overlooking Coral Gables. Sails will harmoniously wrap around the mast and all water will splash throughout the sails from beneath the crow’s nest in a kaleidoscope of reflecting lights. This sculpture will be illuminated at night with reflectors and will serve as an icon / monument which will be visible from miles away, thus creating a point of reference.

Making tribute to this fountain are the twenty one flags of the countries composing the Americas. By burying Ponce de Leon Boulevard at the east and west access ways, the park will increase in green / open area space by 2.7 acres, thus further benefiting the enjoyment of all visitors. This new “Central Park” will provide year round festivities and holidays such as Presidents Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s to name a few. Plaza of the Americas will truly be an international epicenter for commerce, entertainment, culture and tourism.