

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

October 16, 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> Xavier Cortada, Chair Alejandro Aguirre Mitchell Bierman Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez Sandra Curbelo Brian May Janá Sigars-Malina, Vice Chair Rosa Sugrañes Justin Trieger</p>	<p><u>Members Not Present</u> Denise Gerson Adolfo Henriques Susana Ibargüen Cheryl Rees Phyllis Simpkins Monty Trainer</p> <p><u>Others Present:</u> John Copeland</p>
<p><u>Staff</u> Michael Spring, Director Marialaura Leslie, Deputy Director Kelly Allocco Roxana Barba Stefania Barigelli Sue Camp Mary-Margaret Dale Marshall Davis Eric Fliss Olga Gonzalez Teddy Harrel</p>	<p><u>Staff (continued)</u> Liliana Hernandez-Constenla Regla Lee Amanda Sanfilippo Long Gilda Mooney Steven Padilla Alex Peraza Adriana Perez Melanie Rodriguez Pamela Valles Graham Winick</p>

Chairman Xavier Cortada called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. and announced Director Spring is attending a meeting with Mayor Gimenez. He announced Deputy Director Marialaura Leslie would provide staff reports during the meeting. Mr. Cortada recognized and welcomed John Copeland, Director of Cultural Tourism at the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for October 16, 2019

Requests for excused absences for Denise Gerson, Adolfo Henriques, Susana Ibargüen, Cheryl Rees and Monty Trainer were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

Approval of September 18, 2019 Minutes

The minutes of the September 18, 2019 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

Mr. Spring joined the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on the FY 2019-2020 County Arts Budget

Mr. Spring reported that Departmental grants budget included an additional \$2.5 million in funds. The Department will work with a handful of organizations with capacity building. On a pilot basis the Department will work with smaller to mid-size organizations and assist them with staff growth. The South Florida Cultural Consortium Visual and Media Grants Program provides \$15,000, which has not changed in years. Awards will remain the same, but there will be an additional \$45,000 for purchase awards for Miami-Dade artists. The works will become part of the Miami-Dade Art in Public Places Collection. Mr. Spring reported that funding for the Resilient Art Prizes, part of the new Arts Resilient 305, was also included in the Departmental budget. The awards will recognize cultural organizations and individual artists at the end of the cultural season that have done outstanding work on the issues of climate change and sea level rise. The Cultural Affairs Council Green Task Force will adjudicate the annual awards. The Department has contracted the firm Matrix 2 to develop collateral and a campaign to promote the awards and the initiative.

Council Motion to approve the inclusion of capacity building pilot project, South Florida Cultural Consortium purchase fund and the Resilient Art Prizes as part of the Department of Cultural Affairs' budget. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program

Ms. Christina Tassy-Beauvoir reported that Culture Shock Miami had an increase of 10.56% in number of events available on the website, from 663 to 733 in 2018-19. Ms. Tassy-Beauvoir reported that for the 2019-2020 season 60 cultural partners have provided tickets, with 501 tickets being sold to date. Culture Shock Presents featured spoken-word artist Shane Koyczan at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center. The programs Student Council has been active in promoting the program through outreach efforts. Councilors staffed the information booth, delivered curtain speech and conducted interviews for Instagram stories at the Shane Koyczan performance at SMDCAC. The Student Council Board elected *Co-President of Marketing*, *Co-President of Community Outreach*, and *Secretary* at their October 2 meeting.

Golden Ticket Senior Arts Guide

Ms. Liliana Hernandez-Constenla reported that the new 2019-2020 Golden Ticket Senior Arts Guide has been issued. The program provides free admission to cultural events and venues to seniors who are 62 years of age and are Miami-Dade County residents. The guide is bilingual, printed in both English and Spanish and at 450 pages, the largest issue printed to date. Department staff works closely with 75 cultural partners participating in the program to determine which productions or events are appropriate for inclusion in the guide. Ms. Hernandez-Constenla reported that nearly 10,000 guides are sent via direct mail to seniors on the Department's mailing list. Guides are also

available for pick-up at a variety of distribution points, including the Miami-Dade County Mayor's and Commission district offices, the Miami-Dade County Public Libraries, and through the Department of Human Services, Elderly Services program for low income seniors. As seniors become more tech savvy, the Golden Ticket Seniors Arts Guide has become the most downloaded document on our website.

Department Facilities Updates

South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Eric Fliss reported the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center finished its 8th season. The Center presented an exciting summer lineup featuring the Miami Lyric Opera, Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami, Siempre Flamenco and Wendy Pedersen and Jim Gasior in August. In September the Center hosted Miami-Dade County's Adopt-A-Tree event, which also included arts accessibility programming. Mr. Fliss reported that attendance and revenues continue to grow. In the 2018-19 fiscal year total attendance was 82,145 showing 12% growth. Revenues grew over the by 19% of the same period. The Center kicked-off the 19-20 cultural season with the Back-Yard Bash on October 12, 2019. The free concert on the lawn featured Classic Albums Live: Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers with Albert Castiglia and host DJ Le Spam. The Center is hosting family programs, including a Halloween Festival on October 25th and is partnering with the Town of Cutler Bay for the holiday program, presentation of the Dr. Seuss' The Grinch on December 6, 2019.

Westchester Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Spring reported the project went out for construction bids and is currently under the Miami-Dade County Cone of Silence. He noted that the Center, which will be located at the Bird Road entrance to Tropical Park is pending bids which are due and must be received by the Miami-Dade County Clerk's Office on November 12, 2019. The Center will feature a black box theatre with 225 seats. Thirty individuals attended the pre-bid conference for the project held at Tropical Park.

Coconut Grove Playhouse

Mr. Spring reported that Miami-Dade County has submitted a petition to the Appellate Division of the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit on June 16, 2019, appealing the City of Miami Mayor's veto of the County's application for a final Certificate of Appropriateness for the Coconut Grove Playhouse project, along with a motion to expedite the briefing and oral argument to resolve the final approval and to move forward with the project. The City of Miami opposed the County's request to expedite the briefing and filed a motion to dismiss the County's appeal based on their contention that the Mayor's veto is not quasi-judicial. County Attorney responded by reiterating request to expedite the hearing. The appeal document and the response are posted on the Department of Cultural Affairs website.

Art in Public Places Update

Ms. Amanda Sanfilippo Long provided recent highlights of work. She reported that in 2017-2019 Art in Public Places Program (APP) has completed 11 restorations, 26 projects in the planning phase, 79 commissions in production and 3 temporary commissions in planning. Ms. Sanfilippo reported local artists Marielle Plaisir, Nicole Salcedo and Morel Doucet were recommended to develop artworks for the Father Marquess Barry Apartments. An international artist call was held for the new Royal Caribbean Headquarter and campus redevelopment and the following artists were shortlisted: Sandra Cinto, from Brazil; Mark Handforth, from Miami; Odili Donald Odita, New York; Paul Cockledge Studio/Arup, London; Pedro Reyes, Mexico; Anastasia Samoylova, Miami; Paul Anthony Smith, Brooklyn; Arthur Lescher, Brazil; Ernesto Neto, Brazil and Jim Hodges, New York. Ms. Sanfilippo reported the South Florida Cultural Consortium's show featuring last year's winners from the five-county region is on view at the Museum of Contemporary Art in North Miami through October 20, 2019.

Arts Education, Outreach and Access Update

Ms. Francine Andersen and Ms. Katherine Revell provided a recap of the programs in the areas of outreach and access. The program's objectives include the expansion of training opportunities for arts administrators, cultural organizations and educators. The Animation Gets Real Miami summer camp was held June 10-14 at the North Dade Regional Library and on June 17-21 at the South Dade Regional Library. The camp teaches students with autism spectrum disorders computer animation and iPad music, and exposes them to the possibility of continued education and a future career path. The Adopt-A-Book event at Adopt-A-Tree event was held on September 14 at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center. Children and families participated in botanical-themed artmaking and book readings of "The Boy Who Grew Flowers" by Jen Wojtowicz.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring reported Eric Fliss, Managing Director of the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center was recognized with the Mary Beth Treen Award by the Performing Arts Exchange. The award is presented annually to a respected member of the performing arts presenting and touring community.
- Marshall Davis, Managing Director of the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center will be inducted in the inaugural Miami children's initiative *Hero of Liberty City*.
- Mr. Spring recognized the staff of the Miami-Dade County Auditorium for a superb job hosting the televised *Jose Jose* memorial services.
- The Department is hosting the National Arts Marketing Project Conference November 15-18, 2019, at the InterContinental Hotel. The Department is providing scholarships to grantees to attend and learn best practices. Councilor Alejandro Aguirre is participating and serving on a panel. The Council is invited to attend.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez invited the Council to catch an impressive exhibit by Yayoi Kusama at the Institute of Contemporary Art Miami.
- Mr. Bierman invited Council to view the Teresita Fernandez exhibition at PAMM. Fernandez is a world renown artist from Miami, and this is a great moment for the museum and the South Florida art community. GableStage has a gala, intimate event and silent auction to support their move to Coconut Grove and programming on December 7, 2019, at the University of Miami.
- Mr. Trieger commented New World Symphony kicked off its season with the Wallcast Oct 12 and will be at the Adrienne Arsht Center on October 26. Mr. Trieger will participate in a show at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium with Bridget Baker's contemporary dance company.
- Mr. May reported that Area Stage celebrated its 30th anniversary with a fundraiser and silent auction. It's production of *Matilda* sold out for four weekends in a row.
- Ms. Jana Sigars-Malina invited the Council to attend Fairchild's popular light event *Night Garden*. The show opens November 15, 2019.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Liliana Hernandez-Constenla