

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

April 20, 2022

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

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

Director Michael Spring welcomed the Council and announced he would manage the meeting on Chairman May's behalf. Mr. Spring called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for April 20, 2022

A request for an excused absence was submitted by Councilors Mitchell Bierman, Jorge Plasencia and Justin Trieger. (Motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Mr. Henriques)

Approval of March 16, 2022 Minutes

The minutes of the March 16, 2022, Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

FY 2022-2023 Grant Program Panels

Mr. Spring presented the grant panels for the FY 2022-2023 Cultural Advancement (ADV), Cultural Development (CDG), Developing Arts in Neighborhoods (DAN), Festivals and Special Events (FEST), International Cultural Partnerships (ICP), and Youth Arts Miami (YAM) grants programs. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

Councilor Janá Sigars-Malina joined at 10:15 a.m.

Miami Individual Artists (MIA) Stipend Program

Mr. Spring reported that the Department launched the Miami Individual Artists (MIA) Stipend program 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 Department of Cultural Affairs was one of only 66 local arts agencies to receive the grant and the first to launch a grants program. Professional artists in all disciplines were encouraged to apply for a stipend in January 2022 for the projects, including performances, artwork, exhibitions, research and workshops. Staff conducted virtual workshops and notified artists via mailing lists, as well as shared information via professional networks and through service organizations. The response was overwhelming, resulting in 220 artists being recognized for their outstanding body of work and commitment to their artform with stipends in the amounts of \$1,650 or \$3,000. This program clearly demonstrates the high level of work and diversity in the community and documents the need for additional resources and funding. Mr. Spring presented the list of recommended stipend recipients and reported that staff intends to make this a recurring annual program. In a vote of confidence, the Miami-Dade County Commission delegated approval of the grants to the Cultural Affairs Council to expedite the process. Staff will immediately begin to issue grant agreements once the Council approves the awards. Mr. Henriques believes it is a good start to and would like to see awards be more meaningful and increase in the future.

The list of recommended artists and grant award amounts attached was approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

Chairman May joined the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Nomination List of At-Large Member Candidates

Mr. Spring reported staff is proposing a slate of candidates for At-Large membership to the Cultural Affairs Council. The appointments are made by the Board of County Commissioners. The first recommended candidate is Kareem T. Brantley, CFA. He has an electrical engineering degree and also a background in the redevelopment of distressed multi-family properties. Mr. Brantley worked with Related Urban Development Group to co-develop Liberty Square, an existing 709-unit Miami-Dade public housing apartment complex in Liberty City neighborhood, and interacted with the Department regarding the project's public art components. The second candidate, Albert E. Dotson, Jr., is a lawyer and serves as Bilzin Sumberg's Managing Partner and oversees operations. He is a civic volunteer and served as the President of the Orange Bowl Committee. For the last two years Mr. Dotson was involved leading the board to establish the Black History Museum. The third candidate is Larry Spring who is the Managing Director of Achievement Consulting Group. Previously he served as City Manager for the City of North Miami and Assistant City Manager for the City of Miami. At the City of North Miami Mr. Spring was responsible for ensuring the Museum of Contemporary Art remained viable. Currently there are three vacancies in the Cultural Affairs Council, with one position being an At-Large seat. They slate of three candidates was approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Curbelo)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Spring reported that Department staff has conveyed to the Miami-Dade County Budget Office and the Mayor's Office the Cultural Affairs Council's request for additional funding for next year. There will be an internal meeting with the Budget Office on April 20th at 3 p.m. to review the requests. The initial feedback at this moment has been positive. It is still very early in the budget process. The Mayor will release her priorities for funding in June and the Miami-Dade County Commission will adopt preliminary millage rates in July. The Department with support of Council is making a strong case for increased funding, including increases for grants, and modest increases in staffing and operations funding at facilities.
- The Department's Cultural Facilities are back up and running fully with in-person activities. Grant Panel meetings are taking place in hybrid format.
- Art in Public Places division and the Grants Team have been working together to commission temporary public art projects for the Aspen Ideas: Climate conference taking place in May. The public art projects will engage the public and create awareness of issues related to climate change and sea level rise.
- Ms. Marialaura Leslie reported that the Miami Emerging Arts Leaders held very successful program with branding and marketing strategy guru, Bruce Turkel. The session was very well attended, and Mr. Turkel focused on how to discover your own personal brand of leadership. The team has received wonderful feedback from established and emerging leaders who participated.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Mr. Aguirre reported that South Arts has the Southern Prize program for organizations to apply for funding. He expressed his support for continuing and expanding the work to support individual artists.

- Mr. Henriques reported that activity is increasing at cultural facilities, including Espacio 23 which is seeing an increase in outside visitors. New exhibits are curated every six months. He congratulated Councilor Rees on her new appointment as head of marketing at Grove Bank.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported that the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden has a Mother's Day Celebration scheduled for the month of May.
- Chairman May believes it is important to meeting with the Mayor and staff in the month of May to discuss support for cultural funding. He reported that Councilor Trainer sends his regards to the Council as he is dealing with a health issue.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liliana Hernandez-Constenla". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Liliana Hernandez-Constenla