

**MINUTES OF THE  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL  
July 15, 2020**

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

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

Chairman Xavier Cortada called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. He thanked the Councilors for coming together for the Cultural Affairs Council virtual meeting and explained Director Spring is at a meeting with Miami-Dade County Mayor. Deputy Director Marialaura Leslie will handle any staff reports in his absence.

## **ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

### **Requests for Excused Absences for July 15, 2020**

Requests for an excused absence were submitted by Mitchell Bierman, Denise Gerson and Brian May. (Motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded Ms. Sugrañes)

### **Approval of June 17, 2020 Minutes**

The minutes of the June 17, 2020 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Mr. Henriques)

### **FY 2020-2021 Grants Program Panels**

The program panels for the Community Grants (CG) Program and the Youth Arts Enrichment (YEP) Grants Program were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

### **FY 2020-2021 Capital Development (CAP) Grants Program Panel Recommendations**

Ms. Kelly Allocco reported that the FY 2020-2021 Capital Development Grants Program Panel, chaired by Councilor Justin Trieger, met on June 25, 2020. A total of seven organizations submitted applications to the program, requesting a total of \$153,985 in cultural facility improvement support funds. The panel reviewed and recommended funding all seven applications. The primary objective of the program is to provide funding support to nonprofit cultural organizations for capital improvement projects that are designed to expand, renovate, construct and/or equip cultural facilities located within Miami-Dade County.

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

Xavier Cortada – Village of Pinecrest

Adolfo Henriques – The Miami Children's Museum

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. Aguirre; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

Actors' Playhouse Productions, Inc.

Coral Gables Cinemateque, Inc.

Friends of the Bass Museum, Inc.

Michael-Ann Russell Jewish Community Center, Inc.

The Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center, Inc.

The Panel's recommendation to fund the following organizations, for which there are the above-mentioned conflicts of interest and abstentions from voting, was voted on and passed unanimously as follows:

The Miami Children's Museum, Inc.

Village of Pinecrest

(Motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

### **FY 2020-2021 Dance Miami Choreographer's (DMC) Grants Program Panel Recommendations**

Ms. Adriana Perez reported that the Dance Miami Choreographer's (DMC) Grants Program Panel of national dance experts convened on July 13, 2020 to review submissions for the program. The program supports the artistic development of Miami-Dade County-based choreographers for the creation of new work in all dance forms, including contemporary, classical, and traditional dance. The panel recommended funding seven choreographers at a \$10,000 award level based on samples submitted via digital media.

Maya Billing  
Belaxis Buil  
Carla Forte  
Lazaro Godoy  
Alexey Taran  
Enrique Villacresses  
Pioneer Winter

The following choreographer was recommended by the panel as an alternate.

Liony Garcia

Chairman Cortada made a motion to fund all the of the panel's recommendations. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

### **FY 2020-2021 Developing Arts in Neighborhoods (DAN) Grants Program Panel Recommendations**

Ms. Roxana Barba reported that the FY 2020-2021 Developing Arts in Neighborhoods Program Panel, chaired by Councilor Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez and attended by Councilor Cheryl Rees, convened on July 1, 2020 to review 27 applications requesting \$401,300. The Panel recommended funding all 27 applications. The program is designed to help arts groups develop management skills and establish short and long-range organizational goals by providing funding and technical assistance support to small and emerging grassroots and neighborhood-based arts groups.

Councilor May made a motion to fund all the of the panel's recommendations subject to Councilors with conflicts abstaining from voting on the applications affected. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

Alhambra Music, Inc.  
Artefactus Cultural Project, Inc.  
Bookleggers Library, Inc.  
Civic Chorale of Greater Miami, Inc.  
Dade Heritage Trust, Inc. as fiscal agents for Viernes Culturales/ Cultural Fridays, Inc.  
Delou Africa, Inc.  
El Ingenio, Inc.  
Florida Guitar Foundation, Inc.

Florida Opera Prima, Inc.  
Foundation for Emerging Technologies and Arts, Inc.  
Friends of the Japanese Garden, Inc.  
Hispanic-American Lyric Theatre, Inc.  
IlluminArts, Inc.  
Living Arts Trust, Inc. d/b/a O Cinema as fiscal agent for Bistoury, Inc.  
Marti Productions, Inc.  
Miami Watercolor Society, Inc.  
Moksha Arts Collective, Inc.  
Mz. Goose, Inc.  
North Miami Community Concert Band, Inc.  
Siudy Flamenco Dance Theater, Inc.  
South Beach Chamber Ensemble, Inc.  
South Florida Bluegrass Association, Inc.  
South Florida Composer Alliance, Inc.  
South Florida Friends of Classical Music, Inc.  
The Cove/Rincon Corp.  
The Miami Classical Guitar Society, Inc.  
Voices of Miami, Inc.

#### **FY 2020-2021 International Cultural Partnerships (ICP) Grants Program Panel Recommendations**

Ms. Roxana Barba reported that the FY2020-2021 International Cultural Partnerships Program Panel, chaired by Councilor Rosa Sugrañes, convened on Wednesday, July 8, 2020 to review 12 applications requesting a total of \$350,000. The Panel recommended funding 8 applicant organizations. The International Cultural Partnerships Program is designed to provide grants to professional Miami-Dade County-based cultural organizations to support significant artistic partnerships or collaborations with artists, arts professionals and/or organizations abroad.

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

Xavier Cortada – FUNDarte

Sandra Curbelo – The Dance NOW! Ensemble, Inc.

Jana Sigars-Malina – The Dance NOW! Ensemble, Inc.

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 Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Mr. Trieeger)

Arca Images, Inc.  
Bas Fisher Invitational, Inc.  
Delou Africa, inc.  
Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator, Inc.  
Edge Zones  
University of Wynwood, Inc.

The Panel's recommendation to fund the following organizations, for which there are the above-mentioned conflicts of interest and abstentions from voting, was voted on and passed unanimously as follows:

FUNDarte, Inc.

The Dance NOW! Ensemble, Inc.

(Motion by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

## **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update**

Ms. Leslie reported that at the moment, the cultural community remains closed with few exceptions including Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens, Frost Museum of Science, Vizcaya and Deering Estate natural areas and gardens which are open with restrictions. A roundtable with cultural leaders was held June 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss assumptions for reopening. The groups discussed estimates for their fiscal year. Overall, there were different assumptions and expectations. The majority were very concerned about ending the fiscal year in a deficit and as well as apprehensive about next year being impacted by low attendance and lack of earned revenue. The Department continues to gather important financial data monthly with the COVID-19 Survey of the Impact on Miami-Dade County's Cultural Community. For the months of March, April and May the financial impact on the cultural community is \$59.5 million with 9,700 jobs affected. The 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 partnership with the Jorge Pérez Foundation, the Department was able to reach and provide financial assistance to 540 Miami-Dade artists. There was a discussion regarding the complexity of the MAS! Program application for individual artists. Ms. Leslie clarified the application was streamlined to request the most basic information.

### **State Arts Budget Update**

Mr. Winick reported the State of Florida legislature submitted the budget to the Governor for his signature as the State's fiscal year began on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Governor subsequently vetoed over a billion dollars in funds from the state budget due to the downturn in revenues and increases in expenditures resulting from COVID-19. The Cultural Facilities Grant and Culture Builds Florida Grant programs were both vetoed but the Cultural and Museums Grant program was approved at \$13.6 million which is a higher dollar value than last year. Next year's legislative session will begin in March 2021. Arts and Tourism Day is scheduled for March 11, 2021.

At 12:45, Mr. Michael Spring joined the meeting.

### **County Arts Budget Update**

Mr. Spring reported Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez has recommended the renewal of full funding of the Department's grants budget for FY 2020-2021. Consequently, the Department will be able to maintain the same level of grant funding to cultural organizations. The Mayor has also recommended to renew the Department's operational funding and has issued a hiring freeze across the board. Approval of the County budget is a two-step process; the County Commission will meet to set the upper most level of the millage rate in July and then there will be two budget hearings in September.

## **Federal Arts Budget Update**

Mr. Spring reported that even though the current administration has recommended the elimination of National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the House Appropriations Committee has recommended \$170 million in funding which is an \$8 million dollar increase. The National Endowment for the Arts just announced their CARES Act awards. There was a total of 855 grant awards, with 33 going to organizations in the State of Florida and 9 to Miami-Dade County organizations.

## **Department Facilities Updates**

### **Status Report**

Mr. Spring reported that the Department's capital projects team is very busy as construction activity at the facilities continues at a brisk pace now that they are closed to the public. The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center launched virtual summer camp classes that are free to the public. The Miami-Dade County Auditorium was ready to launch the Drive-Through Theatre Experience, a new program where the audience remains in their cars for a quick ten-minute performance in the parking lot of the facility. Due to the 10 pm county-wide curfew, the program has been turned into a digital experience. The South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center continues to develop plans for its future café. The virtual program, SMDCA Sessions, continues to feature a variety of artist performances on Thursday evenings via Facebook Live.

### **Westchester Cultural Arts Center**

Mr. Spring reported the project finalized the building permit review process and work has started on the site. A groundbreaking event was held with Miami-Dade County Commissioner, Senator Souto, District 10 and the Miami-Dade Parks Department on Friday, June 26, 2020. The Center will be located at the Bird Road entrance to Tropical Park and 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 oral arguments for 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 were heard on June 16, 2020. The Court has yet to issue a ruling.

### **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; 3 temporary commissions are in the planning phase and 3 restorations are currently in progress. Ms. Sanfilippo Long provided the artist recommendations for two park facilities, South Ridge Aquatic Center and Chuck Pezoldt Park: Jessy Nite and Lauren Shapiro, respectively. In addition, she announced that the Artist Photographers program to document the public art collection will include Zachary Balber, Diana Larrea, Robin Hill, Silvia Ros, Monica McGivern, Carl Juste and Marcus Hugg. Art in Public Places is working on the upcoming artist calls for Amelia Earhart Park, Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces and a national artist call and Miami-Dade call for the Virgin Cruise Terminal at PortMiami.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring announced that Cultural Affairs Council members are required to complete Source of Income Statement forms and as necessary, Gift Disclosure forms. Forms are due July 1 and are to be submitted to the Miami-Dade Elections Department.
- Staff team has begun to look at the issues of related racial equity and social inequality. There are projects that the Department is currently working on that intersect with the work including the City of Miami's Civil Rights Museum at Virginia Key Beach, the Black History Museum in Downtown Miami, and The Historic Hampton House.
- Commissioner Sosa is Chair of the Tourist Development Council and has decided to temporarily suspend the program. Next week the TDC will meet to determine if it can be aligned to have cultural and special events organizations partner with tourism businesses to reopen and reactivate that sector.
- The Youth Arts in the Park and Animation Gets Real programs were very successful and were able to transition into online format.

## COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez thanked the Chairman and the Cultural Affairs team for successfully transitioning grant panels online.
- Mr. Aguirre thanked the team for their work and thinks the role of the arts and the department's work is more important than ever.
- Mr. Trierger reported that the New World Symphony is developing protocols for operating and re-opening under the new guidelines. He commented that the Council can really be very effective in convening and serving as a central resource for best practices.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is conducting plant and mango sales as well as the Mango Festival this week.
- Mr. Monty Trainer reported the Coconut Grove Arts Festival is on hold until September. At that time, a decision will be made for next year's festival.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Liliana Hernandez-Constenla