

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

April 15, 2020

A meeting of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council was held online via GoToMeeting.

<p><u>Members Present</u> Xavier Cortada, Chair Alejandro Aguirre Mitchell Bierman Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Second Vice Chair Sandra Curbelo Denise Gerson Adolfo Henriques Brian May Cheryl Rees Janá Sigars-Malina, First Vice Chair Rosa Sugrañes Monty Trainer Justin Trieger</p>	<p><u>Members Not Present</u> Phyllis Simpkins</p> <p><u>Others Present:</u> John Copeland</p>
<p><u>Staff</u> Michael Spring, Director Marialaura Leslie, Deputy Director Kelly Allocco Francine Andersen Roxana Barba Stefania Barigelli Nikenna Benjamin Sue Camp Tania Centeno Kimberly Chuck Lisa D'Andrea Thompson Ivette Dominguez Eric Fliss Olga Gonzalez Teddy Harrell</p>	<p><u>Staff (continued)</u> Liliana Hernandez-Constenla Regla Lee Amanda Sanfilippo Long Gilda Mooney Steven Padilla Alex Peraza Adriana Perez Dana Pezoldt Katherine Revell Javier Siut Christina Tassy-Beauvoir Pamela Valles Graham Winick</p>

Chairman Xavier Cortada called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. He thanked the Council for coming together for the first-ever Cultural Affairs Council online meeting and thanked Director Michael Spring and Department of Cultural Affairs staff for the support provided to the cultural community and individual artists during unprecedented times.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for April 15, 2020

There were no requests for an excused absence.

Approval of February 27, 2020 Minutes

The minutes of the February 27, 2020 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

FY 2020-2021 Grants Program Panels

The program panels for the Festivals and Special Events (FEST) Grant Program, Hannibal Cox, Jr. (HCJ) Cultural Grant Program and Youth Arts Miami (YAM) Grant Program were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. May; seconded by Ms. Sugañes)

ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION

FY 2019-2020 Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grant Program Panel Recommendations

Ms. Katherine Revell reported that the FY 2019-20 Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grants Panel, chaired by Councilor Monty Trainer, convened on February 26, 2020 to review applications requesting a total of \$1,536,258. The Panel recommended funding 43 applicants, 9 of which are new applicants, for a total of \$800,000. The SAS-C Grants Program was created as a joint initiative of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and The Children's Trust. The SAS-C Grants Program funds non-profit organizations that provide underserved children in Miami-Dade County with opportunities to attend high quality cultural arts or science summer camp programs at little or no cost.

Ms. Revell noted the Department is moving forward with the normal Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners approval process and grant funds will not be released until we are sure COVID-19 does not pose a danger to campers and/or providers. The Children's Trust is being very flexible and accommodating to providers seeking alternative models for providing services in virtual and digital format options.

The following Council members declared conflicts of interest and abstained from voting on the following:

Alejandro Aguirre – Miami Dade College

Michell Bierman – Florida International University Board of Trustees

Xavier Cortada - Florida International University Board of Trustees; Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center; Miami Dade College

Adolfo Henriques - Florida International University Board of Trustees; The Miami Children's Museum

Brian May – Area Performance Gallery, Inc. d/b/a/ Area Stage Company

Cheryl Rees - Florida International University Board of Trustees; Miami Dade College

Jana Sigars-Malina – Miami City Ballet

Justin Triegeer – Adrienne Arsht Center Trust, Inc. d/b/a Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County; Miami City Ballet; Miami Music Festival; The Thomas Armour Youth Ballet

With the exception of the two organizations for which he had conflicts of interest, Councilor Henriques made a motion to fund all the of the panel's recommendations subject to Councilors with conflicts abstaining from voting on the applications affected. Councilors with the above-mentioned conflicts of interest abstained from the voting. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

Adrienne Arsht Center Trust, Inc. d/b/a Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County	\$ 24,810.00
Area Performance Gallery, Inc. d/b/a Area Stage Company	\$ 22,564.00
Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, Inc.	\$ 22,934.00
ArtSouth, A Not-For-Profit Corporation	\$ 24,213.00
Big Dreams for Kids, Inc. DBA FYFL Corporation	\$ 8,000.00
Breakthrough Miami Inc.	\$ 12,708.00
Diva Arts & Entertainment, Inc.	\$ 22,382.00
enFAMILIA, INC.	\$ 8,000.00
Fantasy Theatre Factory, Inc.	\$ 24,213.00
Florida Film Institute, Inc.	\$ 14,755.00
Friends of the Bass Museum, Inc.	\$ 23,806.00
Greater Miami Youth Symphony of Dade County, Florida, Inc.	\$ 17,702.00
Guitars Over Guns Organization, Inc.	\$ 22,411.00
Haute' Education, Inc.	\$ 8,000.00
IFCM Corp.	\$ 8,000.00
Les Ailes Du Desir Foundation, Inc.	\$ 22,440.00
Locust Projects, Inc.	\$ 11,133.00
Mahogany Youth Corporation	\$ 22,905.00
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center Inc.	\$ 24,097.00
Miami City Ballet, Inc.	\$ 24,068.00
Miami Dade College	\$ 18,948.00
Miami Dance Project, Inc	\$ 35,000.00
Miami Music Festival, Inc.	\$ 22,596.00
Miami Music Project, Inc.	\$ 24,679.00
Miami Stage Company/Miami Children's Theater Inc.	\$ 22,876.00
Miami Theater Center, Inc.	\$ 22,237.00
Miami-Dade County (Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department)	\$ 24,330.00
Musical, Inc.	\$ 22,818.00
Paramount Competitive Dance Team Inc.	\$ 8,000.00
PATH: Preserving, Archiving & Teaching Hiphop, Inc.	\$ 8,000.00
Powerhouse Baseball Foundation INC	\$ 8,000.00
SBC Community Development Corporation of Richmond Heights, Inc.	\$ 21,947.00
Seminole Cultural Arts Theatre, Inc, d/b/a Friends of the Historic Seminole Theatre	\$ 14,621.00
South Florida Center for Percussive Arts, Inc.	\$ 8,000.00
South Temple Empowerment Project, Inc	\$ 8,000.00
The Children's Voice Chorus, Inc.	\$ 17,621.00
The Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center, Inc.	\$ 22,440.00
The Opera Atelier, Inc.	\$ 23,937.00
The Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, Inc.	\$ 24,722.00
Trayvon Martin Foundation	\$ 22,498.00
Urgent, Inc.	\$ 23,283.00

The Panel's recommendation to fund the following two organizations, for which Councilor Henriques has the above-mentioned conflicts of interest and abstained from voting, were voted on and passed unanimously as follows:

Florida International University Board of Trustees	\$ 2,500.00
The Miami Children's Museum, Inc.	\$ 23,806.00

(Motion by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez; seconded by Ms. Curbelo)

FY 2019-2020 Grant Program Guidelines

Mr. Spring reported there are no substantive changes to the guidelines for the Developing Arts in Neighborhoods (DAN) Grants Program, International Cultural Partnerships (ICP) Grants Program, and the Youth Arts Enrichment (YEP) Grants Program. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Mr. Spring reported the has Department launched a three-part initiative to connect the cultural community with vital resources. The Department has issued regular e-bulletins to more than 500 nonprofit cultural organizations and thousands of artists based in Miami-Dade with actionable information and meaningful opportunities about public and private resources available to begin to address earned revenue and job losses. Mr. Spring added that under the leadership of Deputy Director Marialaura Leslie, the Department developed and launched a financial tracker, a spreadsheet organizations can use to organize and capture their financial data, and a monthly survey to collect and asses vital data on the pandemic's financial impact on Greater Miami's arts community, including arts organizations, their employees and artists. This information will be used to advocate and elevate the need for recovery resources for the cultural community to be able to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Through the Culture Shock Miami web platform the Department is offering a wide variety of virtual offerings, including museum tours, performances, activities and classes in the arts for children and adults, all made accessible free-of-charge to the public by Miami-Dade artists and cultural organizations. The Department is actively working to remove barriers for organizations to receive grant funding by extending grant application deadlines and being flexible with final report deadlines and requirements.

State Arts Budget Update

Mr. Spring reported the State of Florida legislature has not sent the Governor the budget for his signature. A little over \$20 million has been allocated for the State arts budget. The Culture Builds Florida grant program has been fully funded. The highwater mark for arts funding was the approval of \$43 million by the State legislature in 2014.

Federal Arts Budget Update

Mr. Spring reported that Congress responded to national advocacy by providing an additional \$75 million in recovery funding to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The National Endowment for the Humanities also received an additional \$75 million in recovery funding. A total of 40% of the funding allocated to the NEA is directed to state arts councils. Mr. Spring's proposed plan and recommendations regarding the use of the \$600,000 in federal funds is currently being reviewed by the State of Florida. Mr. Spring added that Americans for the Arts is advocating for \$4 billion in federal recovery funds for the arts at the national level. He serves on the board of the Americans for the Arts Action Fund and reminded Councilors it is important to join.

Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program

Ms. Christina Tassy-Beauvoir reported that Culture Shock Miami launched *Online Experiences*, a curated list of virtual tours and exhibitions, online performances, and on-demand resources in response to COVID-19. Ms. Tassy-Beauvoir reported that between the weeks of March 17-23 and March 24-30, coinciding with the launch of Online Experiences, website traffic experienced a 150% increase in online cultural engagements listed, a 305% increase in unique active sessions and a 291% increase in users, from 423 to 1,655. Ms. Christina Tassy-Beauvoir reported that the launch of *Online Experiences* generated significant media interest and coverage.

Department Facilities Updates

Status Report

Mr. Spring reported Miami-Dade County construction sites were not part of the COVID-19 shutdown orders. Construction activity at the facilities continues at a brisk pace now that they are closed to the public. The capital projects team is actively moving the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center's project forward by adding project scope now that there is CIPP funding available. The team is also soliciting project architects and increasing the scope for work at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium and The Caleb Auditorium. Eric Fliss, Managing Director of the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center and Marie Denis, Capital Projects Chief are currently working with Arquitectonica to develop plans for the Center's future café.

Westchester Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Spring reported the Carolina Alfonso, Construction Projects Manager, is working closely with the Miami-Dade County Building Department and project contractor to get ready for onsite construction. The project is in the preliminary stages undergoing building permit review. The Center will be located at the Bird Road entrance to Tropical Park, will feature a black box theatre with 125-150 seats, including a significant lobby that will function as an art gallery and potential meeting space.

Coconut Grove Playhouse

Mr. Spring reported that Miami-Dade County's petition to the Appellate Division of the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit appealing the City of Miami Mayor's veto of the County's application for a final Certificate of Appropriateness for the Coconut Grove Playhouse is scheduled to be heard on June 16, 2020. Oral arguments originally were scheduled to be heard in court on March 17, 2020, but the hearing was cancelled due to COVID-19 closures.

Art in Public Places Update

Ms. Amanda Sanfilippo Long reported that Art in Public Places Program (APP) currently has over 80 commissions in production and 30 in the planning phase. Ms. Sanfilippo Long provided an update on the completion and opening of *Caribbean Village*, an affordable senior housing project in South Miami-Dade. The project features Miami-Dade-based artists including Christina Petterson, Deon Rubi, Karen Rifas and Magnus Sodamin. She also presented a video featuring Volume Miami, the incredible light artwork by Erwin Redl at the Royal Caribbean – Terminal A at PortMiami. Ms. Sanfilippo Long presented the artist short list for the new Liberty Square artist call: Reginald O'Neil, Luis Gispert, Ana Martinez, Teresita Fernandez, Michelle Lisa Polissaint, Alexandre Arrecha, Derrick Adams, Ebony Patterson, Tony Vazquez, Rosa Garmendia, Najja Moon, Marielle Plaisir, Matt Shlian, Paul Anthony Smith, Marvin Weeks, Jamea Richmond Edwards, and Shawna Meyer.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring recognized Branda Breedlove, Alex Peraza, Steven Padilla and Graham Winick as Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs staff who worked the last election.
- Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs staff members, Didi Diaz and Keanu Diaz from the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, have been deployed to the 311 call-center to assist during the COVID-19 shutdown.
- The Department received a \$6,000 grant from the National Dance Project Grant Program from the New England Foundation for the Arts for presentations at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center.
- The National Endowment for the Arts awarded a \$10,000 grant for the Department's new Arts Resilient 305 initiative. Liliana Hernandez-Constenla and staff worked with Matrix2 to develop new website which will launch next week.

Mr. Spring left the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Mr. Cortada stated that he is pleased to see the Department move forward with the Arts Resilient 305 initiative during the COVID-19 pandemic. He sees these two issues as being interconnected.
- Mr. Trieger reported the New World Symphony's Fellows are presenting every Friday on Facebook live.
- Mr. May commended arts education staff – Francine Andersen, Dana Pezoldt and Katherine Revell - for their leadership and work during the Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grant Program panel. He also added that he would volunteer to work with staff to develop online distribution channels or outlets that can feature cultural performances year-round when resources are available.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported she is excited to see the Arts Resilient 305 initiative continue to be a priority as she sees there is a lot of potential to reach arts groups and have an impact.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Liliana Hernandez-Constenla