

**MINUTES OF THE  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

**February 16, 2022**

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

<p><b><u>Members Present</u></b>          Alejandro Aguirre          Mitchell Bierman          Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Second Vice Chair          Sandra Curbelo          Jorge Plasencia          Cheryl Rees          Janá Sigars-Malina, First Vice Chair          Rosa Sugrañes          Monty Trainer          Justin Trieger</p>	<p><b><u>Members Not Present</u></b>          Brian May, Chairman          Adolfo Henriques, Immediate Past Chair</p>
<p><b><u>Staff</u></b>          Michael Spring, Director          Marialaura Leslie, Deputy Director          Kelly Allocco          Francine Andersen          Patricia Arbelaez          Roxana Barba          Stefania Barigelli          Nikenna Benjamin          Ruby Brown          Tania Centeno          Mary-Margaret Dale          Marshall Davis          Marie Denis          Ivette Dominguez          Bianca Gonzalez          Olga Gonzalez</p>	<p><b><u>Staff (continued)</u></b>          Teddy Harrell          Liliana Hernandez-Constenla          Regla Lee          Gilda Mooney          Steven Padilla          Alex Peraza          Adriana Perez          Dana Pezoldt          Katherine Revell          Alexia Robotham          Javier Siut          Christina Tassy-Beauvoir          Geraldine Toussaint          Pamela Valles          Graham Winick</p>

Director Spring announced Chairman May will not be able to attend the meeting and he will chair the meeting on his behalf. He called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

## **ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION**

### **Approval of December 15, 2021 Minutes**

The minutes of the December 15, 2021 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

### **FY2022-2023 Grants Program Guidelines**

Mr. Spring reported there are no substantive changes to the guidelines for the Audience Access (AUD), Capital Development (CAP), Cultural Advancement (ADV), Cultural Development (CDG), Dance Miami Choreographers' (DMC), Festivals and Special Events (FEST), Hannibal Cox, Jr. (HCJ), Major Cultural Institutions (MCI), Youth Arts Enrichment (YEP), and Youth Arts Miami (YAM) grants programs. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

## **ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

### **Requests for Excused Absences for February 16, 2022**

Requests for excused absences were submitted by Chairman Brian May and Councilor Adolfo Henriques. (Motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

### **FY2021-2022 Community Grants (CG) Program Panel Recommendations – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter**

Mr. Graham Winick reported that the FY 2021-2022 Community Grants program panel, chaired by Councilor Janá Sigars-Malina, convened on February 10, 2022 to review 19 applications requesting \$146,850.00 for the Third Quarter of the program. The Panel recommended funding 19 applicants for a total of \$131,100.00. Mr. Winick reported that the Community Grants Program is responsive on a quarterly basis to organizations which develop small and large-scale community-based programs, projects, events, and publications.

A motion was made to fund all the of the Panel's recommendations. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

AfriKin Foundation, Inc.	\$7,500
Art for Us, Inc.	\$6,500
Blue Scholars Initiative Inc.	\$7,500
Centro Cultural Boliviano Masis, Corp.	\$3,750

Compositum Musicae Novae, Inc.	\$6,500
Florida L' Opera & Zarzuela Corp.	\$7,500
Florida Opera Prima Inc. a/f/a Afro Borinken Roots Performing Group, Inc.	\$7,500
Friends of the Japanese Garden, Inc. a/f/a International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring 45, Inc.	\$3,750
Global Arts Project, Inc.	\$7,500
Hued Songs Inc.	\$3,750
Les Ailes du Desir Foundation, Inc.	\$4,350
Miami Chamber Music Society, Inc.	\$7,500
Miami River Fund, Inc.	\$10,000
NWD Projects, Inc.	\$7,500
Pinecrest City Music Project, Inc.	\$7,500
Richmond Heights Community Association, Inc.	\$7,500
SBC Community Development Corporation of Richmond Heights, Inc. a/f/a ASK Colestars, Inc.	\$7,500
South Florida Educational Development Center, Inc.	\$7,500
The Fountainhead Residency Inc.	\$10,000

### **FY2022-2023 International Cultural Partnerships (ICP) Grants Program Guidelines**

Mr. Spring presented the FY 2022-2023 International Cultural Partnerships (ICP) Grants Program Guidelines. Mr. Spring reported there are no substantive changes. It was approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

Mr. Aguirre joined the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Mr. Spring reported that the Department has hired Geraldine Toussaint as a new staff member. Graham Winick was promoted to Chief of Administration and Geraldine will now take over his former role and manage the Community Grants program. Geraldine previously worked at the City of North Miami, where she managed CDBG grants and social service programs, and prior to that she was a Grants Administrator for the City of Miami Beach Cultural Affairs Office. She is fluent in French/Creole and holds a bachelor's degree in Public Administration from FIU.
- Mr. Spring announced that the Department launched the Miami Individual Artists (MIA) Stipends program in December 2021 and received over 600 applications. The program was funded by a \$500,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts from its American Rescue Plan allocation. The funds will be used to provide stipends for Miami-Dade County based individual artists. Staff is in the middle of the review process and is working quickly with the goal of announcing award recipients in the spring. Staff is recommending that the Miami-Dade County Commission delegate approval of the grants to the Cultural Affairs Council to expedite the process. Staff would like to make the program recurring.
- Mr. Spring reported the Department recently released the 2022 edition of the Golden Ticket Senior Arts Guide. The bilingual guide, printed in English and Spanish, provides free admission to low-

income seniors for cultural activities. The guide was sent via direct mail to ten thousand seniors on the Department's mailing list and is also available for pick-up at Miami-Dade County Mayor's Office, Commission District Offices, as well as County parks and libraries. Lili Hernandez manages the program and is the guide's Editor-in-Chief.

- Staff is preparing for the Cultural Affairs Council Planning and Budget Retreat which typically takes place in March of every year. Department staff is scheduling two zoom sessions with a detailed budget presentation for the Council. The Council will convene for final discussion and vote at the regular Cultural Affairs Council meeting on Wednesday, March 16, 2022. The budget has been submitted internally and issues surrounding the budget will be addressed at the meeting. The two briefings are scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 11<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.

## COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Mr. Bierman attended a Bjork concert at the Adrienne Arsht Center which was well attended. He would like to explore attendance trends and demand for cultural organizations. GableStage's new season is working on changing theater locally with creating relevance to a broader audience with its new works.
- Mr. Trainer attended an outdoor concert at Peacock Park with Miami Symphony Orchestra which had an overwhelming response with a big and enthusiastic audience. The Coconut Grove Arts Festival is back and will take place the weekend of February 19-21, 2022.
- Mr. Trieger reported the New World Symphony celebrated the cultural impact of the Harlem Renaissance with collaborations and performances and is now hosting a Clarinet Festival.
- Mr. Aguirre reported Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is doing well and encourages Councilors to take the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. The board of South Arts, which represents the nine regional Southeastern states, convened for a meeting in Miami Beach. Director Spring gave the keynote address to open the conference and the members were all impressed with Miami's diversity.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported that the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden will host Gala in the Garden and Orchids in Bloom. Fairchild is also partnering with Lincoln Road in an educational program.
- Ms. Sugrañes attended a very dynamic Locust Projects exhibition.
- Mr. Plasencia is looking forward to the Coconut Grove Arts Festival.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Liliana Hernandez-Constenla