

**MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
March 16, 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 Jorge Plasencia Cheryl Rees Janá Sigars-Malina, First Vice Chair Rosa Sugrañes Monty Trainer Justin Trieger</p>	<p><u>Members Not Present</u> Mitchell Bierman</p> <p><u>Others Present</u> Laura Bruney John Copeland Tiffany Crapp Garnet Esters Mario Santana Sheila Womble</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 Ruby Brown Dorianny Campbell Nicole Campbell Tania Centeno Nicole Chaplin Kimberly Chuck Mary-Margaret Dale Marshall Davis Marie Denis Gloria Diaz Ivette Dominguez Alex Fernandez Eric Fliss</p>	<p><u>Staff (continued)</u> Bianca Gonzalez Olga Gonzalez Teddy Harrell Liliana Hernandez-Constenla Christine Jefferson Regla Lee Ana Meza Gilda Mooney Steven Padilla Alex Peraza Adriana Perez Dana Pezoldt Carolina Pupo-Mayo Katherine Revell Pablo Rincon Alexia Robotham Patricia Romeo Javier Siut Christina Tassy-Beauvoir Geraldine Toussaint Nicole Ugarriza Pamela Valles Graham Winick</p>

Chairman May welcomed the Council and guests and called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for February 16, 2022

A request for an excused absence was submitted by Councilor Mitchell Bierman. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Mr. May)

Approval of February 16, 2022 Minutes

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

FY 2021-2022 Summer Arts and Science Camps (SAS-C) for Kids Grant Panel Recommendations

Mr. Spring reported that the FY 2021-2022 Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Program Grants Panel, chaired by Councilor Monty Trainer, convened on Thursday, February 25, 2022, to review 45 applications requesting a total of \$1,610,903. The Panel recommended funding 45 applications for a total of \$825,000. The Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grants Program is managed by staff member Katherine Revell and was created as a joint initiative of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and The Children's Trust. The objective of the SAS-C Grants Program is to allocate grant funding to non-profit organizations that will 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.

The following Councilors declared conflicts of interest and abstained from voting on the associated organizations:

Adolfo Henriques – Florida International University Board of Trustees

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

Jorge Plasencia – Adrienne Arsht Center Trust, Inc. d/b/a Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County

Janá Sigars-Malina - Florida International University Board of Trustees

Monty Trainer - Miami Dade College, Museum of Contemporary Arts, Inc., University of Miami

A motion was made to fund all the of the panel's recommendations subject to Councilors with conflicts abstaining from voting on the applications affected. The Councilors with the above-mentioned conflicts of interest abstained from the voting. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sagrañes)

Andrew Toffoli Arts Foundation	\$14,676
Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, Inc.	\$16,911
ArtSouth, A Not-For-Profit Corporation	\$28,000
Dibia DREAM, Inc.	\$28,000
Diva Arts & Entertainment, Inc.	\$28,000
DUE TO ARTS, Inc. d/b/a Taller en Accion	\$12,519
El Ingenio Inc.	\$21,000
enFAMILIA, Inc.	\$28,000

Evolutionary Arts Life Foundation, Inc.	\$16,612
Fantasy Theatre Factory, Inc.	\$28,000
Friends of the Bass Museum, Inc.	\$28,000
Herman LeVern Jones' TheatreSouth	\$16,197
Homestead Youth Arts Center, Inc.	\$12,275
IFCM Corp.	\$8,655
Les Ailes Du Desir Foundation, Inc.	\$15,390
Locust Projects, Inc.	\$8,456
Mahogany Youth Corporation	\$28,000
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, Inc.	\$28,000
Miami City Ballet, Inc.	\$16,750
Miami Music Festival, Inc.	\$16,542
Miami New Drama, Inc.	\$12,113
Miami Stage Company/ Miami Children's Theater Inc.	\$16,542
Miami Theater Center Inc.	\$28,000
Moonlighter FabLab, Inc.	\$8,121
Paige and Friends Helping Hands Inc.	\$15,483
PARA BAJITOS INC.	\$2,743
PATH: Preserving, Archiving & Teaching HipHop, Inc.	\$16,612
S.E.E.K Foundation, Inc.	\$16,013
South Florida Center for Percussive Arts, Inc.	\$12,320
South Florida Youth Symphony, Inc.	\$14,999
South Temple Empowerment Project, Inc.	\$16,542
The Children's Voice Chorus, Inc.	\$28,000
The Florida City Foundation, Inc.	\$28,000
The National Auxiliary Association, Inc.	\$16,378
The Opera Atelier, Inc.	\$16,473
The Rolle Project, Corp.	\$15,437
The Salvation Army, a GA Corp., for the Miami Area Command	\$16,650
The Trayvon Martin Foundation, Inc.	\$16,842
Young Musicians Unite, Inc.	\$8,895

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

Adrienne Arsht Center Trust, Inc. d/b/a Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)	\$28,000
Area Performance Gallery, Inc. d/b/a Area Stage Company (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)	\$28,000

Florida International University Board of Trustees \$3,960
(Motion by Ms. Sagrañes; seconded by Ms. Rees)

Miami Dade College \$14,369
Museum of Contemporary Art, Inc. \$28,000
University of Miami \$16,534
(Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

Chairman May thanked all panelists and Cultural Affairs staff for their work on the panel and invited Garnet Esters, Public Policy and Community Engagement Manager at The Children’s Trust, to address the Council. Ms. Esters thanked the Cultural Affairs Council and the Department for the great work and impact in the community and stated the Trust looks forward to the continued partnership.

FY 2022-2023 Hannibal Cox, Jr. (HCJ) Grants Program Panel

Mr. Spring presented the FY 2022-2023 Hannibal Cox, Jr. (HCJ) Grants Program Panel. The panel will be chaired by Councilor Monty Trainer. It was approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Ms. Rees)

BUDGET AND PLANNING RETREAT DISCUSSION

Mr. Spring presented a one-page budget fact sheet requested by the Cultural Affairs Council Chairman in the two Zoom sessions that were held by Department staff to provide detailed budget briefings. It is the staff recommendation that the Department of Cultural Affairs needs \$7.774 million more to keep pace with grants, staffing and facilities needs for the FY 2022-2023.

Mr. Spring explained that \$6.1 million is needed for the Department of Cultural Affairs’ Grants Budget, which is down by \$4.7 million in FY 2022-2023 compared to the value of grants dollars from 15 years ago, representing a 23% increase in grants funding. In addition, \$1.4 million is needed to ensure cultural organizations are in the appropriate grants program based on impact. Mr. Spring noted that \$1.08 million is needed to fund new staff, especially in managing new more complex County business systems and delivering new and expanded programs and operating facilities. The Department’s cultural facilities also need \$594,000 to cover increased programming and marketing costs this coming budget year.

Mr. Spring discussed other factors affecting the budget which include the fact that arts organizations and artists are still in pandemic recovery mode, with earned revenue and charitable giving at lower levels than pre-pandemic. Recovery funds used by cultural organizations are no longer available, leaving significant budget gaps.

Mr. Spring noted that the Department submitted a status quo budget internally and that the County’s Budget Office is aware of the needs presented as they are carried in the budget as enhancements. There is a general acknowledgement by County leadership that funding for the arts community is critically important. Miami-Dade Mayor Levine Cava will issue budget recommendations in June 2022.

There was discussion regarding the impact of inflation, the current labor market and increased labor costs experienced across the nation and the huge impact they have on the budgets of cultural organizations. In general, the needs of the arts and cultural community are great as it has been deeply impacted by the pandemic and this would be a good year to get back on track to strengthen funding support. The core Department of Cultural Affairs staff has not been supplemented in a long time and there continues to be increased demands on staff related to new programs. It is

important the Department has the appropriate infrastructure to handle all the programs and workload, and that is also a critical need as well.

Council Motion Regarding the FY 2022-2023 Budget

A motion was made to approve the budget and request incremental increases to the Department's annual budget over the next four years, starting with an additional \$10.774 million for the Department's FY 2022-2023 budget. The 5-year goal is to rebuild the budget with an additional \$3 million every year to keep pace with the reality of present-day rate of inflation and growing costs and demands for programs and services. The motion passed unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sagrañes)

The Department of Cultural Affairs staff will bring back a summary of the revised budget plan for Council to review.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Spring announced that the Department launched the Miami Individual Artists (MIA) Stipends 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. 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 present grant recommendations at the next Council meeting.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Mr. Trainer chaired the Summer Arts & Science Grants Panel, and it was a great experience. He continues to be impressed with the panelists and staff.
- Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez is pleased with the Council's work and consensus today.
- Mr. Trieger expressed support for the Council's budget motion. He added that he believes any support to assist cultural organizations to address operational costs and employee retention is a good idea.
- Mr. Aguirre reported Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden had successful partnership with NASA. He noted that the arts budget at the state level had been very successful this year.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported that the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden has a lot of family activities as part of their programming including early morning birdwatching walks and Lego sessions.
- Chairman May congratulated Councilor Trainer on the success of the Coconut Grove Arts Festival. Mr. May noted the Federal Government has the Employee Retention Credit program that reimburses organizations for keeping people employed during the pandemic. There might be an opportunity for cultural organizations to explore.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:59 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Liliana Hernandez-Constenla