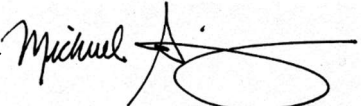


# Memorandum



**Date:** September 21, 2022

**To:** All Members  
Cultural Affairs Council

**From:** Michael Spring, Director 

**Subject:** FY 2022-2023 Designated Major Cultural Institutions Grants Program  
Recommendations – Comprehensive Review

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The FY 2022-2023 award recommendations for the Major Cultural Institutions Grants Program are subject to the approval of funds in the Department's FY 2022-2023 budget, which is contingent upon the County's Final Adopted Budget in September 2022.

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council approve the funding of fifteen (15) grants for the FY 2022-2023 Major Cultural Institutions Program. It also is recommended that the Council approve the addition of two (2) "Emerging" Major Cultural Institutions, The Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida, Inc. and Teatro Avante, Inc.

## BACKGROUND

The Major Cultural Institutions Program Panel, chaired by Council Member Adolfo Henriques, convened on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, 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 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 budget, four previously designated Major Cultural Institutions grant recipients, HistoryMiami, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science (through funding for County annual debt service to provide additional County resources necessary for the museum to complete construction), 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 2022-2023 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 included in the Mayor's proposed FY 2022-2023 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 this year for FY 2022-2023. Grant award amounts for FY 2022-2023 establish award levels through 2025-2026 with the interim funding cycles subject to the availability of funds and 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 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 this 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 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.

In FY 2022-2023 it is recommended that the Council continue the 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. In addition, staff recommends the addition of two additional "Emerging" Major Cultural Institutions, The Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida and Teatro Avante, in light of the substantial cultural contributions that continue to be made by these outstanding nonprofit arts organizations and the Department's continued commitment to ensuring that equity and diversity are represented in these grants recommendations.

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 2022-2023 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 2022-2023 Major Cultural Institutions (MCI) Grants Program - Interim Review Cycle**

Recommended FY 2022-2023 Grant Award	Organization / Summary of Mission
1	<p><b>Award amount to be calculated based on FY 22-23 approved budget</b></p> <p><b>Actors' Playhouse Productions, Inc.</b> - 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><b>Award amount to be calculated based on FY 22-23 approved budget</b></p> <p><b>Adrienne Arsht Center Trust, Inc. d/b/a Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County</b> - 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><b>Award amount to be calculated based on FY 22-23 approved budget</b></p> <p><b>Florida Grand Opera, Inc.</b> – 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><b>Award amount to be calculated based on FY 22-23 approved budget</b></p> <p><b>Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of Jewish Museum of Florida</b> - 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><b>Award amount to be calculated based on FY 22-23 approved budget</b></p> <p><b>Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of –The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum</b> - 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><b>Award amount to be calculated based on FY 22-23 approved budget</b></p> <p><b>Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of The Wolfsonian</b> - 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	<p><b>Award amount to be calculated based on FY 22-23 approved budget</b></p> <p><b>Friends of the Bass Museum, Inc., for the Bass Museum of Art</b> – The Bass Museum of Art seeks 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.</p>

8	<b>Award amount to be calculated based on FY 22-23 approved budget</b>	<b>Miami City Ballet, Inc.</b> - 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	<b>Award amount to be calculated based on FY 22-23 approved budget</b>	<b>Museum of Contemporary Art, Inc. (MOCA)</b> - 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	<b>Award amount to be calculated based on FY 22-23 approved budget</b>	<b>New World Symphony, Inc.</b> - 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	<b>Award amount to be calculated based on FY 22-23 approved budget</b>	<b>South Florida Art Center, Inc. d/b/a Oolite Arts</b> – 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	<b>Designated award amount as an Emerging Major</b>	<b>The M Ensemble Company, Inc.</b> - 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 including musicals, contemporary, classical, and new works; theater workshops for children; and special projects enhance the company's mission.
13	<b>Designated award amount as an Emerging Major</b>	<b>The Miami Symphony Orchestra/Orquesta Sinfónica de Miami, Inc.</b> – 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 Hispanic-operated symphony orchestras in the United States.
14	<b>Award amount to be calculated based on FY 22-23 approved budget</b>	<b>University of Miami, Lowe Art Museum</b> – 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.
15	<b>Designated award amount based on FY 22-23 approved budget</b>	<b>Gablestage, Inc. / Coconut Grove Playhouse</b> – Major Cultural Institutions grant funding in FY 2022-23 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.

- 16 **Designated award amount as an Emerging Major** **Teatro Avante, Inc.** – Teatro Avante’s mission is to preserve, further develop and enhance our Hispanic cultural heritage through the creation and presentation of universal theatre and educational programs, and to participate in the artistic growth and expansion of worldwide theatre by presenting some of the best theatre companies worldwide at Avante’s annual award-winning International Hispanic Theatre Festival of Miami.
- 17 **Designated award amount as an Emerging Major** **The Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida, Inc.** - The Black Archives Foundation (BAF), founded in 1977, is the repository for the black experience in South Florida from 1896 to the present. BAF’s mission is to identify, collect, preserve, educate, inform, and make accessible items of enduring value that documents that experience. BAF actively identified and preserved several historic landmarks throughout Miami Dade County, and is responsible for the successful placement of seven of those landmarks on the National Register of Historic Places.