

**MINUTES OF THE  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL  
September 16, 2020**

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

<p><b><u>Members Present</u></b>  Xavier Cortada, Chairman  Alejandro Aguirre  Mitchell Bierman  Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Second Vice Chair  Sandra Curbelo  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>  Denise Gerson</p> <p><b><u>Others Present</u></b></p>
<p><b><u>Staff</u></b>  Michael Spring, Director  Marialaura Leslie, Deputy Director  Carolina Alfonso  Kelly Allocco  Francine Andersen  Patricia Arbelaez  Roxana Barba  Stefania Barigelli  Sue Camp  Dorianmy Cardenas  Tania Centeno  Kimberly Chuck  Lisa D'Andrea Thompson  Marshall Davis  Marie Denis  Ivette Dominguez  Olga Gonzalez  Teddy Harrell</p>	<p><b><u>Staff (continued)</u></b>  Liliana Hernandez-Constenla  Regla Lee  Amanda Sanfilippo Long  Gilda Mooney  Alex Peraza  Adriana Perez  Dana Pezoldt  Katherine Revell  Christina Tassy-Beauvoir  Pamela Valles  Graham Winick</p>

Chairman Xavier Cortada called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. He thanked the Councilors for coming together for the Cultural Affairs Council virtual meeting. He recapped the results of the primary election and discussed the impact on the Miami-Dade County Commission and Cultural Affairs Council.

## ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

### Requests for Excused Absences for September 16, 2020

A request for an excused absence was submitted by Denise Gerson and approved. (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded Mr. Trainer)

### Approval of August 19, 2020 Minutes

The minutes of the August 19, 2020 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

### FY 2020-2021 Summer Arts and Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grants Program Guidelines

Mr. Spring reported the Summer Arts and Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grants Program Guidelines do not have substantive changes. The guidelines provide the Department of Cultural Affairs the flexibility to authorize that programs presented by cultural organizations can occur in a virtual format. The guidelines were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. May; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

### FY 2020-2021 Community Grants (CG) Program Panel Recommendations – First Quarter

Mr. Graham Winick reported that the FY 2020-2021 Community Grants program panel chaired by Councilor Janá Sigars-Malina with Councilor Sandra Curbelo serving as vice chair, convened on August 27, 2020 to review 23 applications requesting \$174,500 for the First Quarter of the program. The Panel recommended funding 23 applicants for a total of \$145,000 The Community Grants Program is responsive on a quarterly basis to organizations, which develop small and large-scale community-based programs, projects, events, and publications. Kimberly Chuck assisted during the panel meeting.

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

Alejandro Aguirre - Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden *a/f/a* Lauren Shapiro

Mitchell Bierman - Village of Pinecrest

Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez - Alyans Atizay Ayisyen dba Haitian Cultural Arts Alliance *a/f/a* Art in the Sky

Xavier Cortada - Village of Pinecrest

Janá Sigars-Malina - Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden *a/f/a* Lauren Shapiro

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. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Mr. May)

Arts Connection Foundation, Inc.	\$6,872
Community Performing Arts Association, Inc.	\$9,163

Creative God, Inc.	\$3,436
Cuatrogatos Foundation, Inc.	\$6,872
Doral Contemporary Art Museum Inc.	\$6,872
Florida Dance Education Organization, Inc.	\$6,872
Interart Media Foundation Inc.	\$6,872
Italian Film Festival, Inc.	\$3,436
Kendall Art Cultural Center, Inc.	\$6,872
Key Biscayne Community Foundation, Inc. a/f/a Free Plastic, Inc.	\$6,872
Magic Slippers Fine Arts Academy, Inc.	\$3,436
Merrick Festival, Incorporated	\$9,163
Miami Beach Arts Trust, Inc.	\$3,665
Prizm Projects, Inc.	\$6,872
Richmond Heights Community Association, Inc.	\$6,872
Sybarite Productions Inc.	\$6,872
The East-West Foundation	\$6,872
The German School of South Florida, Inc.	\$6,872
TL Tango Lovers Organization Inc.	\$6,872
Zunzun Arts & Education Inc.	\$6,872

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:

Alyans Atizay Ayisyen, Inc. a/f/a Art in the Sky (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)	\$2,749
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden a/f/a Lauren Shapiro (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)	\$6,872
Village of Pinecrest (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)	\$6,872

### **FY 2020-2021 Youth Arts Enrichment (YEP) Grants Program**

Ms. Dana Pezoldt reported that the FY 2020-2021 Youth Arts Enrichment Program (YEP) Grants Panel, chaired by Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez convened on August 27, 2020, to review 36 applications requesting a total of \$752,140. The Panel recommended funding 28 applications for a total of \$550,000. Eight applications scored below the threshold established by the Panel and were not recommended for funding. The YEP grant was created as a joint initiative of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and The Children's Trust. The objective of the YEP Grants Program is to enrich the lives of children through the arts by making the arts available to more children and families.

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

Mitchell Bierman – GableStage, Inc., Jorge M. Pérez Art Museum of Miami-Dade County, Inc., Museum of Contemporary Art, Inc.

Xavier Cortada - Jorge M. Pérez Art Museum of Miami-Dade County, Inc.,  
 Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez - Jorge M. Pérez Art Museum of Miami-Dade County, Inc.,  
 Sandra Curbelo – The Dance Now! Ensemble  
 Adolfo Henriques - GableStage, Inc., The Miami Children’s Museum  
 Rosa Sugrañes - Jorge M. Pérez Art Museum of Miami-Dade County, Inc.,  
 Monty Trainer - Museum of Contemporary Art, Inc.  
 Justin Trieger – New World Symphony

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. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

After School Film Institute, Inc.	\$16,552
Amplifyme, Inc.	\$9,263
Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, Inc. R	\$25,915
ArtSouth, A Not-For-Profit Corporation	\$30,000
Brazilian Voices Inc.	\$19,040
City Theatre, Inc.	\$10,000
Coral Gables Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), Inc.	\$30,000
El Ingenio Inc.	\$16,830
Friendship Circle of Miami, Inc.	\$18,880
Karen Peterson and Dancers, Inc.	\$10,000
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, Inc.	\$10,000
Mexican American Council, Inc.	\$25,413
Miami City Ballet, Inc.	\$30,000
Miami New Drama, Inc.	\$24,883
Saint Martha Concerts and Cultural Affairs, Inc.	\$8,593
Seraphic Fire, Inc.	\$25,468
South Florida Art Center, Inc. d/b/a Oolite Arts	\$24,967
The Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center, Inc.	\$10,000
The Deering Estate Foundation, Inc.	\$25,496
The Murray Dranoff Foundation, Inc.	\$10,000
The Opera Atelier, Inc.	\$24,967
University of Wynwood, Inc.	\$30,000

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:

GableStage, Inc.	\$10,000
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(Motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Mr. May)

Jorge M. Pérez Art Museum of Miami-Dade County, Inc. \$19,761  
(Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

Museum of Contemporary Art, Inc. \$30,000  
(Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

New World Symphony, Inc. \$10,000  
(Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

The Dance NOW! Ensemble, Inc. \$25,552  
(Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

The Miami Children's Museum, Inc. \$18,420  
(Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

### **FY 2020-2021 Grants Programs Panel Recommendations**

Mr. Spring presented the aggregate of all grants programs panel recommendations that will be adopted as part of the budget process. Mayor Gimenez has recommended full renewal of the Department's grants budget for the FY2020-2021 fiscal year, enabling the Department to maintain the same level of grant funding to cultural organizations. The final Miami-Dade County budget hearing will take place Thursday, September 17, 2020 where the final grant allocation numbers will be approved by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners. A motion was made to approve the Grants Program Panel Recommendations. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

### **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

Mr. Spring reported that Mayor Gimenez is loosening restrictions under the New Normal Guidelines to include re-opening movie theaters and auditoria. Facilities must submit re-opening plans to Miami-Dade County for pre-approval and show evidence that they comply with New Normal requirements. The Arsht Center's re-opening plan was approved, and they are now cleared and ready to host a Presidential debate in October. Art Basel Miami Beach and satellite art fairs are cancelled. Museums and public gardens that have been open remain open, and slowly facilities are continuing to open including The Bass Museum and Institute of Contemporary Art. The Department continues to gather important financial data monthly with the COVID-19 Survey of the Impact on Miami-Dade County's Cultural Community. The plan is to collect data through the end of the fiscal year, September 2020. The Department has documented a financial impact of almost \$99.5 million with over 16,000 jobs affected to date. A cover article in the Miami Herald's Business Monday relied on survey data. Department staff is reviewing applications for the Miami-Dade Arts Support Program which was established by the Miami-Dade County Commission allocating \$10 million in CARES Act funds for the arts. The COVID-19 relief program legislation was written by Miami-Dade County Commissioner Eileen Higgins, District 5, and was championed by Miami-Dade County Commissioner Dennis Moss, District 9. The item had nine co-sponsors and was approved unanimously by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners.

There was a discussion regarding the new Miami-Dade Arts Support program's allocation of funds to cultural organizations in Category A, Category B as well as the Miami-Dade Artists Support! (MAS!) Grants Program for individual artists. There was a concern expressed regarding the allocation of CARES Act funds among these three programs, with questions specifically about whether there are sufficient funds to address the needs of organizations applying to Category B and the artists program. Mr. Spring reported that the large and small organizations that receive annual operating support from the County, comprise Category A and organizations that do not receive general operating support were eligible to apply to a special pool of funds as a Category B applicant. The program is also funding a second round of MAS! grant support for individual artists. The first round of the Miami-Dade Artist Support! Program was established in partnership with the Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation and helped 540 artists. Unlike the Department's program, the CARES relief programs established by the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs did not provide an open application process as an option for organizations who did not receive prior grants. At the request of Chairman Cortada, a Cultural Affairs Council special meeting is being scheduled so that Department staff may provide a detailed report on the status of the Miami-Dade Arts Support (MAS) Grant Program. Mr. Spring added that The Miami Foundation, in partnership with the Miami-Dade County Department of Public Housing and Community Development, is managing a COVID-19 relief program for smaller non-profit organizations, modeled after the Department's MAS program. Arts groups that meet the eligibility criteria also can apply to the Foundation's program.

Mr. Bierman left the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

### **County Arts Budget Update**

Mr. Spring reported that Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez has recommended the renewal of full funding of the Department's grants budget for FY 2020-2021. The Mayor has also recommended the renewal of the Department's operational funding and has issued a hiring freeze across the board. The Miami-Dade County Commission holds two public hearings as part of the budget approval process. The final hearing will be held on Thursday, September 17th to approve the Departmental and over all County budget.

### **Department Facilities Updates**

#### **Status Report**

Mr. Spring reported that construction activity at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center is moving at a brisk pace. The Center has shifted to free virtual programming to include summer and after school programs. The Miami-Dade County Auditorium and the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center are both being considered to host the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners meetings starting in October. Florida "Sunshine" meetings are currently able to be held virtually courtesy of an executive order issued by Governor DeSantis. The order expires at the end of September and if it is not renewed it will impact Commission meetings as well as meetings of the Cultural Affairs Council. Now that the curfew has been pushed back to 11 p.m., the Auditorium is planning on hosting the first live Drive-Through Theater session. The public will be able to enjoy a performance, socially distanced, from the comfort of their cars. The South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center continues to work with Arquitectonica to develop plans for its future café. The virtual program, SMDCAC Sessions, continues to feature performers Thursday evenings via Facebook Live. SMDCAC has announced its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary season and has tickets on sale.

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

Mr. Spring reported that the construction is moving forward on the Center which was designed by Zyscovich and will be located at the Bird Road entrance to Tropical Park. The building is out of the ground 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. The Center is expected to be finished in 2021.

### **Coconut Grove Playhouse**

Mr. Spring reported that Miami-Dade County filed an appeal to the Third District Court of Appeal. The County's request to expedite was denied. The City of Miami's request for an extension for additional time to respond was also denied. The appeal refutes the opinion issued by the lower court which ruled it did not have jurisdiction over the City of Miami Mayor's veto of the County's application for a final Certificate of Appropriateness for the Coconut Grove Playhouse. The latest appeal, if successful, will mean that the lower court will be instructed to review the County's case on its merits.

### **Art in Public Places Update**

Ms. Amanda Sanfilippo Long provided updates on Art in Public Places (APP) projects. She reported on integrated artist commissions in progress and presented projects by Felice Grodin, chosen for the Douglas Road Metro Rail – Link @ Douglas, Kelley Johnson for the FedEx Facility at Miami International Airport and Troy Simmons, chosen for Bombardier at Miami-Opa Locka Executive Airport. Ms. Sanfilippo reported on the inaugural artist acquisitions program in partnership with the South Florida Cultural Consortium, which includes artwork by Monica Lopez de Victoria, Itzel Basualdo, Franky Cruz, Nicolas Lobo, Antonia Wright, Geovanna Gonzalez and film by Kareem Tabasch.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

- Mr. Spring announced that the State of Florida's Division of Cultural Affairs conducted its grant review of public arts agencies and the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs was ranked as the top one in the state.

### **COUNCILOR REPORTS**

- Mr. May congratulated Director Spring and staff for a job well done with the 2020-2021 budget.
- Mr. Trainer reported that across the years participating in grant panels has always been rewarding. He thanked the staff for their work. Coconut Grove is being very innovative creating walk-able areas for restaurants' outdoor dining.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina was happy to work with Graham Winick and staff for the Community Grants program. She reported Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is open from 10 am to 4 pm. The garden has "dog-friendly" dates in September.
- Mr. Aguirre reported he was elected to the board of South Arts. He thanked the staff and the Council for all the work during the pandemic.
- Mr. Trieger reported the New World Symphony (NWS) will be launching "From Our Living Room" webcasts and those will be available on the website and Facebook. The programs are run by the NWS Fellows.
- Ms. Curbelo reported she was happy to participate in the Community Grants panel for the first time.
- Chairman Cortada reported that we will participate on the "Courageous Creatives" film screening and panel where a youth cohort worked on a film and program exploring youth, arts and activism. The Department's Culture Shock Miami program led this work as one of the program partners.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Liliana Hernandez-Constela*

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