

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

June 19, 2019

A meeting of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council was held at the 6th Floor Conference Room, Stephen P. Clark Government Center, and 111 N.W. 1st Street, Miami, Florida.

<p><u>Members Present</u> Mitchell Bierman Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez Sandra Curbelo Denise Gerson Adolfo Henriques Brian May Cheryl Rees Janá Sigars-Malina, Vice-Chair Rosa Sugrañes</p>	<p><u>Members Not Present</u> Alejandro Aguirre Xavier Cortada, Chairman Susana Ibargüen Phyllis Simpkins Monty Trainer Justin Trieger</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 Sue Camp Mary-Margaret Dale Olga Gonzalez Teddy Harrell, Jr. Regla Lee</p>	<p><u>Staff (continued)</u> Amanda Sanfilippo Long Gilda Mooney Steven Padilla Alex Peraza Adriana Perez Katherine Revell Melanie Rodriguez Patricia Romeu Nicole Noel Ugarriza Pamela Valles Graham Winick</p>

Vice Chair Janá Sigars-Malina, filling in for Chairman Xavier Cortada, called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for June 19, 2019

Requests for excused absences for Alejandro Aguirre, Xavier Cortada, Susana Ibargüen, Phyllis Simpkins, Monty Trainer and Justin Trieger were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Rees)

Approval of May 15, 2019 Minutes

The minutes of the May 15, 2019 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Rees)

FY 2019-2020 Cultural Advancement (ADV) Panel Recommendations

Ms. Gilda Mooney reported that the FY 2019-2020 Cultural Advancement program panel chaired Susana Ibargüen convened on June 4, 2019 to review 22 applications. The Panel recommended funding all 22 applicants. The Cultural Advancement Program supports a designated group of Miami-Dade County's mid to large size, artistically excellent and culturally diverse performing, visual, literary and presenting arts organizations which are engaged year-round in the creation or presentation of art, within or across artistic fields and disciplines, and demonstrate the potential to achieve regional, national, or international visibility as evidenced by current artistic programs and management structure. Usually a three-year cycle, this was an open year, allowing three new organizations to apply, including Nu Deco Ensemble, Miami Dade College – Museum of Art and Design, and Zoetic Stage. Ms. Mooney thanked Ms. Ibargüen as Chair, Councilors Mr. Mitchell Bierman and Ms. Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez as readers, Ms. Adriana Perez and supporting staff.

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

Mitchell Bierman – GableStage, Inc.

Adolfo Henriques - GableStage, Inc.

Cheryl Rees – Miami Dade College for Cultural Affairs Department, MDC Live; Miami Book Fair Year Round; Museum of Art and Design

The Panel's recommendations to fund the remaining organizations were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Curbelo)

Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, Inc.

Bakehouse Art Complex, Inc.

Bascomb Memorial Broadcasting Foundation, Inc. (WDNA-FM 88.9)

Centro Cultural Español de Cooperación Iberoamericana, Inc.

City Theater, Inc.

Coral Gables Cinematéque, Inc.

Living Arts Trust, Inc. d/b/a O Cinema

Locust Projects, Inc.

Miami Design Preservation League, Inc.

Miami Light Project, Inc.

Miami New Drama, Inc.

Nu Deco Ensemble, Inc.

Seraphic Fire, Inc.

Teatro Avante, Inc.

The Coral Gables Museum, Corp.

The Deering Estate Foundation, Inc.

The Rhythm Foundation, Inc.

Zoetic Stage, Inc.

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

GableStage, Inc. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Mr. May)

Miami Dade College - Cultural Affairs Department, MDC Live, Miami Dade College - Miami Book Fair Year Round, Miami Dade College – Museum of Art and Design (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Mr. May)

FY 2019-2020 Cultural Development (CDG) Grants Program

Grant program administrator Ms. Adriana Perez reported that the Cultural Development Grants Program Panel, chaired by Councilor Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez convened on May 30, 2019 to review 17 applications. The Panel ranked the 17 applications and recommended a funding total of \$855,000.00. The Cultural Development Grants Program is

designed to provide general operating support grants and technical assistance to a selected group of Miami-Dade County's mid-sized, artistically accomplished and culturally diverse performing, visual, literary and presenting arts organizations that are committed year-round to the creation or presentation of art, within or across artistic fields and disciplines. Ms. Perez thanked Chair Chancy-Gonzalez and Ms. Mooney for their support.

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

Cheryl Rees - Miami Dade College for Koubek Center, Lynn and Louis Wolfson II Florida Image Archives
Sandra Curbelo, Janá Sigars-Malina – The Dance Now! Ensemble

The Panel's recommendations to fund the remaining organizations were approved unanimously, as listed below. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sagrañes)

Ballet Flamenco La Rosa, Inc.
Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc.
Coral Gables Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), Inc.
Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of the School of Music
Fundarte, Inc.
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, Inc.
Miami Beach Garden Conservancy, Inc.
Michael-Ann Russell Jewish Community Center, Inc.
New World School of the Arts
Olympia Center, Inc.
Orchestra Miami, Inc.
Patrons of Exceptional Artists
The Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center, Inc
The Murray Dranoff Foundation, Inc

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

Miami Dade College-Koubek Center; Miami Dade College-Lynn and Louis Wolfson II Florida Moving Image Archives (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Mr. May)
The Dance Now Ensemble (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Chancy-Gonzalez)

FY 2019-2020 Developing Arts in Neighborhoods (DAN) Grants Program

Ms. Roxana Barba reported that the Developing Arts in Neighborhoods Grants Program Panel, chaired by Councilor Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, convened on June 5, 2019 to review 24 applications. The Panel recommended funding all 24 applications, with a total funding recommendation of \$335,000.00. The Developing Arts in Neighborhoods Grants Program provides funding and technical assistance support to small and/or developing cultural groups with annual organizational budgets under \$100,000 that create, present or produce year-round cultural activities and arts programs in Miami-Dade County at the grassroots level, including underserved neighborhoods, communities or special populations. There were no declared conflicts of interest from attending Councilors. Ms. Barba thanked Chair Chancy-Gonzalez and Ms. Mooney for helping run the meeting.

The Panel's recommendations to fund the 24 organizations were approved unanimously, as listed below. (Motion by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez; seconded Mr. Henriques)

Alhambra Music, Inc.
Artefactus Cultural Project, Inc.
Civic Chorale of Greater Miami, Inc.

Delou Africa, Inc.
El Ingenio, Inc.
Florida Guitar Foundation, Inc.
Florida Opera Prima, Inc.
Foundation for Emerging Technologies and Arts, Inc.
Hispanic-American Lyric Theatre, Inc.
IlluminArts, Inc.
Living Arts Trust, Inc. d/b/a O Cinema fiscal agent for BISTOURY, INC.
Marti Productions, Inc.
Miami Watercolor Society, Incorporated
Moksha Arts Collective, Inc
Mz Goose, Inc.
North Miami Community Concert Band, Inc.
Pioneer Winter Collective, Inc.
South Beach Chamber Ensemble
South Florida Bluegrass Association, Inc.
South Florida Friends of Classical Music
The Cove Rincon Corp.
The Friends of the Japanese Garden, Inc.
The Miami Classical Guitar Society, Inc.
Voices of Miami, Inc.

FY 2019-2020 Grant Program Panels

The program panels for the Community Grants (CG), Dance Miami Choreographers (DMC), International Cultural Partnerships (ICP; formerly International Cultural Exchange or ICE) and Youth Arts Enrichment Program (YEP) were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Mr. May)

Green Initiative Report and Recommendations

Mr. Michael Spring relayed the origin of the Green Task Force, with Chairman Xavier Cortada challenging the Council, Department and cultural community to address resiliency, climate change and sea level rise. The GreenTask Force is chaired by Ms. Sigars-Malina and includes Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez and Ms. Curbelo. The goal was to introduce the initiative to the cultural community as a series of immersive opportunities, making the arts community advocates and practitioners. Meetings were also held with arts groups and artists, representing a wide swath of resiliency adopters and non-adopters, to get their input and suggestions. Working with the County's Resiliency Office's Resilient 305 program, the plan is to offer opportunities in three categories.

1. Information: inclusive of access to ideas and practices to be more resilient conveyed on websites and e-blasts, all under a branded campaign and banner for resilience initiatives. The arts groups stressed that there also should be a focus on the next generation as the inheritors of stewards of the planet, by integrating this into Culture Shock youth outreach programs.
2. Economic: inclusive of savings and funding support, such as ways to save money through resilient initiatives, connecting practitioners with resiliency funding opportunities and other strategic collaborations, and having the Department launch an initiative next year to award five Resilience Art Prizes for arts organizations as a retrospective look at their impact. The Green Task Force would be the panel for this award, suggested at \$5,000.00 per prize. The arts groups felt strongly that having money be an incentive was important. A similar program will be created for individual artists in the Art in Public Places program, with a suggestion of three fellowships of \$10,000.00 each for the creation and installation of temporary public art works on the topic of resiliency.

3. Advocacy: the Resiliency Office provides a wealth of information on how to take action and organizations that are at the forefront. One model example identified for arts groups to follow is Jacob's Pillow (www.jacobspillow.org).

The Green Task Force believes this is just the beginning of a long and evolving process to develop better practices and deeper involvement in the issues, with an aim similar to the integration of ADA compliance achieved with the arts organizations.

Ms. Sugrañes suggested expansion to youth beyond Culture Shock, inclusive of Arts for Learning and other programs offered by the Department. Having recently visited a recycling plant and seeing that 70% of what is collected is not recycled, she feels it is imperative to promote practices of reusability to the younger generation. Mr. Bierman stated the key obstacle to the success of recycling programs is there is not a robust market for recycled materials, making the costs of recycling too high.

Mr. Spring shared that Jim Murley, the head of the Miami-Dade County's Resiliency Office, acknowledged that this initiative could help significantly strengthen the arts and cultural component of his Office's program. He shared that there are many philanthropic foundations that will support such initiatives, including the Arsht-Rockefeller Center for Resiliency. Mr. Spring said that staff could not find evidence of anyone else in the country doing such a comprehensive program, putting Miami-Dade County in the leadership position on arts and resiliency.

Ms. Sugrañes urged that Frost Science Museum should be taking a lead with the County. Mr. Spring assured those conversations are ongoing.

The recommendations of the Green Task Force in the Green Initiatives Report were approved unanimously (Motion by Mr. May; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes).

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on the FY 2019-2020 County Arts Budget

Mr. Spring reported that the Mayor will release budget recommendations for the County in early July 2019. Though nothing is confirmed as of yet, enhanced support for the Department looks positive.

Update on the FY 2019-2020 State Arts Budget

Mr. Spring reported the Florida Governor has yet to approve the State budget as a whole, only signing and vetoing individual items to date. The State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs was recommended for \$21.2 million. Unknown until he signs as well is how he will approach individual line item requests, which his predecessor vetoed in mass. Once the Governor signs the budget, we will notify the Council.

Update on the FY 2019-2020 Federal Arts Budget

Mr. Spring reported the National Endowment of the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities and Public Broadcasting continue to do well with support in Congress, despite the President seeking elimination of funding. The NEA received a recommended enhancement of \$12.5 million from Congress for FY 2019-2020, bringing the NEA budget to \$167.5 Million. The Arts Action Fund, the PAC arm of Americans for the Arts, encourages outreach to the Senate for support, with Senator Marco Rubio playing a key role in appropriations. At the Americans for the Arts conference, Mary Anne Carter, President Trump's appointed acting chairman of the NEA, spoke passionately about the importance of the Arts.

Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program

Ms. Mary-Margaret Dale reported that *Culture Shock Miami* has sold 747 tickets for the month of June, with larger numbers due to schools being in summer recess. The program will be working with Dimensions Dance Theater and the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center in July for camp programming and public performances. Looking ahead to the 2019-2020 season, *Culture Shock Presents* has booked Shane Koyczan, a Canadian spoken-word artist with a large teenage fan base, for his first appearance in South Florida. Melanie Rodriguez, a prior Department intern and current Florida International University student, was introduced as a new part-time employee for *Culture Shock*, assisting in marketing.

Department Facilities Updates

African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Teddy Harrell, Jr. reported the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center just finished its after-school program and is now into the Summer Arts Conservatory, with 296 children registered. The Center held a showcase of work from the year for parents. The Center hosted Daniel Pewter's evidence-based preparatory academy designed to lower class sizes. Over 175 children registered for the program, but they could only have 35-40 students. Pewter is a former MMA fighter. The Center collaborated with Carol City Middle School, providing teaching artists for arts programs. The My Life Group brought real wrestling to the Center, inclusive of installing a ring in the music hall, featuring seven bouts, with 175 attendees, including 57 kids from the area. A group of the Center's students were able to attend a production of "Disney's The Lion King" live as well as interact with the cast due to a partnership with the Adrienne Arsht Center. The recent Theater Communications Group conference recognized the Center's Jazmin Jones-Oliver as the recipient of the Rising Leaders of Color Program, and the Center's Voices of Heritage and African Heritage Youth Theatre performed at the conference's opening event. Alumni of the Center continue to succeed, with Tarell Alvin McCraney's "Choir Boys" nominated for five Tony awards and winning one for costumes, premiering his new series "David Makes Man" this August on Oprah Winfrey's OWN Network and appearing in Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre's production, "Ms. Black for President." Mr. Alex Peraza gave a construction update on the Center, with the upgrade of HVAC systems in progress.

Coconut Grove Playhouse

Mr. Spring recapped current events. The last step for the project's municipal regulatory review before building permits were sought was to get Historic and Environmental Preservation Board (HEPB) approval. After the City of Miami HEPB voted against the plan, the County appealed to the City of Miami Commission, which approved the appeal on a 3-2 vote. Without a supermajority of 4-1, the Mayor Francis Suarez vetoed the decision. This triggered a final appeal at the City Commission, where it remained a 3-2 vote in support, but was unable to override the veto. On Mayor Gimenez's instruction, the County filed an appeal to the Appellate Division of the Circuit Court along with an affidavit request to expedited court review. While waiting, other project work can continue, including asbestos abatement and work with the Miami Parking Authority.

Mr. May noted the opposition was effective in their miscommunication campaign. Mr. Bierman suggested the GableStage board is ready to act and communicate accurate information. It was noted that GableStage brought in Bruce Turkel to help with messaging, but they are concerned about the effect of over-communicating and it's causing subscriber fatigue. Mr. Spring suggested a balance in regard to communication noting that the next key decision is in the hands of the court.

Art in Public Places Update

Ms. Amanda Sanfilippo Long provided recent highlights of work. On May 29, a professional advisory committee meeting was held to review qualifications of artists for public art for Art of the Underline, consisting of transit-related projects along the Metrorail path and at station development, including the Douglas Road station, Brickell Backyard and the

Oolite Room by Simpson Park. The shortlist of artists recommended includes Hernan Bas, Carola Bravo, Robert Chambers, Cara DeSpain, Geoanna Gonzalez, Felice Grodin, Adler Guerrier, Amanda Keeley, Sinisa Kukec, Emmett Moore, Vickie Pierre, Karen Rifas, Tom Scicluna, Magnus Sodamin and Jonathan Gonzalez, and Juan Valdes. Upcoming calls to artists will include projects Bombadier at Miami-Opa locka Executive Airport, Father Marquess-Barry Apartments and the FedEx Expansion at Miami International Airport.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring announced the Children's Trust has renewed their \$1.5 million funding for Department programs in FY 2019-2020.
- The Theater Communications Group conference was held June 5 through 7, 2019, wherein the Department was recognized with the Local Funders Award (Chairman Cortada was present), along with the previously mentioned honors.
- Upcoming conferences to the area include: National Dance Educators Conference (October 24 to 26, 2019); National Arts Marketing Project Conference (November 15 to 18, 2019), as part of Americans for the Arts; Chorus America (June 17 to 20, 2020) and the Association of African American Museums (August 2020).

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez enjoyed her panel work and went to the Arsht Center's listening session with new CEO Johann Zietsman
- Ms. Curbelo was excited to be on the Green Task Force.
- Ms. Gerson returned from a European trip, during which she was invited to a preview of Art Basel's new sector on larger artworks coming to Miami Beach this year. While traveling, she saw a documentary on an African arts collective using recycled glass to create artworks and sees this as an opportunity related to the prior recycling discussion.
- Mr. Bierman suggested three shows in New York to catch: the Whitney Biennial, which also featured artwork using recycled material; Camp Notes on Fashion at the Metropolitan Museum; and the Leonard Cohen exhibit at the Jewish Museum. He noted the PAMM's new site-specific activations like the one-night Miami Motel Stories and events featuring music at the venue and suggested this should be developed further, as other museums do. He also suggested consideration of surge pricing admission to enhance revenue.
- Ms. Rees reported her second round of grants panel work was enjoyable, as she was more familiar with the time necessary to review the proposals.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden will host the Mango Festival July 12 to 14, 2019. She brought compostable cups, plates, bowls and utensils to the Council meeting, all available at retail outlets, to show options are available.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Graham Winick