

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

**June 17, 2020**

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

<p><b><u>Members Present</u></b> Xavier Cortada, Chair 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><b><u>Members Not Present</u></b> Alejandro Aguirre Phyllis Simpkins</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 12:03 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 June 17, 2020**

A request for an excused absence was submitted by Alejandro Aguirre. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

### **Approval of May 20, 2020 Minutes**

The minutes of the May 20, 2020 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Ms. Curbelo)

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

The program panels for the Capital Development (CAP) Grants Program, International Cultural Partnerships (ICP) Grants Program and Major Cultural Institutions (MCI) Grants Program were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Ms. Curbelo)

### **FY 2020-2021 Cultural Advancement (ADV) Grants Program Panel Recommendations**

Ms. Gilda Mooney reported that the FY 2020-2021 Cultural Advancement Grants Program Panel, chaired by Mitchell Bierman, convened on May 27, 2020 to review twenty-two applications requesting a total of \$2,750,000. The Cultural Advancement Grants Program is designed to provide significant grants and technical assistance to a distinct group of Miami-Dade County's highest quality, mid-to-large-sized, performing, visual, literary and presenting arts organizations that have a history of distinguished artistic programming.

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

Mitchell Bierman – GableStage, Inc.

Xavier Cortada – Miami Dade College - Cultural Affairs (MDC Live); Miami Dade College – Miami Book Fair Year-Round; Miami Dade College – Museum of Art and Design; The Deering Estate Foundation, Inc.

Adolfo Henriques – GableStage, Inc.

Monty Trainer – Miami Dade College - Cultural Affairs (MDC Live); Miami Dade College – Miami Book Fair Year-Round; Miami Dade College – Museum of Art and Design

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)

Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, Inc.

Bakehouse Art Complex, Inc.

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

Centro Cultural Español de Cooperacion Iberoamericana, Inc.  
City Theater, Inc.  
Coral Gables Cinematéque, Inc.  
Living Arts Trust, Inc. / 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 Rhythm Foundation, Inc.  
Zoetic Stage, Inc.

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

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

GableStage, Inc.  
(Motion by Mr. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

### **FY 2020-2021 Cultural Development (CDG) Grants Program Panel Recommendations**

Ms. Adriana Perez reported that the Cultural Development Grants Program, chaired by Council member Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez convened on May 28, 2020 to review 18 applications requesting a total of \$1,080,000. The panel recommended funding all 18 applications. The Cultural Development Grants Program provides 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 defining the cultural and artistic voice of Miami. Qualifying organizations are committed year-round to the creation or presentation of art, within or across artistic fields and disciplines, which demonstrate the potential to achieve regional, national, or international visibility as evidenced by current programs and management structure and many times engage in strategic partnerships for greater artistic success.

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

Mitchell Bierman - Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of School of Music

Xavier Cortada - Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of School of Music; FUNDarte, Inc.; Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, Inc.; Miami Dade College – Koubek Center; Miami Dade College - Lynn and Louis Wolfson II Florida Moving Image Archives

Sandra Curbelo - The Dance Now! Ensemble, Inc.

Adolfo Henriques - Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of School of Music

Jana Sigars-Malina - The Dance Now! Ensemble, Inc.

Cheryl Rees - Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of School of Music

Monty Trainer - Miami Dade College – Koubek Center; Miami Dade College - Lynn and Louis Wolfson II Florida Moving Image Archives; New World School of the Arts - Dance Division

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. Councilors with the above-mentioned conflicts of interest abstained from the voting. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sagrañes)

Ballet Flamenco la Rosa, Inc.

Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc.

Coral Gables Congregational Church

Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami

Miami Beach Garden Conservancy

Michael-Ann Russell Jewish Community Center, Inc.

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 are the above-mentioned conflicts of interest and abstentions from voting, was voted on and passed unanimously as follows:

FUNDarte, Inc.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, Inc.

Miami Dade College – Koubek Center

Miami Dade College - Lynn and Louis Wolfson II Florida Moving Image Archives

New World School of the Arts - Dance Division

The Dance Now! Ensemble, Inc.

(Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sagrañes)

Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of School of Music  
(Motion by Ms. Sagrañes; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

## **FY 2020-2021 Youth Arts Miami (YAM) Grants Program Panel Recommendations**

Francine Andersen reported that the FY 2020-2021 Youth Arts Miami (YAM) Grants Panel, chaired by Cultural Affairs Council member Mitchell Bierman, convened on Friday, May 15, 2020 to review 31 applications requesting a total of \$2,250,000. The Panel recommended funding all 31 applications. The objective of the Youth Arts Miami (YAM) Grants Program is to provide operational funding support to non-profit youth arts organizations having a year-round presence in Miami-Dade County whose primary mission is to create, present or exhibit cultural programs for children and/or with children. Applicants to this program must have at least a three-year track record of providing a year-round season of youth arts activities for children and youth.

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

Brian May – Area Performance Gallery, Inc. dba Area Stage Company  
Justin Trieger – The Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, Inc.

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. Councilors with the above-mentioned conflicts of interest abstained from the voting. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Mr. Henriques)

All Florida Youth Orchestra, Inc. dba Florida Youth Orchestra  
Alliance for Musical Arts Productions, Inc.  
American Children's Orchestras for Peace, Inc.  
Ballet Etudes of South Florida, Inc.  
Diva Arts & Entertainment, Inc.  
enFAMILIA, INC.  
Fantasy Theatre Factory, Inc.  
Florida Film Institute, Inc.  
Friends of South Florida Music, Inc  
Greater Miami Youth Symphony of Dade County, Florida, Inc.  
Guitars Over Guns Organization, Inc.  
Kinad, Inc.  
Miami Children's Chorus, Inc.  
Miami Dance Project, Inc.  
Miami Momentum Dance Company, Inc.  
Miami Music Festival, Inc.  
Miami Music Project, Inc.  
Miami Stage Company/Miami Children's Theater Inc.  
Miami Theater Center Inc.  
Miami Youth Ballet Inc.  
Musical, Inc.  
National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, Inc.  
PATH: Preserving, Archiving & Teaching Hiphop, Inc.  
South Florida Center for Percussive Arts, Inc.  
South Florida Youth Symphony, Inc.  
The Children's Voice Chorus, Inc.

The Motivational Edge, Inc.  
The Roxy Theatre Group, Inc.  
Young Musicians Unite, Inc.

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

Area Performance Gallery, Inc. dba Area Stage Company  
The Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, Inc.  
(Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

## **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

Ms. Leslie reported that the moment COVID-19 forced closures in our community, the Department of Cultural Affairs redeployed \$300,000 in Travel/Consultant funds and issued emergency grants to 150 arts groups to provide additional immediate assistance during the pandemic. The Department continues to gather important financial data monthly with the COVID-19 Survey of Impact on Miami-Dade County's Cultural Community. Results for the survey including the month of May, reflect a financial impact of almost \$60 million with 9,799 jobs affected. 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.

### **State Arts Budget Update**

Mr. Winick reported the State of Florida legislature has not submitted the budget to the Governor for his signature. There currently is reluctance to submit the budget for signature until the state has a better idea about how it will be affected because of the downturn in revenues and increases in expenditures due to COVID-19. At the conclusion of the legislative session, \$21.25 million was allocated for the State arts budget. Mr. Spring's proposed plan and recommendations regarding the use of the \$600,000 in NEA funds was approved by the State of Florida. The plan provides grant funds to State of Florida grantees for fiscal year 19-20. The Department of Cultural Affairs has encouraged all eligible Miami-Dade County organizations to apply for the funding.

### **Federal Arts Budget Update**

Ms. Leslie 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.

### **Department Facilities Updates**

#### **Status Report**

Ms. Leslie 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's renovation work

continues. The Auditorium is getting 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. The program will launch in July. 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**

Ms. Leslie reported the project finalized the building permit review process and work is starting on the site. A groundbreaking event is being 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. Leslie 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 shortlist for VOX Miami at South Miami Metrorail Station: Jennifer Basile, Lorie Beltran, Eugenio Espinosa, Kelley Johnson, Amanda Keeley, R & R Studios, Christina Lei Rodriguez, Tom Scicluna, with alternates Leo Castaneda and Westen Charles. Art in Public Places is working on the upcoming artist calls for Amelia Earhart Park, Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces; Gallery on the River with the Miami-Dade Public Housing and The Related Group; and a national artist call for the Virgin Cruise Terminal at PortMiami.

Mitchell Bierman left meeting at 12:42 p.m.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

- Ms. Leslie 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 are to be submitted to the Miami-Dade Elections Department.
- Mr. Spring has been participating in reopening team calls with Mayor Gimenez. Mr. Spring has been directly involved in reviewing reopening plans for cultural institutions that have received permission to open provided they submit a plan for Miami-Dade County's review and approval.
- The Department of Cultural Affairs received two National Association of Counties Awards: African Heritage Cultural Arts Center's Artist Residency Program and Art in Public Places for the public artwork at Caribbean Village.
- The Children's Trust voted to continue the partnership with the Department of Cultural Affairs and renewed the funding of \$1.5 million dollars for FY 20-21.

Mr. Triegeer left the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

## COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Chairman Cortada would like to see the Department of Cultural Affairs and the Council engage in a conversation and look at inclusivity and equity in our work. Miami-Dade County has largely experienced the demographic shift that is now taking place around the country 30 years ago and now is a good time to review how our work is addressing racial injustice. He was also very proud to see the landmark Supreme Court ruling to prevent job discrimination on LGBTQ members of society.
- Ms. Sugrañes stated she has been moved by protests happening all over the Country and supports the the review the Council's work addressing racial equity.
- Mr. Henriques stated that he participated in a virtual "Zoom gala" that featured a performer. He got a lot out of it and had an opportunity to interact and exchange ideas in a new way.
- Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez thanked the Chairman for championing the idea of looking at the Departments' and Council's work. She stated she has thoroughly enjoyed participating in the panel review process.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported Miami City Ballet is having virtual performances and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is conducting plant and mango sales online.
- Mr. Monty Trainer stated he would like to see something cultural happen in the West Grove, which was originally very artistic.

Mr. Spring joined the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

### **Miami-Dade Artist Support (MÁS!) Grants Program**

Mr. Spring reported that on the Department of Cultural Affairs recently launched the Mami-Dade Artists Support! (MÁS!) Grants Program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department is partnering and has the support of the Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation, which donated \$100,000 to match the County funds. Mr. Spring thanked Mr. Pérez and Mr. Henriques for their work to get the matching funds approved and expedited to help artists impacted by the health crisis. He believes this program really highlights the needs of artists currently and hopes this serves as a model and will continue to share information with partner foundations in the community.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Liliana Hernandez-Constenla