

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

April 19, 2023

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

<p><u>Members Present</u> Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Second Vice Chair Sandra Curbelo Al Dotson, Jr. Councilwoman Linda Julien Cheryl Rees Janá Sigars-Malina, First Vice Chair Zaba St. George Rosa Sugrañes Monty Trainer</p>	<p><u>Members Not Present</u> Brian May, Chairman Mitchell Bierman Kareem Brantley Adolfo Henriques, Immediate Past Chair Jorge Plasencia</p> <p><u>Guests Present</u> John Copeland Kisha Murray Vania Zak</p>
<p><u>Staff</u> Michael Spring, Director Marialaura Leslie, Deputy Director Carolina Alfonso Kelly Allocco Francine Andersen Patricia Arbelaez Roxana Barba Stefania Barigelli Nikenna Benjamin Tania Centeno Kimberly Chuck Mary-Margaret Dale Marie Denis Ivette Dominguez Eric Fliss Bianca Gonzalez Olga Gonzalez Teddy Harrell</p>	<p><u>Staff (continued)</u> Liliana Hernandez-Constenla Regla Lee David Martinez-Delgado Gilda Mooney Steven Padilla Alex Peraza Adriana Perez Dana Pezoldt Katherine Revell Pablo Rincon Gisella Rivas-Diaz Amanda Sanfilippo Long Javier Siut Christina Tassy Geraldine Toussaint Pamela Valles Eduardo Vivas Graham Winick</p>

Cultural Affairs Council Second Vice Chairperson Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and welcomed the Cultural Affairs Council and staff. Mr. Spring welcomed all Council members present and noted Councilor Sigars-Malina joined via Zoom.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Approval of March 15, 2023 Minutes

The minutes of the March 15, 2023 Council meeting were amended to reflect the appropriate meeting date, with Councilwoman Linda Julien receiving an excused absence on March 15. With the correction the minutes were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Mr. Dotson)

Requests for Excused Absences for April 19, 2023

Requests for an excused absence were submitted by Chairman Brian May, Councilor Mitchell Bierman, Councilor Kareem Brantley, Councilor Adolfo Henriques, and Councilor Jorge Plasencia. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Mr. Dotson)

Councilor Zaba St. George joined the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

FY 2023-2024 Grant Program Panels

Mr. Spring presented the grant panels for the FY 2023-2024 grants cycle. Mr. Spring reported that the Cultural Advancement (ADV) grant panel will be chaired by Councilor Bierman; the Cultural Development (CDG) grant panel will be chaired by Councilor Rees; the Developing Arts in Neighborhoods (DAN) grant panel will be chaired by Councilor Rees; the Festivals and Special Events (FEST) grant panel will be chaired by Councilor Chauncy-Gonzalez; the Hannibal Cox, Jr. (HCJ) grant panel will be chaired by Councilor Trainer; the International Cultural Partnerships (ICP) grant panel will be chaired by Councilor Chauncy-Gonzalez; the Major Cultural Institutions (MCI) grant panel will be chaired by Chairman May; and the Youth Arts Miami (YAM) grant panel will be chaired by Councilor Bierman. Mr. Spring confirmed that all meetings by the panels to review grants are advertised publicly prior to the meeting and any Councilor may attend. The grant panels were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Dotson; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on FY 2023-2024 County Arts Budget

Mr. Spring reported that Department staff and the Cultural Affairs Council met for the FY 2023-2024 Annual Planning and Budget Retreat. Department staff subsequently submitted the request for additional funds recommended by the Council. Currently the

Miami-Dade County Budget Office is reviewing all County Department budget submissions internally and will ultimately review them with the Mayor. It is likely that by the June Cultural Affairs Council meeting staff will have a better idea if the additional revenues will be allocated to fill the budget gap, as well as provide an increase to meet the documented need in the Departmental budget. The Council's advocacy and support of the Department's budget is critically important as the Mayor determines funding priorities for the County. The Mayor will release the proposed budget and the Commission will set the millage rates in July as part of the budget process.

Deputy Director Marialaura Leslie announced that there are guests who have joined the meeting via Zoom. Ms. Leslie recognized Kisha Murray representing the Office of Chief Morris Copeland in the Office of the Mayor, John Copeland, Director of Cultural Tourism at the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Vania Zak, a member of the public. She also noted Department of Cultural Affairs staff members are also joining the meeting via Zoom.

Art in Public Places Update

Ms. Amanda Sanfilippo Long reported on a major public art project at the MSC Miami Cruise Terminal AA/AAA at PortMiami. The terminal will be the last terminal viewed by every departing cruise ship and the first terminal viewed by every returning ship. The terminal building will be Miami's largest cruise ship terminal with the capacity to service three ship berths and process 36,000 passengers daily. The terminal was designed by Arquitectonica. Art in Public Places issued a Call to Artists where artists were invited to propose large-scale, light-based artworks to transform the interior of the terminal to create a dynamic scene in the evening and be prominently visible from the adjacent I-395 MacArthur Causeway. Artworks chosen also reflect themes of marine life, water, and ecological conservation. Local and national artists recommended for commissions through the Professional Advisory Committee are Danielle Roney Studio, Tamara Kostianovsky, Hugh Hayden, Lauren Shapiro, Mark Fleuridor and Juana Valdes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Spring presented the Cultural Facilities Overview memo which summarizes the current scope of unmet capital needs in the cultural sector. Mr. Spring noted that at this time Miami-Dade County does not have a revenue source to fund these types of projects. The Building Better Communities Bond Program (GOB) in 2004 was the last time a major funding source of half a billion dollars was approved for cultural capital projects and since then, the needs have grown. The GOB program helped build the Pérez Art Museum Miami and the Frost Science Museum, and it also included funding for neighborhood cultural projects such as the recently built Westchester Cultural Arts Center in Tropical Park. Currently using GOB funds, the

Department is out to bid for the Caleb Auditorium's capital project to work on the back of the house expansion and is finishing the design work for the front of house renovation. The Caleb Auditorium is a 1,000-seat theater in Liberty City, and it will incorporate a light canopy public art project designed by artist James Brazil. Mr. Spring noted that almost all of the GOB funds for cultural projects have been spent. The Coconut Grove Playhouse, the Civil Rights Museum at Virginia Key Beach and The Wolfsonian still have the corresponding GOB funds available. The Wolfsonian expansion project is now back underway with the passage of the City of Miami Beach bond that added funds to the project. The Department of Cultural Affairs is one of the only cultural departments in the nation with a capital division with expertise in building cultural buildings. Mr. Spring noted that the list is preliminary and is a work in progress currently estimating a need of \$870,000,000. The list includes the Black History Museum, an initiative that was started by former County Commissioner Dennis Moss and is now led by a team interested in building a museum in Downtown Miami. Mr. Spring added that the informational report for all Council members does not create a conflict of interest if they sit on boards of organizations that will receive any subsequent capital funds. Councilors will not vote on the informational item. Other projects that could potentially be added to the list include a possible future cultural facility in BCC Chairman Oliver Gilbert's District 1, in the City of Miami Gardens, as well as a possible center for film screening.

- Mr. Spring reported that the Florida State legislature is in session. The Florida State House and Florida State Senate arts and cultural budget recommendations are different at this stage, with the House recommendation being better at roughly \$50 million. These budget recommendations are for cultural grants. The Florida Cultural Alliance, the statewide advocacy organization for the arts, is continuing to monitor. Mr. Spring noted that he is the Volunteer Chairman of the Alliance's Board.
- The Department of Cultural Affairs has kicked off panel meetings for the Miami Individual Artists (MIA) grants program. The program was launched last year with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, and it is designed to provide funding support to individual artists in the community. This year the program received approximately 600 applications from Miami-Dade County artists which are being reviewed in eight different categories based on artistic discipline. Panelists from cultural organizations with expertise in the various categories will make funding recommendations to be presented to the Council next month. This year the program has \$1.5 million in grant funds available.
- Mr. Spring reported that the Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation's CreARTE Grants Program, lodged in the Miami Foundation, is now accepting applications through May 26, 2023. Applicants to the program can be organizations or individual artists.

- Mr. Spring reported that regarding the Coconut Grove Playhouse, Miami-Dade County is working through the County Attorney's Office to file an appeal with the Circuit Court. This appeal will provide an account of the unfair treatment that the City of Miami's Planning, Zoning and Appeals Board (PZAB) demonstrated at their March 15, 2023 meeting in voting to uphold an appeal of the County's demolition waiver. It will also detail the reasons that the Court should overturn the PZAB's unsupported and erroneous decision. The appeal will be filed by the next Cultural Affairs Council meeting in May 2023.
- The All Kids Included Family Festival will be held at the Moss Center on Saturday, May 6, 2023. The event is free for families for children with and without disabilities. The event has always been very successful and well attended.
- The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center presented the Sankofa Jazz Festival on Saturday, April 15, 2023. This year's festival featured 10-time Grammy winners "Take 6" and they welcomed more than 500 attendees.
- The Department of Cultural Affairs has just received notice that the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has awarded a \$40,000 grant to African Heritage Cultural Arts Center for their excellent programming. The award will be formally announced by the NEA later this month.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Councilor Chancy-Gonzalez thanked the Department staff for their great work and is very proud to see all that is being accomplished.
- Councilor Curbelo stated that she is happy to be back to represent District 10. The Country Festival in Tropical Park was an outstanding success with a cattle rodeo and country music.
- Councilor Trainer reported the Coconut Grove Arts Festival was a great success. For the first time ever, national jurors were part of the event. Mr. Trainer also serves on the Virginia Key Advisory Council where the Marine Stadium is located. He would like to see the Stadium work with Art in Public Places. The Stadium falls under the purview of City of Miami Art in Public Places program and the Miami-Dade County Art in Public Places program only covers new construction and not renovation projects. Mr. Trainer also noted that he and Miami-Dade County Mayor Levine Cava participated in Dade Days at the State Capitol.
- Councilor Dotson is enjoying learning about the breath and scope of all the programs Miami-Dade County and the Cultural Affairs Council are involved in to support the arts in the community.
- Councilor Sigars-Malina reported that she joined the meeting via Zoom from California. She noted that Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens will host the Dog

Date Stroll on April 23, 2023, and the “Race Against Plant Extinction” lecture on April 26, 2023.

- Councilwoman Julien reported the Golden Ticket Arts Guide is a very popular program in Miami Gardens. Her office receives a lot of feedback from seniors excited to participate and enjoy cultural offerings throughout Miami-Dade County. She hopes the program continues to be offered.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liliana Hernandez-Constenla". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liliana Hernandez-Constenla