

Memorandum



Date: September 16, 2015

To: Members, Cultural Affairs Council

From: Michael Spring, Director 

Subject: Facilities Updates: African Heritage Cultural Arts Center
Joseph Caleb Auditorium
Miami-Dade County Auditorium
South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

As a result of Mayor Gimenez' re-organization of County government and beginning in 2012, the Department of Cultural Affairs has been responsible for managing the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, Joseph Caleb Auditorium, and Miami-Dade County Auditorium. The Department managed the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center through design and construction and has programmed and operated the Center since its opening in 2011.

The management and operation of these cultural facilities supports the overall mission of the Department, specifically to:

- 1) Strengthen and advance the work of our local non-profit cultural organizations and artists; and
- 2) Increase audience participation in the arts.

Assessment of the Facilities Capital Needs

Since taking on the responsibility of managing the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, Joseph Caleb Auditorium, and Miami-Dade County Auditorium, the Department has focused on assessing the capital needs of each facility and launching new mission-driven programming initiatives. These three facilities need significant work to repair and/or replace basic functional building systems, upgrade theater and sound and communications equipment, and modernize its architecture, including building signage, facades and audience and performer accommodations. To this end, the Department worked with the Internal Services Department to implement a competitive process to select a team of architects, engineers (A/E) and specialty consultants to conduct a comprehensive assessment of these items and to prioritize and cost the recommendations to improve each facility. While this work is expected to take some time to accomplish, modest upgrades and routine maintenance are being performed with the goal of improving the staff, user, and patron experience.

The competitive selection process concluded in the hiring of Rodriguez and Quiroga Architects Chartered, who have now completed their findings for the first phase of the work including the assessment of each facility and an order of magnitude cost estimate for the improvements. The Department has provided comments and has prioritized the list of work. Life safety issues and major building systems such as HVAC, roofing, and electrical systems are being prioritized. The scope of work is being further refined to align with current facility needs, budget limitations, and potential grant opportunities. The team continues to work on the schematic design documents, which should be completed by the end of September.

It should be noted that each facility has Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond (BBC-GOB) funds available to begin this work, but costs for the planned improvements exceed the BBC-GOB funds currently allocated. Improvements will be phased while additional funding is sought. The Department has been awarded a \$500,000 grant for the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center for the FY 15-16 grant cycle of the State Cultural Facilities Grant Program, and has submitted an application for Miami-Dade County Auditorium for the FY 16-17 grant cycle.

- African Heritage Cultural Arts Center: \$1.0 million + \$500,000 State Cultural Facilities Grant
- Joseph Caleb Auditorium: \$1.4 million (balance remaining)
- Miami-Dade County Auditorium: \$4.0 million

African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center (AHCAC) complex includes a black box theater, a music building with a concert hall, piano lab and several practice rooms, a dance studio that is accessible to individuals with disabilities, an art gallery, several studio spaces, a print shop and classrooms. It has a distinguished history of providing instruction in the arts in all artistic disciplines to youth through after school, school break academies and summer school programs. Its work continues to develop the next generation of artists and arts supporters. In addition, the Center serves as an incubator for supporting and developing the work of African-American arts groups and artists through its black-box theater, rehearsal spaces and art gallery. The Center also serves as a welcoming place to the surrounding community, hosting evening classes and civic meetings.

The following is a summary of activity at the AHCAC:

	FY 2014-2015 to-date	August
Total number of students registered:	597	67
Number of arts production rentals:	85	12
Number of community rentals:	275	25
Number of arts groups using the Center:	195	10
Number of civic meetings:	221	15
Number of tours and outreach:	47	5

Program highlights for July included:

- The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center’s Summer Arts Conservatory has celebrated 32 years of providing quality performing, visual and literary arts instruction predominately for the African American communities of South Florida. The program is designed to give students a foundation in the arts while aligning with their skill level by providing classes at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. The curriculum includes arts instruction in a variety of forms, from classical to contemporary to ethnic. The ten-week program is divided into two modes, providing theory of the various artistic disciplines during the first four weeks and practical experiences during the following four weeks. The final weeks of the Conservatory are dedicated to rehearsals and showcasing of the students’ talents.
- Several events were held to showcase the students’ new and enhanced skills:
 - *Glamour Walk* – a fashion show demonstrating the participants’ skills in runway modeling, fashion, and etiquette was held on July 31st in the Wendell A. Narcisse Theater;
 - *Summer Arts Fest* - open to the parents and community to witness the transformation of the artistic lives of the students, the all-day event included a visual arts exhibition, a band, percussion, and piano concert, along with a choral concert, dramatic scenes, and a literary display of the students’ published writings. The festival was held on August 8 throughout the Center and was widely attended; and
 - *“Phoenix of the Arts: Still We Rise”* - final production showcasing the students’ dance and musical theatre performances was held at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium on August 11. The event was hosted by AHCAC alumni and stand-up comedian Dhello aka “Marcellus” Davis. The final production featured students from the dance and musical theatre classes. Their exceptional performances were inspiring and enthusiastically

received by all in attendance. Steve Cruz, a former dance instructor at the Center who is now paralyzed, choreographed a special dance routine aligning with the “Black Lives Matter” movement. The performance was graciously acknowledged with a standing ovation.

Sankofa: Celebrating 40 Years of Service

The Center has been successfully celebrating 40 years of service with the following events from the Sankofa series:

- The Sankofa experiences continue with the presentation of the play “Hustle,” written and directed by Keith Wade, which is scheduled for September 11, 12, and 13, 2015. Auditions were held in June to select the cast for the play, and rehearsals started in July.
- The gallery will showcase pictures from the play’s scenes.

Other News

- Through the Art in Public Places program, the following artists have been shortlisted to provide site-specific proposals for the design of the Center’s marquee:
 1. William Cordova
 2. Theaster Gates
 3. Adler Guerrier
 4. Tobias Putrih
 5. Gary Simmons
 6. Typoe (Michael Gran)
- Ken Knight, one of the Center’s strongest champions and a frequent volunteer, passed away on August 15th. He will be dearly missed.

Maintenance Issues

- HVAC units in the theater often need to be repaired and leaks from the roof-mounted HVAC units continue to re-appear during rainy days. Upgrades to the roofing and HVAC systems throughout the Center are being prioritized in the scope of work currently under design. Temporary repairs are being performed as needed until new systems are installed.

For more information on the Center’s events and offerings, please visit the Center’s website at www.ahcaci.org

Joseph Caleb Auditorium

The Joseph Caleb Auditorium is a 962-seat theater that has been the gathering place in the Liberty City community for the performing arts for more than 36 years. The Auditorium has featured concerts, community forums, movie screenings and productions by community arts organizations throughout the year. The parking lot serving the Auditorium and the adjoining Caleb Center office complex is closed for construction of a new parking garage. The public art funds generated by the parking garage project will be used to have an artist design a prominent and attractive “connection” between the new garage and the Auditorium.

With the loss of parking resulting from the ongoing construction of the parking garage for the Caleb Center, the Department has launched a plan that converts the Caleb Auditorium into a venue for school field trip performances. This has the benefits of: 1) providing more students with opportunities to experience the arts; 2) offering opportunities for local arts organizations to develop and present programs designed for children; and 3) introducing arts organizations and artists to the Caleb Auditorium so that when the parking situation is resolved, they can use the theater for evening performances. Ultimately, the goal for the Joseph Caleb

Auditorium is to continue the field trip program and also to program the theater proactively with prominent arts groups and artists to re-establish its reputation for artistic excellence, diversity and community outreach.

Awards

The Joseph Caleb Auditorium received the 2015 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for its program titled “Caleb Cultural Passport Program.” The award received was for Best of Category in Arts and Historic Preservation, which honors innovative programs that enhance services for the residents.

Attendance to-date at the Joseph Caleb Auditorium for FY 2014-15 is 36,288.

Recent events have included:

- Page Turner Adventures – The Great Pizza Contest (June 12, 2015)
- Page Turner Adventures – The Mixed Up Fairytale (July 1, 2015)
- Fantasy Factory Theatre – Gordon Gumshoe Fairytale Detective (July 14, 2015)
- Fantasy Factory Theatre – Fantasy Stew (July 28, 2015)

Miami-Dade County Auditorium

Miami-Dade County Auditorium (MDCA) offers three dynamic presentation styles:

1. A 2,372-seat theatre that can host major dance, theatre and music performances;
2. A “Mid-Stage” theatre which can accommodate up to 450 patrons is well-suited for small concerts, dance and theatre presentations, giving mid-sized organizations an ideal setting to showcase their work; and
3. A 250-seat “On.Stage Black Box” theatre in which both the audience and performers share the stage of the Auditorium which is adapted into an innovative studio theatre for more intimate and often, cutting edge shows.

Since the theatre opened its doors in 1951, it has served as the center for showcasing the diversity of our cultural life and most recently, as a hub for celebrating the Hispanic arts community.

The Department has launched a program to establish co-presenting partnerships with non-profit cultural organizations that can present performances on the main stage, mid-stage and in the black box configuration and begin to establish an artistic reputation for the theatre which will encourage more use and presentations of higher artistic quality. Partner organizations include Fundarte, the Rhythm Foundation, Tigertail, the Performing Arts Series presented by Miami Dade College and Teatro Avante. This program also has the benefit of helping to develop Hispanic audiences for some of our community’s premiere cultural organizations. In addition, the Auditorium has restructured its staff and policies in order to attract more uses of the facility.

The following is a summary of activity at MDCA:

	FY 2014-2015 to-date	June-August
Number of Events:	156	46
Attendance:	101,655	30,015

Program highlights and rentals for June - August included:

- MDCA hosted the poster unveiling reception for the 30th International Hispanic Theatre Festival. This year’s featured country was Brazil and the Brazilian ambassador attended the celebration that included a performance by BrazzDance.
- The Cuban Classical Ballet presented the Don Quixote Suite.

- MDCA presented Grammy nominee Dr. Ed Calle in concert as part of MDCA's jazz series. Dr. Calle performed in the Mid-Stage Theatre accompanied by a 45 member symphonic band to a sold-out crowd.
- MDCA once again partnered with Teatro Avante to bring the International Hispanic Theatre Festival to the On.Stage Black Box Theatre. This year's offerings included: Los Mas Solos (El Salvador), Swallows (Venezuela), and Escriba Su Nombre Aqui (Spain).
- MDCA, in collaboration with Arca Images, presented *Belleza del Padre*, written and directed by Pulitzer Prize Winning author Nilo Cruz and featuring Francisco Gattorno and Ana Silveti. The production was a huge hit with both critics and audience alike. All performances were sold out and the run was extended to accommodate audience demand. The productions were presented in Spanish with simultaneous English translation.

MDCA continues to work with Matrix2 on the development of marketing campaigns for selected events.

Work on the website has been completed and the site is now live:

www.MiamiDadeCountyAuditorium.org

South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

The South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC) is a multidisciplinary arts center designed by Arquitectonica International, Inc. to showcase the performing arts. The Center's 961-seat state-of-the-art Theater Building includes a fly tower, orchestra pit, front of house spaces (box office, lobby, restrooms, concessions, etc.), back of house support spaces (dressing rooms, storage and work areas, administrative offices, etc.) and a multi-purpose rehearsal space. The separate Activities Building houses an informal performance space, and smaller multi-purpose spaces for lectures, classes, or community gatherings. The Center's two buildings are joined by an outdoor promenade leading to a gently-sloping lawn for outdoor concerts and festivals along the Black Creek Canal.

Through Miami-Dade County's Art in Public Places Program, the Center has major public art works created by Miami artist Robert Chambers. An innovative light piece illuminates the translucent inner lobby wall with changing light designs created by computer-programmed LED fixtures. In addition, the lobby features two marble sculptures also created by Robert Chambers.

The following is a summary of activity at SMDCAC:

	FY 2014-2015 to date	August 2015
SMDCAC Presents:	94	3
Number of rentals:	452	12
Attendance:	97,117	1,824 (as of August 30)

Events presented by the Center for the month of August included:

- Guitars Over Guns end of classes show (August 1)
- *Rigoletto*, presented by Miami Lyric Opera (August 15 & 16)

Rentals for the month of August included:

- Thomas Armour Youth Ballet Camp (Monday-Friday, through August 7)
- Pridelines Meeting (every Tuesday)
- Miami Dade County Juvenile Services Movie Night (August 5)
- Community Health of South Florida Luncheon (August 12)

- Miami-Dade County Library System Staff Retreat (August 14)
- Spicewood Community Meeting (August 26)

September highlights include:

- *Tsunami*, a docudrama directed by Nilo Cruz (September 12-October 3)
- Indie Flicks, An Evening of Short Films by Ian Samuels (September 18)
- SMDCAC Dance Classes:
 - Beginning Ballet
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00 PM; September 15-December 10; Ages 5 to 9 years.
 - Jazz/Contemporary Dance
Tuesdays at 5:00 PM and Saturdays at 1:30 PM; September 15-December 12; Ages 8 to 14 years
 - Intermediate Ballet
Thursdays at 5:00 PM and Saturdays at 12:30 PM; September 17-December 12; Ages 10 to 14 years

Tsunami, the docudrama, will be featured in *The Miami Herald* and *Miami New Times* with advance preview articles running on September 10. The Indie Flicks Series will be featured this month on WLRN Radio with an interview with Director Ian Samuels (running September 13). SMDCAC will also be featured in *The Miami Herald's* special section Season of the Arts (running September 13).

So far this season (the season that began October 1, 2014) the Center's volunteer program has saved the County \$119,715.

For a complete listing of upcoming shows and events, please visit the Center's website, www.smdcac.org.

Link to Guitars Over Guns at SMDCAC video

- <https://instagram.com/p/572AnaiUmS/?taken-by=smdcac>
- <https://instagram.com/p/5zX4-siUm3/?taken-by=smdcac>
- <https://instagram.com/p/5pG07ziUnC/?taken-by=smdcac>
- <https://instagram.com/p/5h4MTaCUve/?taken-by=smdcac>

Link to SMDCAC Season video

<http://smdcac.org/1516preview>

Attachments





Images from the Summer Arts Conservancy Program at the AHCAC



Page Turner Adventures' The Great Pizza Contest (June 12)



Cuban Classical Ballet performed the Don Quixote suite (June 21)



A sold out crowd awaits Dr. Ed Calle's performance on the Mid-Stage Theatre (June 28)



Grammy Nominee Dr. Ed Calle performing with a 45-member symphonic band (June 28)



Escriba Su Nombre Aqui, part of the 30 IHTF presented on the On.Stage Black Box (July 24-25)



Scene from *Belleza del Padre*, written and directed by Pulitzer Prize winner Nilo Cruz
(July 30—August 14)

South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center & University of Miami
in Collaboration with Arca Images
Present the World Premiere of

TSUNAMI

Written by Nilo Cruz & Michiko Kitayama Skinner
Directed by Nilo Cruz

**A POIGNANT DOCUDRAMA ABOUT
TRANSFORMATION AND HOPE...**

**WORLD
PREMIERE!**
**13 PERFORMANCES
SEP 12-OCT 3 2015**

smdcac.org 786.573.5300
10950 SW 211 St. | Cutler Bay, FL 33189

SOUTH MIAMI-DADE
CULTURAL
ARTS CENTER

RENDERED

Promotional Flyer for Tsunami



FRI, SEP 18 / 8:30PM

MYRNA THE MONSTER

CATERWAUL

THE EYES AND THE ICE

NANCY AND THE DAPPER TOAD

Explore four unique tales, brought to you by Ian Samuels, a master of puppetry and special effects. His experience includes working with the Jim Henson Company and Sesame Street.

JOIN THE FILMMAKER AFTER THE SCREENING FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS.

SNEAK PREVIEW

All films are for mature audiences, and not recommended for children under 13.



Stay connected with us



South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center
10950 SW 211 St. Cutler Bay, FL 33189



IT IS THE POLICY OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO COMPLY WITH ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. THE FACILITY IS ACCESSIBLE AND ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE. TO REQUEST MATERIALS IN ACCESSIBLE FORMAT, AND/OR ANY ACCOMMODATION TO ATTEND AN EVENT AT THE SOUTH MIAMI-DADE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER, PLEASE CONTACT STEPHANIE APONTE, 786-573-5314, SAP-ONTE@MIAMI-DADE.GOV, AT LEAST FIVE DAYS IN ADVANCE TO INITIATE YOUR REQUEST. TTY USERS MAY ALSO CALL 711 (FLORIDA RELAY SERVICE).