Centrally Located in Westchester

The Westchester Cultural Arts Center will be located west of the main entrance to Tropical Park and facing Bird Road (S.W. 40th Street). Tropical Park is a regional park featuring facilities for a variety of sporting events such as track and field meets, professional soccer games, football, lacrosse, baseball, softball, tennis, basketball, racquetball, boxing and equestrian events. It offers ample opportunities for passive recreational activities in trails, paths, picnic areas and non-programmed open spaces, and also houses equestrian facilities and events. Located within Miami-Dade’s Commission District 10 represented by Senator Javier D. Souto, this regional park is often enjoyed by residents throughout Miami-Dade County.

A Distinctive Multidisciplinary Arts Center

The Westchester Cultural Arts Center will expand the park’s ability to serve the citizens of Miami-Dade County, especially those in the Westchester area, by creating a campus of buildings that will offer a variety of cultural, educational, and community activities.

The facility will provide cultural programming and instruction focusing on Hispanic arts and culture in the following main spaces:

- Studio Theater (200 seats) – a flexible space designed to accommodate a wide range of performing arts and community activities, along with a complement of front-of-house and back-of-house support spaces;
- Dance/Rehearsal Studio – dance classroom and support space for main studio theater;
- Lobby Space – serving also as an art gallery for rotating exhibitions;
- Classroom Spaces – various spaces to teach visual arts, fashion, music, etc. and also including a computer lab; and
- Office and Storage Spaces – accommodating staff, teachers, and storage of materials and equipment.

The project’s scope includes site features and infrastructure improvements (right-of-way improvements, lighted parking lots with pedestrian and vehicular circulation, etc.) necessary for the successful integration of the cultural center within the existing park. A main feature of the campus is the Cultural Plaza, an outdoor performance area that will open the buildings to the park and to Bird Road, allowing commuters to experience the activities at the Center.

Community Involvement

As developer of this project, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs continues to have a strong commitment to public involvement in the evolution of this project. To keep the community informed about the project progress, town meetings and public presentations are being scheduled in coordination with Senator Souto’s office and the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department. Online updates will be posted on the Department’s website - miamidadearts.org.

From Concept to Reality

The development of the Westchester Cultural Arts Center has been a long-time goal for Senator Javier D. Souto and residents of District 10. In 2004, Miami-Dade County voters approved the Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond program, which included funds for the project. On June 17, 2008, the Board of County Commissioners determined that Tropical Park was the most appropriate location for this project and found that the construction of a community arts center will benefit the community and add to the quality of life of the citizens of Miami-Dade County.