

**MINUTES OF THE  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL  
September 18, 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><b><u>Members Present</u></b>  Xavier Cortada, Chair  Alejandro Aguirre  Mitchell Bierman  Sandra Curbelo  Susana Ibargüen  Cheryl Rees  Rosa Sugrañes  Monty Trainer</p>	<p><b><u>Members Not Present</u></b>  Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez  Denise Gerson  Adolfo Henriques  Brian May  Janá Sigars-Malina, Vice Chair  Phyllis Simpkins  Justin Trieger</p> <p><b><u>Others Present:</u></b>  John Copeland</p>
<p><b><u>Staff</u></b>  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><b><u>Staff (continued)</u></b>  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 12:21 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.

Mr. Copeland presented the new *Arts and Culture Insider* publication, co-produced by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau. It is a new publication published quarterly and is designed to encourage the 16.5 million visitors and guests to Miami-Dade County to participate in an arts and culture experience during their visit.

## **ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

### **Requests for Excused Absences for September 19, 2019**

Requests for excused absences for Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Denise Gerson, Adolfo Henriques, Brian May, Janá Sigars-Malina and Justin Trieger were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Mr. Bierman)

### **Approval of July 17, 2019 Minutes**

The minutes of the July 17, 2019 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

### **FY 2019-2020 Major Cultural Institutions (MCI) Grants Program Panel Recommendations**

Ms. Kelly Allocco reported that the FY 2019-2020 Major Cultural Institutions Program Panel, chaired by Council Chairman Xavier Cortada, convened on Monday, August 5, 2019 to review thirteen grant applications. The Panel recommended funding all thirteen organizations. The FY 2019-2020 award recommendations for the Major Cultural Institutions Grants Program will be computed using the established funding formula for this program. Final grant awards are contingent upon the availability of funds in the Department's FY 2019-2020 budget, which is subject to the County's budget process.

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

Alejandro Aguirre – Florida Grand Opera, Inc.

Mitchell Bierman – Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of the Jewish Museum of Florida; Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum; Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of The Wolfsonian; Gablestage, Inc.

Xavier Cortada – Florida International University Board of Trustees for the benefit of Jewish Museum of Florida; Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum; Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of The Wolfsonian; University of Miami, Lowe Art Museum

Cheryl Rees - Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of the Jewish Museum of Florida; Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum; Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of The Wolfsonian

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

Actors' Playhouse Productions, Inc.

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

Friends of the Bass Museum, Inc., for the Bass Museum of Art

Miami City Ballet, Inc.

New World Symphony, Inc.

South Florida Art Center, Inc. d/b/a Oolite Arts

The M Ensemble Company, Inc.

The Miami Symphony Orchestra/Orquesta Sinfónica de Miami, Inc.

The Panel's recommendations to fund the following organizations for which there were the above-mentioned Councilor conflicts of interest and abstentions were voted on and passed unanimously (Motion by Ms. Cheryl Rees; seconded by Ms. Sandra Curbelo):

Florida Grand Opera, Inc.

Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of Jewish Museum of Florida

Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of –The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum

Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of The Wolfsonian

University of Miami, Lowe Art Museum

Gablestage, Inc. / Coconut Grove Playhouse

### **FY 2019-2020 Grants Programs Panel Recommendations**

Ms. Gilda Mooney presented the aggregate of all grants programs panel recommendations that will be adopted as part of the budget process. Due to the additional \$2.5 million increase to the Departmental grants budget, in general the program allocations increased by 15-20%. The additional funding also allows the Department to launch the Arts Resilient 305 initiative which will provide grant awards to individual artists and cultural organizations to increase and generate public awareness about the issues of climate change and sea level rise. The Department's grant recommendations and investments build capacity across the cultural sector in a strategic way. The final Miami-Dade County budget hearing will take place Thursday, September 19, 2019 where the final grant allocation numbers will be approved by County Commission.

A motion was made to approve the Grants Program Panel Recommendations. (Motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Mr. Monty Trainer)

### **FY 2019-2020 Community Grants (CG) Program Panel Recommendations – First Quarter**

Mr. Graham Winick reported the FY 2019-2020 Community Grants program panel chaired by Janá Sigars-Malina, convened on August 29, 2019 to review 29 applications requesting \$222,500.00 for the First Quarter of the program. The Panel recommended funding 29 applicants for a total of \$185,000.00. The program is designed to be responsive on a quarterly basis to non-profit organizations developing small to medium scale community-based cultural programs, projects and events, such as fairs, parades, neighborhood festivals, conferences and publications. The program is particularly appropriate for projects which encourage the preservation of heritage and cultural traditions, and social service organizations and cultural groups developing collaborative intervention projects.

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

Mitchell Bierman – The Miami Foundation, Inc. a/f/a Kunya Rowley

Xavier Cortada – Arts Connection Foundation, Inc.

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

Alyans Atizay Ayisyen, Inc. d/b/a Haitian Cultural Arts Alliance, Inc.	\$7,079
Angel Fraser-Logan Dance Company	\$4,719

Center Street Projects, Inc.	\$7,079
Community Performing Arts Association, Inc.	\$7,079
Cuatrogatos Foundation, Inc	\$7,079
Florida Dance Education Organization, Inc.	\$7,079
Funcionarte Corp.	\$7,079
Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, Inc.	\$7,079
Italian Film Festival, Inc.	\$7,079
Lemon City Cemetery Community Corporation	\$4,719
Magic Slippers Fine Arts Academy, Inc.	\$4,719
Merrick Festival, Incorporated	\$9,439
Miami Beach Arts Trust, Inc.	\$4,719
Miami Dance Futures, Inc.	\$7,079
Miami Light Project, Inc. a/f/a Literati Grove	\$7,079
Miami Light Project, Inc. a/f/a Liony Garcia	\$7,079
MUCE Educates	\$9,439
Music in Miami, Inc.	\$7,079
Opa-locka Community Development Corporation, Inc.	\$2,364
Polish Film Festival Miami	\$7,079
Prizm Projects, Inc.	\$4,719
Richmond Heights Community Association, Inc.	\$7,079
Siudy Flamenco Dance Theater, Inc.	\$5,663
The German School of South Florida, Inc.	\$7,079
TL Tango Lovers Organization, Inc. d/b/a Global Arts Organization	\$4,719
Urban Oasis Project, Inc.	\$7,079
Zunzun Arts & Education, Inc.	\$4,719

The Panel's recommendations to fund the organizations for which there were the above-mentioned Councilor conflicts of interest and abstentions were voted on and passed unanimously.

The Miami Foundation, Inc. a/f/a Kunya Rowley (Motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)	\$7,079
Arts Connection Foundation, Inc. (Motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Mr. Bierman)	\$4,719

### **FY 2019-2020 Grants Programs Guidelines**

The Professional Development (ADP) Program Guidelines have no substantive changes for FY2019-2020. The Summer Arts and Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grant Program Guidelines reflect a change of maximum grant request of \$40,000 for FY 2019-2020. The guidelines were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

## **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Update on the FY 2019-2020 County Arts Budget**

Ms. Marialaura Leslie reported that the Mayor Gimenez's budget recommendations include an additional \$2.5 million for the Departmental grants budget. The budget recommendations must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners through the budget process. The final budget meeting will be held Thursday, September 19, 2019 when the Miami-Dade County Commission will review the Mayor's recommendations and adopt the FY 2019-2020 County Budget.

### **Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program**

Ms. Christina Tassy-Beauvoir reported that Culture Shock Miami exceeded its goal for the 2018-19 fiscal year and to date, sold 481 tickets for the month of September. Ms. Tassy-Beauvoir reported that the 2019-2020 season of Culture Shock Presents went on sale August 27, 2019, and features spoken-word artist Shane Koyczan, illusionist Jason Bishop, "Turning 15 On the Road to Freedom," enra, "The Real James Bond Was Dominican" and the Hipler Ballerinas. Ms. Tassy-Beauvoir reported that the program is working with over 200 cultural partners and community partners to increase outreach and participated in the Adrienne Arsht Center's ArtsLaunch 2019 and Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson's *Back to School Fun Day/ Health and Info Fair*. The Culture Shock Student Council is participating in the outreach efforts.

### **Department Facilities Updates**

#### **African Heritage Cultural Arts Center**

Mr. Teddy Harrel reported the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center had a successful 2019 Summer Arts Conservatory with 249 registered students between the ages of 5-17. Summer programming included *Party Life* fashion show at the Sandrell Rivers Theater, *Vision Art & Journey* art exhibition held at the Bakehouse Art Complex in Wynwood, *Lights! Camera! Action!* dramatic arts and music show, and the *Illumination Through the Arts* dance and music recital. The African Heritage Youth Theatre had a very successful presentation of "Day of Absence" which was a sold out show at the Sandrell Rivers Theatre. The Center's Director, Marshall Davis was recognized as the Miami Herald's *Season of the Arts'* "Miami Children's Initiative Hero for the Performing Arts of Liberty City."

#### **Westchester Cultural Arts Center**

Ms. Leslie reported the project went out for construction bids and is currently under the Miami-Dade County Cone of Silence. She 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.

#### **Coconut Grove Playhouse**

Ms. Leslie reported that Mayor Gimenez issued a comprehensive update report to the Board of County Commissioners on the Coconut Grove Playhouse. The report was provided in the packet and covers completion of the construction documents for restoration of the historic front building and the new state-of-the-art 300 seat theater, status of the multi-step municipal review process, facts and accomplishments. Miami-Dade County 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. The Court has given the City of Miami

until the end of September to file its response to the County's appeal. The appeal document is posted on the Department of Cultural Affairs website.

Mr. Mitchell Bierman left the meeting at 1:05 p.m.  
Director Michael Spring joined the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

### **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, 25 projects in the planning phase, 75 commissions in production and 3 temporary commissions in process. An artist call was issued through a public-private partnership for the Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. Campus redevelopment, which includes integrated artworks for the new 10-story headquarter building at PortMiami. Other opportunities for public art include the outdoor central green area, as well as the renovation of the atriums and lobbies. The APP Professional Advisory Committee has chosen the following artist shortlist for the Bombardier Miami Opa-Locka Executive Airport project: Philip Smith, Adili Donald Odita, Troy Simmons, Shinique Smith, Jedediah Caesar, Liam Gillick, Sergio Vega and Adler Guerrier, Emmett Moore, Angela Vallela and alternates Emmett Moore, Angela Vallela and Felicia Carlisle. Ms. Sanfilippo reported on the recommended artists for Art Along The Underline. Felice Grodin was recommended for Link @ Douglas portion of The Underline. Cara Despain was recommended for the Oolite Room at the Brickell Backyard.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

- Mr. Spring announced Department of Cultural Affairs issued thank you letters to the Florida Governor, Florida Secretary of State and Dade Delegation on the Council's behalf. Copies of the letters are in the package.

### **COUNCILOR REPORTS**

- Ms. Sagrañes requested that her time be used by Chairman Cortada to provide an update on his latest project regarding sea level rise.
- Chairman Cortada reported on his latest project, Plan(T) a public campaign urging residents of Miami-Dade County to plant a saltwater-tolerant mangrove seedling in their back yard to prepare for the future and sea level rise.
- Mr. Trainer commented that Tarell Alvin McCraney and Robert Battle, former students from the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center and New World School of the Arts, are big supporters of both organizations and visit often. Miami Watercolor Society will hold an exhibition at the Coconut Grove Festival Art Gallery.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Liliana Hernandez-Constenla