

MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
October 19, 2022

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

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| <u>Members Present</u> Brian May, Chairman Kareem Brantley Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Second Vice Chair Al Dotson, Jr. Adolfo Henriques, Immediate Past Chair Councilwoman Linda Julien Cheryl Rees Janá Sigars-Malina, First Vice Chair Rosa Sugrañes Monty Trainer | <u>Members Not Present</u> Alejandro Aguirre Mitchell Bierman Jorge Plasencia <u>Others Present</u> Sandra Curbelo Kisha Murray |
| <u>Staff</u> Michael Spring, Director Marialaura Leslie, Deputy Director Carolina Alfonso Kelly Allococo Francine Andersen Patricia Arbelaez Nikenna Benjamin Mary-Margaret Dale Marie Denis Eric Fliss Bianca Gonzalez Olga Gonzalez Liliana Hernandez-Constenla | <u>Staff (continued)</u> Regla Lee Ana Meza Gilda Mooney Steven Padilla Alex Peraza Adriana Perez Katherine Revell Gisella Rivas-Diaz Javier Siut Christina Tassy Geraldine Toussaint Pamela Valles Graham Winick |

Chairman Brian May called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and welcomed the Cultural Affairs Council and staff. He also welcomed Kisha Murray representing the Office of Chief Morris Copeland in the Office of the Mayor.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Approval of September 21, 2022 Minutes

The minutes of the September 21, 2022 Council meeting were approved. Councilor Dotson abstained from voting. (Motion by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

Requests for Excused Absences for September 21, 2022

Requests for excused absences were submitted by Councilors Alejandro Aguirre, Mitchell Bierman and Jorge Plasencia. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

10:06 a.m. Councilor Adolfo Henriques joined the meeting.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on the FY 2022-2023 County Arts Budget

Mr. Spring reported that the Department's adopted FY 2022-2023 overall budget of \$65 million is providing an increase to the Department's grants programs by nearly \$6.9 million. Cultural organizations in the Department's grants programs are currently being notified of the increase in their FY 2022-2023 grants awards as of October 1st. Mr. Spring noted that the additional support for the cultural organizations is important in light of the ongoing revenue challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic compounded by the escalating costs of inflation.

The grant increases will be rolled out in accordance with the normal grants programs and panel recommendations that have already been approved and can now be implemented. Mr. Spring noted a handful of programs, such as the Community Grants program will present panel recommendations to be reviewed and approved by the Cultural Affairs Council and the Board of County Commissioners throughout the year.

Mr. Spring reported that Chairman May sent a letter on behalf of the Cultural Affairs Council to the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Commissioners for the FY 2022-2023 budget increase. The letter thanked them and also noted that the Council intends to continue to advocate for additional resources for the arts in coming years and this is a good beginning. Chairman May discussed the importance of making this year's budget the baseline moving forward and developing a strategy to advocate for incremental budget increases over time.

10:10 a.m. Councilor Al Dotson, Jr., joined the meeting.

Department Facilities Update

Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center (formerly South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center)

Eric Fliss, Managing Director of the newly renamed Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center, reported that the Center had a busy summer presenting many collaborations including Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami: Modern Masters, Los Chicos del 512: The Selena Experience and Classic Albums Live: Eagles Greatest

Hits. The events were well attended. The Center had a sold-out show presenting the National Dance Theater of Jamaica with the Consul General of Jamaica in attendance. The Moss Center is kicking off the 2023 cultural season with the annual Backyard Bash, a free outdoor event open to the public on Saturday, October 22nd. The event will feature yacht rock artists and an initial announcement of the name change and launch of new website. The Center was renamed for former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Dennis C. Moss, District 9. At this time there are 2,000 reservations for the event. Mr. Fliss presented a video compilation of the 2023 season highlights at the Center. Mr. Fliss noted that classical arts are reflecting 60-70 percent attendance, more popular arts which skews younger are showing a robust audience.

Art in Public Places Update

Amanda Sanfilippo, Curator and Artists Manager, noted that Miami-Dade County's Art in Public Places program allocates 1.5% of capital costs of public projects to the commissioning of public art. Ms. Sanfilippo reported that the program has unveiled recently completed commissions at the Virgin Voyages – Terminal V at Port Miami. The artworks include Miami-based artist Dara Friedman's light-based artwork which features a monumental LED installation which captures sunrise and sunsets at the Everglades; Kelley Breeze's wood veneer mural; Kelley Johnson's light and metal glass artwork "A Memory of Day Dreaming;" Coral Morphologic's film stills that greet visitors featuring aqua culture corals; Jillian Mayer's dropped glass ceiling; and Jamilah Sabur's tile mosaic. A public art tour where participants can see the new commissions and meet the artists is being presented by Art in Public Places, as part of Art Basel Miami Beach on December 2, 2022. Ms. Sanfilippo also reported that two artists, Felice Grodin and Linda Chamorro, have been selected for the commission for the Amelia Earhart Park & Community Center. The artwork will feature a fully integrated terrazzo floor. Grove Central, a mixed-use center and transit hub, has narrowed an artist short list for full presentations. The list includes R & R Studios, Gavin Perry, Juan Ledesma, Beatriz Monteavarro, Jared McGiff, Asser Saint Val, Octavia Yearwood and Amani Lewis, Mark Hanforth, Nick Mahshie, Nicholas Lobo and Mette Tommerup as first alternate. Ms. Sanfilippo gave an overview of the process working with client teams and Professional Advisory Committees for each artist call and commission. Mr. Spring noted that currently there are over 100 public art projects underway in several stages due to a local building boom.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Spring noted that the Department of Cultural Affairs staff serves several boards including the Cultural Affairs Council, the Art in Public Places Trust and the Tourist Development Council.
- The Department has partnered with the State of Florida and the Florida Cultural Alliance to assist in understanding the impact of Hurricane Ian on the state's cultural community. Deputy Director Marialaura Leslie is leading the assessment and the Department is collecting data to make sure we know what resources are needed.
- Mr. Spring announced the Department is launching the "Return and Rediscover the Arts" campaign to engage and encourage the public to return to experience the live arts during National Arts and Humanities Month. Prior to the approval of the County Budget, Mayor Levine Cava convened a series of townhalls including an Arts Budget Townhall where one of the recommendations that emerged was that the Department and cultural community at large engage this type of campaign to increase visibility and encourage participation in the arts now that venues and cultural facilities have reopened.

- Mr. Spring reported that there has been media coverage regarding a lawsuit filed against the County regarding the Coconut Grove Playhouse. To date no lawsuits have been served to the County. The project is not being delayed by this and the team is currently working with City of Miami to work through permitting process. The Knight Foundation will soon contract with the County for the \$2 million grant in support of the Coconut Grove Playhouse project.
- Adrienne Arsht Center's President and CEO Johann Zietsman will speak on leadership and navigating crises at the Miami Emerging Arts Leaders virtual session this afternoon, October 19 at 2 p.m. The objective of the program is to prepare up and coming arts administrators for leadership positions.
- Art and Economic Prosperity Study in partnership with national service organization American for the Arts has been launched. The team led by Kelly Allocco gathers surveys and data. The study takes place every five years. The last study documented an annual \$1.4 billion economic impact of the arts in our local economy. It is important information for advocacy. Hundreds of American cities participate in this important study and the report is expected to be issued in late 2023.
- Mr. Spring noted Councilor Aguirre serves on the South Arts board which serves the southeastern United States. The organization just recognized outstanding BIPOC organizations, including two local organizations Diaspora Vibe Arts Incubator led by Rosie Gordon-Wallace and Teatro Avante, led by Mario Ernesto Sanchez that were named Southern Cultural Treasures.
- Mr. Spring thanked the Miami-Dade County Auditorium for hosting the meeting and noted they celebrated the very popular Zun Zun Children's Festival. The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center is presenting The Opponent play which opened to rave reviews. Managing Director Marshall Davis is being recognized by the Carbonell Awards, with the inaugural Vinnette Carroll Award for his significant work advancing diversity, equity and inclusion in South Florida theater.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Councilor Monty Trainer reported that he is happy to be back, and he is very proud of the work of the Council and the Department. He would like to participate in a tour to visit public art projects.
- Councilor Brantley noted that he has participated in the public art commissioning process, and it is difficult work because of all the incredible proposals by artists. He commended the staff for a great job guiding the process.
- Councilor Sigars-Malina reported that Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is hosting the popular Night Garden and Sip and Stroll.
- Councilwoman Linda Julien is happy to attend her first meeting in person. She looks forward to seeing Art in Public Places projects in Miami Gardens in the future.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liliana Hernandez-Constenla