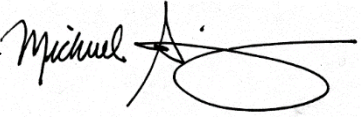


Memorandum



Date: August 19, 2020

To: All Members
Cultural Affairs Council

From: Michael Spring, Director 

Subject: FY 2020-2021 Designated Major Cultural Institutions Grants Program
Recommendations – Interim Review

In light of the uncertainty surrounding the long-term impact of Covid-19 on public programs scheduled to begin after October 1, 2020, staff advised the Major Cultural Institutions Interim Year Review Panel at the panel's orientation to review and score each proposal based upon both the quality of the application and the ability to satisfactorily address each of the evaluation criteria, as stated in the program's guidelines. The award recommendations will be computed using the established funding formula for this program. The program's FY 2020-2021 total allocation and the recommended grant award amounts per grantee will be presented to the Council after all the Spring cycle grants program panels have convened and preliminary FY 2020-2021 budget numbers are received.

Final grant awards are contingent upon the availability of funds in the Department's FY 2020-2021 budget, which is subject to the County's Budget as adopted in September 2020. At that time the Department will assess the grantee's feasibility of presenting public programs in traditional venues and performing spaces; if necessary, the Department is prepared to exercise appropriate contractual flexibility to include virtual programs and other program delivery strategies, as may be necessary.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council approve the funding of fifteen (15) grants for the FY 2020-2021 Major Cultural Institutions Program.

BACKGROUND

The Major Cultural Institutions Program Panel, chaired by Council Chairman Xavier Cortada, convened on Friday, August 14, 2020 to review fourteen (14) applications to the Major Cultural Institutions Grants Program. The Panel recommended funding all fourteen (14) applications. It is further recommended that the Council appropriate funding from the FY 2020-2021 Major Cultural Institutions program allocation to facilitate the transition of GableStage, Inc. into the Coconut Grove Playhouse as its theater presenter and operator and for programming support.

As part of the County's proposed FY 2020-2021 budget, four previously designated Major Cultural Institutions grant recipients, HistoryMiami, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science, and Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, have been recommended for County funding outside of the Department's grants budget as direct allocations through Convention Development Tax revenues. Grants for each of these four institutions, therefore, which take into account their past Major Cultural Institutions program funding award levels, are not part of the program this year nor within the purview of the Council to review and recommend. Further, three of the FY 2020-2021 designated Major Cultural Institutions grant recipients, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Inc., The Miami Children's Museum, Inc., and Zoo Miami Foundation, Inc., have been recommended as direct allocations through the Department, but independent of the Major Cultural Institutions competitive process. Convention Development Tax revenues sufficient to support these direct allocations are expected to be included in the Mayor's proposed FY 2020-2021 budget as part of the Department's grants budget for this specific purpose. Grants for each of these three institutions which take into account their past Major Cultural Institutions funding award levels are not part of the competitive program this year, nor within the purview of the Council to review and recommend.

The Major Cultural Institutions program is designed to provide stable and substantial funding to fully professional institutions with year-round programs and annual fiscal operations in Miami-Dade County specifically that satisfy the eligibility requirements. The objective of this program is to help support the annual operations of and programming provided to the community by Miami-Dade's largest, exemplary cultural organizations. In so doing, the program assures the steady provision of outstanding cultural programming throughout Miami-Dade County and contributes to the overall vitality of Miami-Dade County as a community and as an attractive tourist destination.

The Major Cultural Institutions Grants Program operates on a four-year review cycle. A comprehensive application review process was conducted in FY 2018-2019. Scores achieved and grants awarded during FY 2018-2019 define the grant award levels from FY 2018-2019 to 2021-2022, with the interim funding cycles subject to annual adjustments based on audited and updated organizational budget information, and contingent upon the availability of funding and upon fulfillment of interim year application/reporting requirements provided by the grantee and accepted as satisfactory by the Department of Cultural Affairs. Staff has thoroughly reviewed all interim applications, support materials and financial reporting documentation submitted from current applicants.

The program operates with two categories of eligibility for designation as a Major Cultural Institution: Category A / performing arts institutions; and Category B / museums and visual arts institutions. For last year's comprehensive cycle, the Panel determined that each designated institution: provides a sustained level of cultural and program excellence that is generally recognized throughout the community and within its artistic discipline nationally; makes significant, continuing contributions to the artistic, cultural and economic life of Miami-Dade County; has a proven track record of presenting full and regular seasons of changing cultural programs and/or exhibitions open to the general public for an uninterrupted five year period; documents trends of major Miami-Dade audience support through annual subscriptions and/or memberships, earned income and fund raising for each of the preceding three years; substantiates a three-year average operating revenue budget specific to Miami-Dade County activities in excess of \$3 million for performing arts institutions, and similarly, in excess of \$1.5 million for museums and visual arts institutions, exclusive of tangible collections, capital funds or assets, and/or endowment corpus; offers a professionally managed education program that benefits all segments of the community; and demonstrates long-term fiscal responsibility and long-range planning, among other defining, threshold requirements. The Panel specifically evaluated and ranked each applicant organization in the most recent comprehensive, FY 2018-2019, cycle based on the following competitive review criteria: 1) cultural excellence; 2) organizational stability and management capacity; 3) impact and audience development; and 4) outreach programs.

The FY 2020-2021 Panel recommended continued designation of the Miami Symphony Orchestra and M Ensemble Company as "emerging" Major Cultural Institutions. Each of these two organizations continues to demonstrate the potential to have an impact in the quality and reach of their programs which is commensurate with this designation. The Miami Symphony Orchestra is one of the few Hispanic-identified orchestras in the country representing and serving a major metropolitan area. M Ensemble Company is the oldest African American professional theater company in the state. Targeting significant support to each of these organizations enables each to continue to strengthen its organizational growth and stability through enhanced administrative and fiscal capacity. These organizations are especially well poised to develop into Miami-Dade County's first Hispanic and African American major cultural institutions.

All eligible institutions are legally incorporated as non-profit organizations and designated tax-exempt by the United States Internal Revenue Service. Funding recommendations are in support of each institution's Miami-Dade County activities only. Attached is a list describing the institutions recommended for funding. Funding for the Major Cultural Institutions program is derived from Departmental proprietary revenues. All funding recommendations are contingent upon approval of the Department of Cultural Affairs' FY 2020-2021 budget by the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, and are subject to the availability of funds.

Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs
FY 2020-2021 Major Cultural Institutions (MCI) Grants Program - Interim Review Cycle

Recommended FY 2020-2021 Grant Award	Organization / Summary of Mission
1	<p>Award amount to be calculated based on MCI funding formula</p> <p>Actors' Playhouse Productions, Inc. - The mission of Actors' Playhouse is to enrich the cultural vitality of South Florida with the highest caliber classic and contemporary live theater productions; to provide comprehensive education and outreach programs to multicultural and multigenerational audiences; to provide a supportive and creative work environment for Florida-based theater professionals; to encourage the creation and production of new works for adults and children; and to maintain the cultural identity of its home venue, the historic Art Deco Miracle Theatre in Coral Gables.</p>
2	<p>Award amount to be calculated based on MCI funding formula</p> <p>Adrienne Arsht Center Trust, Inc. d/b/a Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County - The mission of the Arsht Center is to enlighten, educate and entertain the audiences of Miami-Dade County and South Florida through transformational arts and cultural experiences. The Center serves as both a showcase and laboratory, providing first class accessible facilities for smaller, emerging and developing organizations as well as larger resident companies.</p>
3	<p>Award amount to be calculated based on MCI funding formula</p> <p>Florida Grand Opera, Inc. – The mission of Florida Grand Opera (FGO) is to produce opera and musical programs in South Florida for the benefit of residents and visitors, and to educate and increase audiences for the art form through outreach programs with a special emphasis on programs for young people.</p>
4	<p>Award amount to be calculated based on MCI funding formula</p> <p>Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of Jewish Museum of Florida - The mission of the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU (JMOF) is to collect, preserve and interpret the material evidence of the Florida Jewish experience from 1763 to the present. Housed in an Art Deco building that was formerly an historic synagogue, the elements of the Museum include the Collections and Research Center, a core exhibit of Florida Jewish history, temporary exhibits, films, interactive computer stations, American and world Jewish history and public educational programs.</p>
5	<p>Award amount to be calculated based on MCI funding formula</p> <p>Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of –The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum - The Frost Art Museum at FIU's mission is to enrich and educate local, national and international audiences through the language of art by collecting, preserving, researching, interpreting and exhibiting art from diverse cultures throughout human history. The Museum is located on the FIU campus and serves as an exceptional resource for scholarly research and interdisciplinary collaboration and presents free and accessible programs to the broadest possible audiences in Miami-Dade County.</p>
6	<p>Award amount to be calculated based on MCI funding formula</p> <p>Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of The Wolfsonian - The Wolfsonian's mission is to support the collection, preservation, research, exhibition, and publication of material arts from 1885 to 1945. The Wolfsonian oversees a collection of over 90,000 North American and European artifacts, including furniture, glass, ceramic, metalwork, books, paintings, and sculpture, as well as extensive period archives.</p>

7	Award amount to be calculated based on MCI funding formula	Friends of the Bass Museum, Inc., for the Bass Museum of Art – The Museum’s mission is to collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret the visual arts for the residents and visitors of the City, the County and the region, as well as an international community of scholars. The Museum’s collection of antiquities, Renaissance and Baroque art anchors its educational programs and activities.
8	Award amount to be calculated based on MCI funding formula	Miami City Ballet, Inc. - Miami City Ballet's (MCB) mission is to create dance and arts education programs that reach the highest levels of excellence, spotlighting the cultural fabric of South Florida’s vibrant and diverse region. MCB is dedicated to presenting world-class artistry on stage through beloved masterpieces and innovative new works. Through an expansive education and outreach program, MCB is dedicated to making classical ballet relevant, accessible, and inviting to the widest possible audience.
9	Award amount to be calculated based on MCI funding formula	Museum of Contemporary Art, Inc. (MOCA) - The Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami (MOCA) is dedicated to making contemporary art accessible to diverse audiences – especially underserved populations – through the collection, preservation, and exhibition of the best of contemporary art and its art historical influences.
10	Award amount to be calculated based on MCI funding formula	New World Symphony, Inc. - The mission of the New World Symphony (NWS) is to prepare highly gifted graduates of distinguished music programs for leadership roles in orchestras and ensemble groups throughout the world. NWS's fellowship program provides highly gifted musicians the opportunity to enhance their musical education with the finest professional training, offering in-depth exposure to both traditional and modern repertoire, with the active involvement of leading guest conductors, soloists, and coaches.
11	Award amount to be calculated based on MCI funding formula	South Florida Art Center, Inc. d/b/a Oolite Arts – The mission of Oolite Arts is to support artists and advance the knowledge and practice of contemporary visual arts and culture in South Florida. Oolite creates opportunities for experimentation and innovation and encourages the exchange of ideas across cultures through residencies, exhibitions, and public programs. Oolite provides studio residencies and exhibition opportunities for outstanding visual artists in all stages of career development, as well as over 165 art studio classes for the community.
12	Award amount to be calculated based on MCI funding formula	The M Ensemble Company, Inc. - The mission of The M Ensemble Company is to promote, cultivate and preserve African-American culture through the performing arts and to expose, encourage and inspire African-American playwrights’ future works. The theater season consists of plays that include musicals, contemporary, classical, and new works; theater workshops for children and adults; and special projects that enhance the company’s mission.
13	Award amount to be calculated based on MCI funding formula	The Miami Symphony Orchestra / Orquesta Sinfónica de Miami, Inc. – The Miami Symphony Orchestra’s (MISO) mission is to develop a larger and more responsive audience that will appreciate and enjoy symphonic music concerts that feature repertoire from Latin American and Spanish composers alongside American and classical European musical works. MISO is one of only a few minority-operated symphony orchestras in the United States.

14	Award amount to be calculated based on MCI funding formula	University of Miami, Lowe Art Museum – The Museum’s mission is to serve the University, the Greater Miami communities, and national and international visitors as a teaching and exhibiting resource through its permanent and borrowed collections. The Museum: collects original, quality works of art primarily from Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas; exhibits and preserves the permanent collection according to the highest professional standards; researches the permanent collection and publishes the findings in exhibition catalogues and articles; and organizes traveling exhibitions and loans of individual works from the permanent collection.
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15	Award amount to be calculated based on MCI funding formula	Gablestage, Inc. / Coconut Grove Playhouse – Major Cultural Institutions grant funding in FY 2020-21 is intended to facilitate GableStage’s transition into the Coconut Grove Playhouse as its theater presenter and operator. The funds will be used to address GableStage’s strategic organizational capacity building, to support programming that benefits the Coconut Grove community and the community at large, and to re-establish the Coconut Grove Playhouse as a venue that produces professional regional theater.
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COUNTY BUDGET DIRECT ALLOCATIONS TO COMMUNITY-BASED CULTURAL FACILITIES

N/A	Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Inc. - Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden exists to promote the conservation, use, study, understanding and enjoyment of tropical plants. The mission of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is to be the premier tropical botanical garden of the world; setting the highest possible standards in landscape design and exhibitions, living collections and horticultural practices; serving as a primary source of information on tropical plants through research and education; and inspiring positive attitudes and behavior toward the urban and natural environment.
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N/A	The Miami Children’s Museum, Inc. – The mission of the Miami Children’s Museum is to enrich the lives of all children by fostering a love of learning and enabling children to realize their highest potential. The Museum is Florida’s oldest and largest children’s museum. Its 60,000 sq. ft. facility on Watson Island furthers the Museum’s vision to become one of the best children’s museums in the country. The Museum is recognized for initiating and maintaining a broad array of partnerships with community and professional organizations for delivering its educational/outreach programs to a diverse audience.
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N/A	Zoo Miami Foundation, Inc. - The mission of Zoo Miami is to encourage an appreciation for the world’s wildlife and to help conserve it for future generations. Zoo Miami, a living museum accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, is the oldest and largest zoo in Florida, and the only tropical zoo in the US. With over 740 available acres, Zoo Miami is five times larger than the average U.S. zoo and was one of the first cageless zoos in America. The geographic location and climatic conditions of South Florida make the Zoo an ideal zoological park for breeding and maintaining species native to areas with similar climates. Zoo Miami has over 100 exhibits, more than 3 miles of walkways, and more than 3,000 animals representing over 400 species.
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