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**CULTURAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR RECEIVES NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**  
***Senior Advisor and Director Michael Spring honored by Americans for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts***

(Miami, May 31, 2016) – In recognition of his extraordinary leadership in the arts locally and nationally, Michael Spring, Senior Advisor to Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez and Director of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs will be honored with the Selina Roberts Ottum Award, the highest honor in the field of local arts agencies. Presented jointly by Americans for the Arts, the nation’s leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in America, and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Selina Roberts Ottum Award recognizes outstanding contributions in the local arts agency field.

“For more than thirty years, Michael Spring has been a leading visionary force in the development of our world-class arts community,” said Carlos A. Gimenez, Miami-Dade County Mayor. “Michael and his team have been on the frontlines of Miami-Dade County’s cultural transformation into one of America’s boldest new cultural centers,” added Mayor Gimenez.

As director of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, Michael Spring is responsible for supervision of a public arts agency with an annual budget of more than \$33 million. In 2014, he was appointed to serve as a Senior Advisor to the Mayor for the County’s Cultural Affairs and Recreation portfolio, including oversight of the arts, parks and libraries. Over the three decades that he has served the Department of Cultural Affairs, Spring has helped build Miami-Dade County’s cultural community into a more than \$1 billion annual industry comprised of 1,000 non-profit cultural groups and thousands of artists. Spring has a B.A. from the University of Miami and earned an M.A. in painting from New York University, involving studies in Venice, Italy. He continues to paint and develop his interests as a visual artist.

“Michael Spring is one of the most outstanding individuals whom I have ever had the privilege to work with and to know. His extraordinary commitment to the arts in Miami-Dade County and his steadfast leadership, tenacious creativity and relentless vision has transformed our cultural landscape,” stated Adolfo Henriques, Chairman of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council. “Michael is the kind of person who always succeeds because for him, there is no alternative. For more than three decades, his deep understanding of the world of non-profit cultural organizations and artists directly helped our Department of Cultural Affairs to grow in resources and in reputation. Michael’s extensive contributions to our work constitute a legacy for our cultural community.”

The Selina Roberts Ottum Award will be presented to Michael Spring at the Americans for the Arts 2016 Annual Convention in Boston on Friday, June 17, 2016.

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Media Note: [Click here for Michael Spring’s headshot](#)  
[Click here for Michael Spring’s Bio](#)

*Americans for the Arts is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education in America. With offices in Washington, D.C. and New York City, it has a record of more than 50 years of service. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. Additional information is available at [www.AmericansForTheArts.org](http://www.AmericansForTheArts.org).*

*The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council develop cultural excellence, diversity and participation throughout Miami-Dade County by strategically creating and promoting opportunities for artists and cultural organizations, and our residents and visitors who are their audiences. The Department directs the Art in Public Places program and serves its board, the Art in Public Places Trust, commissioning, curating, maintaining and promoting the County's art collection. The Department also manages, programs and operates the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, a campus of state-of-the-art cultural facilities in Cutler Bay, as well as Miami-Dade County Auditorium, Joseph Caleb Auditorium and the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, all dedicated to presenting and supporting excellence in the arts for the entire community. Through staff, board and programmatic resources, the Department, the Council and the Trust promote, coordinate and support Miami-Dade County's more than 1,000 not-for-profit cultural organizations as well as thousands of resident artists through grants, technical assistance, public information and interactive community planning. The Department receives funding through the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, The Children's Trust, the National Endowment for the Arts, the State of Florida through the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Other support and services are provided by TicketWeb for the Culture Shock Miami program, the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, the South Florida Cultural Consortium and the Tourist Development Council.*

*It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request materials in accessible format, sign language interpreters, and/or any accommodation to participate in any Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs program or meeting, please contact Francine Andersen at 305-375-4634 [culture@miamidade.gov](mailto:culture@miamidade.gov) at least five days in advance to initiate your request. TTY users may also call 711 (Florida Relay Service).*