

Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council

CULTURAL FACT SHEET

1. **Funding for the Department's Grants and Programs.** The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs' support to cultural organizations through its grants and programs was reduced by approximately 15% for FY 2009-2010.
 - It is estimated that \$ 10.437 million in revenues are needed to maintain current levels of the Department's cultural grants and programs for FY 2010-2011.
 - The Cultural Affairs Council voted unanimously at its February 17, 2010 meeting to request funding support sufficient to maintain current grants and program levels for FY 2010-2011.
2. **Economic Impact of the Arts.** The arts have a significant economic impact in Miami-Dade County.
 - The arts generate almost \$1 billion in local economic impact annually.
 - The arts employ more than 22,000 cultural workers in Miami-Dade County – ranging from curators to accountants and artists to carpenters; more than 10,000 other workers provide goods and services in support of the arts.
 - Arts audiences additionally spend more than a half a billion dollars on activities related to events-going every year (parking, restaurants, shopping, etc.).
3. **Percentage of County Support in Arts Organizations.** County grants funding is a small but critical percentage of cultural organizations' budgets and plays a vital role in the viability of these organizations.
 - On the average, grants funding invested by the County in local, non-profit cultural activities is less than 8% of cultural organizations' total budgets (7.87%).
 - The County has a rigorous competitive review process for grant applications; for cultural groups, the attainment of County support is a "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval" and enables them to leverage \$27 of other funds for every County dollar granted.
 - County support of the arts sends out a signal to other funders and to subscribers that the arts are a community priority that are safe and worthy of their investment.
4. **Matching Money for the Arts.** Arts organizations receive considerable amounts of matching funds from private and other sources; there are no other sources available today to help support arts organizations.
 - Approximately 50% of arts organizations' budgets comes from private sector donations and the balance is earned from ticket sales, subscriptions and memberships; for example, private and earned revenue for our community's major cultural institutions is almost \$100 million per year.
 - Donations by individuals and companies are "down" given the effect of the economic recession on their earnings.
 - State funding for the arts this year is approximately \$2.5 million for all of Florida – a reduction of 60% from FY 2008-09 levels (\$6.3 million) and a cut of 93% from FY 2006-2007 (\$34.4 million); making matters worse, these reductions impact Miami-Dade arts groups significantly, since they compete successfully for 20% to 25% of the entire state grants budget each year.

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CULTURAL FACT SHEET

5. **Miami vs. Other Cities in Arts Support.** How do we compare to other major American cities for investment in the arts?

- Miami-Dade has one of the youngest arts communities in the nation; most of our cultural groups are under 25 years old.
- Ten years ago, we were towards the bottom of the list of cities' investments in the arts.
- The County increased its support of cultural activities as it decided to make major investments in improving neighborhood cultural facilities and building new downtown arts venues, like the Arsht Center and the soon-to-come major new art and science museums in Bicentennial Park.
- Finally, we are catching up to some of the leading American cities in regard to the investments being made by our Department of Cultural Affairs; here are some comparable numbers on per capita investments in the arts by cultural affairs departments:

Charlotte	\$27.64
New York	\$18.52
Dallas	\$14.17
Cleveland	\$14.15
San Francisco	\$13.94
Seattle	\$13.18
Miami-Dade	\$10.92
Louisville	\$10.73

Source: Americans for the Arts 2009

6. **Cultural Efficiencies.** Cultural organizations already have taken actions to become more efficient.

- *Just Plain Budget Cutting.* Miami City Ballet has laid off 10 dancers and has reduced its budget this year by 25% or \$4 million. Other cultural organizations have reduced their budgets by presenting shorter seasons, leaving exhibitions on view for longer periods of time, and eliminating staff.
- *Mergers.* Although the Concert Association went out of business, its presentation of the world's great orchestras and dance companies has been assumed by the Adrienne Arsht Center.
- *Doing Business Differently.* Seraphic Fire, our community's superb chamber chorus, has designed a way to allow season subscribers to pay for their subscriptions in "twelve easy payments" on a monthly basis.
- *Collaborations.* More than ever, cultural groups are working closely together to share resources and save money. For example, many organizations, like the Tigertail Productions, Rhythm Foundation, Miami Contemporary Dance Company, and FundArte are sending e-mail and Facebook messages to their contact lists recommending that their audience members try out another organization's show. Even more ambitious collaborations are now in the works – like groups' sharing accountants, pooling their printing needs to get better deals and consolidating several organizations into one building.

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7. **Leveraging Other Funds.** The Department's grants budget is used as a "match" to secure more revenues for the cultural community.
- *Reaching More Children and Families.* Sustained County funding support for the Department's grants programs is a prerequisite for the annual grant of \$1.152 million from The Children's Trust that provides arts experiences to approximately 200,000 children each year.
 - *Saving Jobs.* The Department's national reputation for innovative and effective programs and the County's strong leadership in supporting the arts were key factors this year in the Department's securing the largest federal stimulus package grant to the arts made in the U.S. - \$250,000 - which restored 22 arts jobs.
 - *Major Private Funding.* The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation is implementing a 5-year, \$40 million Knight Arts Challenge initiative, focused on the Miami-Dade arts community explicitly to complement the County's commitment to support the arts - and the Department has secured a grant in each of the first two years of this important and highly competitive initiative.

8. Five Things You Can Do Now to Help.

- *First - and Most Importantly.* Write, call or visit your County Commissioner and the Mayor now. Thank them for their support, use some of the facts above and let them know what the arts mean to your family, your business or organization and your neighborhood. Go to www.miamidade.gov for contact information.
- *Second.* Join the Arts Action Alliance and the Florida Cultural Alliance. You will receive alerts on important cultural issues.

Arts Action Alliance: go to <http://artsactionalliance.wordpress.com> and click on "Subscribe to Arts Action Alliance by Email."

Florida Cultural Alliance: go to www.flca.net and click on the "Please JOIN!" tab for the online organizational, individual and business membership forms.

- *Third.* Write a letter to the editor. Make it personal - tell a story about why the arts are important to you.
- *Fourth.* Support the arts. Buy a ticket, make a contribution, join an arts board.
- *Fifth.* Use the information in this Fact Sheet to spread the word to your friends, family and co-workers about the tangible benefits of support for the arts. Urge them to do all of the above!