

**MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
January 24, 2024**

A meeting of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council was held at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium and online via Zoom.

<p><u>Members Present</u> Sandra Curbelo Adolfo Henriques, Immediate Past Chair Commissioner Daniela Jean Councilwoman Linda Julien Cheryl Rees Zaba St. George Castro Janá Sigars-Malina, First Vice Chair Monty Trainer</p>	<p><u>Members Not Present</u> Mitchell Bierman Kareem Brantley Al Dotson, Jr. Brian May, Chairman Jorge Plasencia Rosa Sugrañes</p>
<p><u>Staff</u> Marialaura Leslie, Director Ashlee Thomas, Deputy Director Carolina L. Alfonso Kelly Allocco Patricia Arbelaez Roxana Barba Eddy Calero Tania Centeno Nicole Chaplin Marie Denis Bianca Gonzalez Teddy Harrell Liliana Hernandez LaToya Hightower Regla Lee</p>	<p><u>Staff (continued)</u> Dorixis McComas Val Medina Carmen Morris Steven Padilla Alex Peraza Dana Pezoldt Gisella Rivas-Diaz Amanda Sanfilippo Javier Siut David Solomon Christina Tassy Geraldine Toussaint Pamela Valles Eduardo Vivas Graham Winick</p>

Cultural Affairs Council Immediate Past Chair, Adolfo Henriques, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Mr. Henriques noted he will run the meeting on behalf of Chairman Brian May and welcomed the Cultural Affairs Council members and Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs staff that have joined the meeting via Zoom.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Approval of the November 15, 2023 Minutes

The minutes of the November 15, 2023 Council meeting were presented. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

Requests for Excused Absences for January 24, 2024

Requests for excused absences were submitted by Chairman Brian May and Councilors Mitchell Bierman, Rosa Sugrañes, Kareem Brantley, Jorge Plasencia, and Al Dotson, Jr. (Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Ms. St. George Castro)

FY 2023-2024 Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grants Program Panel

Director Marialaura Leslie presented the grant panel for the FY 2023-2024 Summer Arts & Science Camp for Kids (SAS-C) grants program. The program is chaired by Councilor Trainer and managed by Katherine Revell who has been on medical leave. Ms. Leslie thanked Francine Andersen, Dana Pezoldt, and Stephanie Antequera for their hard work in ensuring the program stayed on track. Mr. Trainer noted that the program has grown significantly over the years; it started with \$400,000 and has now surpassed a million in grant funding from The Children's Trust. (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

FY 2024-2025 Grants Program Guidelines

Ms. Leslie reported there are no substantial changes to the grant program guidelines for Audience Access (AUD), Capital Development (CAP), Cultural Advancement (ADV), Cultural Development (CDG), Dance Miami Choreographers' (DMC), Developing Arts in Neighborhoods (DAN), Festivals and Special Events (FEST), Hannibal Cox, Jr. (HCJ), International Cultural Partnerships (ICP), Major Cultural Institutions (MCI), Youth Arts Enrichment (YEP), and Youth Arts Miami (YAM) grants programs, however, she highlighted one simple change—the Council's renamed the Major Cultural Institutions (MCI) Grants Program in honor of Director Emeritus Michael Spring's outstanding 40 years of public service and extraordinary vision for the arts in Miami-Dade County. Therefore, the Council officially renamed the program: the Michael Spring Major Cultural Institutions (MCI) Grants Program. Ms. Leslie noted that this is a great way to honor Director Emeritus Michael Spring. The guidelines were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Arts Energize 305 Strategic Plan

Ms. Leslie reported that the Department of Cultural Affairs is embarking on a new strategic plan. Mayor Danielle Levine Cava asked the Department to relook at everything it is doing and put forth a plan that centers around equity and accomplishing the department's mission of bringing the arts to every corner of Miami-Day County. The Arts Energize 305 Strategic Plan represents a new vision for greater cultural equity in the county. The plan assesses all levels of departmental work to ensure the continued promotion of equity, diversity, inclusion, and access. It focuses on the economic and social impact of the arts while developing new interdepartmental partnerships, encouraging cross-sector collaborations, and ensuring innovative service to underserved

populations and under-resourced neighborhoods with an emphasis on preserving cultural heritage and traditions. Serving as a blueprint for a more equitable cultural ecosystem, that sustains artists and cultural institutions allowing residents and visitors to enjoy affordable, accessible access to excellent cultural opportunities. The genesis of the Strategic Plan is the economic impact study conducted by Kelly Allocco and the team. Miami-Dade County is ranked #1 in arts and culture, generating \$2.1 billion in economic impact and supporting 32,000 full-time jobs. The study also revealed that 20 million people participate in the arts annually. Ms. Leslie noted that the plan will be emailed to all Council members for feedback after the meeting, welcoming their thoughts and suggestions. Mr. Henriques emphasized that the Arts Energize 305 Strategic Plan will guide our actions, resource allocation, and future endeavors. It is crucial to understand its content, execution, development process, and integration into all activities driving the mission of arts and cultural programming in Miami-Dade County.

Department Facilities Update - Miami-Dade County Auditorium

Javier Siut provided a quick overview of the Auditorium's diverse and successful events, starting with the 'Hot Theatre Summer Series' featuring international productions from Costa Rica, Argentina, Spain, and International Children's Day. The latter consisted of a full day of activities, including workshops, rides, food, and a theatrical performance that was free to the public, drawing over 1,200 attendees. The summer programming continued with the Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami's International Ballet Festival and a performance by Rosie Herrera Dance Theatre titled 'Devotion.' In September 2023, Albita and seven-time Grammy winner Chucho Valdés, a premier jazz pianist, held a concert titled 'Masters of our Roots.' The 2022-2023 season closed with a Hispanic Heritage celebration concert featuring the Alhambra Orchestra, part of the Auditorium's free series, Fun Arts for the Family Series, attracting over 1,500 families. The season welcomed 96,580 guests across 166 events. The 2023-2024 season began with the ZunZún Children's Festival as part of its Fun Arts for the Family Series, including an interactive performance for toddlers titled 'Little Night.' Notable November events included the world premiere of 'Un parque en mi casa,' written by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Nilo Cruz, and 'Cloud9,' a series of new works by choreographer Bridget Baker that invite the audience to reflect on the stewardship of our planet. December featured the holiday season series, including The Nutcracker, a pop holiday music concert, a jazz holiday music concert, and a classical holiday music concert. To close out the first quarter of FY 2023-2024, the Auditorium welcomed 34,165 guests and hosted 46 events.

Immediate Past Chair, Adolfo Henriques, noted that the programming at the Auditorium is exciting and amazing. He mentioned hearing from several attendees that many performances were almost sold out. Additionally, he noted that the Auditorium is a beloved community asset that is actively utilized, well-situated, and accessible. Mr. Henriques inquired about the status of the Auditorium's remodeling plans and asked how long the Auditorium will remain closed during the renovation. Mr. Siut responded that the plans are progressing well, with the design nearing completion and the theater scheduled through April 2024. In early May 2024, the building will begin clearance, with demolition set for late Summer 2024, contingent upon permits. Due to the extensive renovations needed for the Auditorium, which has been in use for over 70 years, completion is expected to take a couple of years. Mr. Siut assured that upon completion, the Auditorium will be essentially brand new while retaining its original facade.

Henriques commended staff for maintaining the Auditorium over the years and suggested taking a few months before reopening to inform the community about the plans. Ms. Sigars-Malina proposed adding a sign displaying a picture of how the Auditorium will look upon completion. Mr. Siut noted that the team is planning a series of marketing efforts to keep the community informed about the Auditorium's renovation plans. He also mentioned that while the Auditorium is closed, it will continue to co-produce shows with different venues throughout Miami-Dade County. Mr. Siut will provide a detailed briefing on the Auditorium's renovation plans at an upcoming meeting.

Culture Shock Miami Update

Ms. Christina Tassy presented an update on the Culture Shock Miami program and provided an overview of the Culture Shock Miami website. The focus and mission of the Culture Shock Miami program are to engage and cultivate the audience of the future by making \$5 tickets available to teens and young adults between the ages of 13 and 22. This season, the Culture Shock Miami series continues to present performances either directly as a program or in collaboration with the Moss Center. Last season, and shortly after the pandemic, the program concentrated its efforts at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium. Ms. Tassy provided an overview of the various programs, including performances by B2Twins and Dance Theatre of Harlem, of which the productions of ABBA, The String Queens, and Samara Joy sold out all of its Culture Shock Miami tickets. Upcoming programming includes Drumline (which had a 160-ticket sell-out) and 360 All-Stars. Ms. Tassy noted that the Culture Shock Miami Student Advisory Council meets twice a month and helps oversee the program, make marketing decisions, and decide on programming. The council has two capacities for the program: ambassadors and creative content. In addition to working closely with the department's marketing team, the council also collaborates with the Weinbach Group to make organic content available for the community. The Culture Shock Miami Student Advisory Council collaborated with the Pérez Art Museum Team on the Pérez Art Museum Team Summit, which took place on January 19 and gathered over 100 teens as well as teachers for professional development opportunities. The Miami-Dade Arts Education Collective, a group of local presenters based in Florida consisting of Adrienne Arsht Center's Education and Community Engagement team, Miami Theater Center (MTC), and the Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center's Education and Outreach Division, provide free virtual field trips to students. To date, over 175,000 students have been reached virtually. Mr. Henriques shared his experience of visiting the opera in Europe. He noted the significant presence of young people in attendance and inquired about the process of attracting the younger population through the Culture Shock Miami program. Ms. Tassy noted that the \$5 tickets make access to the arts affordable for students and families. To date, over 325,000 students have been served, representing 20% of the overall student-age population in Miami-Dade County. Arts Energize 305 will provide the program with a much bigger opportunity to serve more students, as it will focus on underserved areas. Commissioner Daniela Jean inquired about the outreach effects of the Northeast corridor of the county. Ms. Tassy noted that the Culture Shock Miami program is actively working with the County's Parks Department and various art centers within the Northeast corridor to engage youth and their families, making more performances available.

Art in Public Places Update

Ms. Amanda Sanfilippo presented the Art in Public Places update. She noted that this year, the Art in Public Places program is celebrating its 50th anniversary. In conjunction with this milestone, the program will be launching a new website at the end of January 2024. The main features will include highlights of tours, exhibitions, and public programming, as well as opportunities for artists through calls for artists and grants for artist programs. Additionally, there will be an 'Explore the Collection' feature, allowing guests to browse the artworks in the Art in Public Places collection. The search feature capacity has been upgraded to allow guests to search by artist, facilities, classifications, and locations. Enhanced features have been added to the artwork section, including artist statements, basic information, where the artwork is on view, its medium, classification, credit information, and more. A new section called 'Curated Collections' has been added, allowing the public to explore specific groupings of artworks highlighted by thematic or curatorial imperatives. In conjunction with the launch, two curated collections have been put forth: '50 for 50,' which features 50 artworks highlighting each year of the program since its inception in 1973, along with artworks acquired through the South Florida Cultural Consortium program.

The South Florida Cultural Consortium Grants Program acquires artwork for the Art in Public Places collection, which ensures a steady stream of new work by Miami-Dade County based artists. These artworks are part of the Art in Public Places Adopt an Artwork program. The APP website contains a complete listing of all the artworks in the collection. The new website will streamline the process for collaborating on public artworks with partners. It will include guidance on every step, from planning and artist selection to implementation, along with comprehensive tools for art partners. The highlight of the website is its integration with a cutting-edge, custom-built database. The database not only manages collection inventory but also enables real-time tracking of artwork locations. Ms. Janá Sigars-Malina inquired about the intellectual property of the websites licenses in which Ms. Sanfilippo responded to the software was designed by the County IT department and is owned by the County and staff will follow up.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Leslie reported that Mayor Danielle Levine Cava would be hosting the annual State of the County Address at Zoo Miami on January 24, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Graham Winick noted today is Arts Day in Tallahassee, where local arts leaders and artists gather from around the state to advocate for additional and enhanced funding for the Division of Arts and Culture grants. Last year, \$43 million was received for grants which is slightly down from the \$56 million record funding two years ago. This year we are seeking full funding for the program, aiming for a record of over \$77 million, with \$15 million allocated to Miami-Dade County. This amount represents 20% of the applications that are moved forward and recommended. Staff is actively meeting with key Miami-Dade County legislators who are on appropriations, trying to convince them that this is something that they should continue to fund and hopefully fund fully. Ms. Leslie commended Mr. Winick for the great work he is doing in leading this effort.

Ms. Leslie reported that Chief Morris Copeland, under whose purview the Department of Cultural Affairs falls as the Community Services Officer for the Office of the Mayor, is retiring at the end

of the month. Chief Cathy Burgos, who has a passion for arts and culture and comes from the Juvenile Services Department, will take over as the new leader of the division.

Ms. Leslie reported that Ashley K. Thomas, Graham Winick, Christina Tassy, Geraldine Toussaint, Chairman Brian May, she has been meeting with Miami-Dade County Commissioners and their staff to discuss the importance of the arts and the work of the Council. Staff is still pending a meeting with Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins (District 8), Vice Chair Anthony Rodriguez (District 10), and Commissioner René Garcia (District 13).

Ms. Leslie noted that Mayor Daniella Levine Cava asked the Department to work on activating the lobby in the Stephen P. Clark Center and to explore art engagement activities in the Chamber. This initiative aims to elevate the arts in front of elected officials to garner support for our budget leading into the budget process this year. Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, in partnership with the Department of Cultural Affairs, has produced several activations, including a holiday sing-along.

Ashlee Thomas added that the Mayor's holiday sing-along in December was a great success. Staff sang along with the people's piano (a new activation initiative where a piano has been placed in the lobby of the Stephen P. Clark Center, and staff are welcome to play). Commissioners have requested different art activations through the Department of Cultural Affairs. So far, there are a total of 75 distinct events planned as part of the Arts Energize 305 Plan, which includes lobby activations by the Board of County Commissioners. Sixteen of these activations have been requested through Chairman Gilbert's office for lobby presentations. Previous lobby activations included a jazz singer. Staff are working with commissioners and their constituents to conduct district-wide, district-specific grant workshops in all three languages prevalent in Miami-Dade County.

Staff members are actively collaborating with commissioners and their constituents to organize district-wide grant workshops tailored to each district's needs, delivered in all three prevalent languages spoken in Miami-Dade County.

Ms. Leslie highlighted important dates:

- The groundbreaking ceremony for the Joseph Caleb Auditorium renovation and expansion project is scheduled for February 16, 2024, at 10:30 am.
- A video highlighting the transformative and economic impacts of the arts, especially on kids and seniors, will be presented at a future Board of County Commissioners meeting. Chairman Brian May will introduce this presentation.
- The 15th annual State of the Arts in Miami-Dade County Address, aligned with the Arts Energize 305 Strategic Plan, will take place on March 7, 2024, at 8:30 am. Chairman Brian May will deliver a speech, with additional remarks by elected officials.
- The date for the Serving the Arts awards ceremony, organized by the Arts and Business Council, is yet to be determined. This event will honor heads of cultural institutions, board members, and volunteers.
- This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Miami Emerging Art Leaders (MEAL) program, led by Gisella Rivas-Diaz.
- On January 23, 2024, John Safranek conducted a Budgeting 101 workshop for cultural organizations, which attracted over 160 RSVPs.

- In December, Dr. Aida Levitan conducted a session for the Miami Emerging Art Leaders program, featuring an interview by former Council Affairs Council Chairman Alejandro Aguirre, as part of Arts Week celebrations.
- The Miami Arts Marketing Project Workshop Series, organized by the Arts and Business Council, will commence with its first workshop on February 13, 2024, at the Adrienne Arsht Center. The panel, including Marialaura, will discuss fundraising, visibility, and the economic impact of the arts.

Ms. Leslie shared that she has been invited by the White House's Domestic Policy Council to attend a summit titled 'Healing, Bridging, Thriving: A Summit on Arts and Culture in our Communities' in Washington, DC next week. This summit, organized in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, aims to explore the integral role of the arts in fostering healthier and more resilient communities nationwide. Ms. Leslie will deliver a report on her participation at the February Cultural Affairs Council meeting.

Ms. Leslie commended the Cultural Affairs staff for continuing to do an excellent job.

Ms. Leslie reported that as of today, there is no new news regarding the Coconut Grove Playhouse. The Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida convened on October 12, 2022, to review the case but has not yet provided an opinion. County attorneys maintain their confidence in the county's favorable position in this case. Ms. Leslie expressed gratitude to Marie Denis and her team for their dedicated efforts concerning the Coconut Grove Playhouse.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

Commissioner Daniela Jean reported that the Miami International Ballet Competition was held at the Julius Littman Performing Arts Theater in North Miami Beach and it featured dancers from around the world.

Ms. Janá Sigars-Malina reported that Fairchild Gardens will be hosting its annual gala on February 3, 2024, followed by a Valentine's Day concert, Garden de la More, on February 14, 2024. Additionally, two weeks ago, the Chocolate Festival took place, and several Mango and Orchid festivals were coming up. The Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden website has a list of all upcoming events.

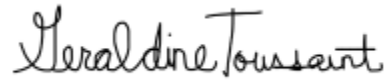
Ms. Zaba St. George Castro reported that Commissioner Kevin M. Cabrera's office (District 6) contacted her following a meeting with Director Leslie and Department of Cultural Affairs staff, during which they expressed their admiration for the insightful information shared by the Director Leslie. Ms. Zaba St. George Castro offered her assistance in coordinating a meeting with Vice Chair Anthony Rodriguez's office (District 10) and expressed her willingness to help facilitate the process.

Mr. Monty Trainer reported that the Coconut Grove Arts Festival is celebrating its 60th anniversary. The first unveiling was held last Thursday (January 18, 2024). Additionally, he highlighted the significance of Dade Days, an event attended by Mayor Levine Cava, where individuals have the opportunity to meet with delegations. Mr. Trainer expressed optimism for

increased participation at Dade Days, recognizing its value as a prime opportunity. He also requested flyers from the Florida League of Cities to distribute copies during the event.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Geraldine Toussaint". The letters are connected and fluid, with a prominent initial 'G'.

Geraldine Toussaint