

**MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
December 17, 2014**

A meeting of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council was held at the 6th Floor Conference Room, Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 111 N.W. 1st Street, Miami, Florida.

Members Present

Adolfo Henriques, Chairman
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez
Xavier Cortada
Susana Ibargüen
Janá Sigars-Malina
Phyllis Simpkins
Monty Trainer

Members Not Present

Alejandro Aguirre
Steven Alexander
Victor Bao
Robert Jensen
Louis-Albert Jolivet
Jorge Luis Lopez
Jorge Pérez
Rosa Sugrañes

Staff

Michael Spring, Director
Carolina Alfonso
Kelly Allocco
Patricia Arbelaez
Roxana Barba
Christina Beauvoir
Nikenna Benjamin
Jessica Berthin
Sue Camp
Lisa D'Andrea-Thompson
Marshall Davis
Eric Fliss
Sandra Hill
Gerry Landreth
Regla Lee
Marialaura Leslie
Deborah Margol
Gilda Mooney
Alex Peraza
Adriana Perez
Dana Pezoldt
Brandi Reddick
Javier Siut

Chairman Henriques called the meeting to order at 12:21 PM. Absent a quorum, he recommended that the meeting proceed in accordance with the agenda beginning with Reports and Discussion Items.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Culture Shock Miami

Ms. Tassy-Beauvoir reported that, to date, 1,789 tickets have been sold for the first quarter of the 2014-2015 cultural season. She noted that 672 students have been reached through a free outreach performance and workshop in collaboration with the Miami-Dade Public School System and the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC), bringing the program's total reach to date to 2,461.

In continuing with Culture Shock Miami's 10th season celebration, and its special partnership with SMDCAC, the program will present The StepCrew on January 23. It is an exciting group that brings together three styles of exhilarating dance forms.

More productions and co-productions are scheduled later in the season in collaboration with SMDCAC. Culture Shock staff continues to co-ordinate with the Center's staff, the marketing company Matrix 2, and the public relations firm Arts Marketing Network to maximize exposure of the program as well as enhance visibility of SMDCAC among young audiences

Department Facilities

Miami-Dade County Auditorium (MDCA)

Mr. Siut reported that MDCA continues partnerships with several organizations including FUNDarte, Tigertail Productions and WDNA to present internationally renowned artists. Events at MDCA continue receive extensive media coverage.

The critically acclaimed Teatro en la Blanceo (Chile) performed *La Reunion* in the On.Stage Black Box over two evenings. The group also conducted a master class with local theatre artists.

Ms. Simpkins arrived at 12:30 PM.

Coconut Grove Playhouse

Mr. Spring reported that the selection of the architectural and engineering firm is in the final stages and the "cone of silence" remains in place.

He also reported that the Department continues to work directly with Joe Adler, Producing Artistic Director of Gablestage, and the Gablestage board to develop a "design brief" outlining their needs for the new venue in preparation for working with the design team.

Art in Public Places

Ms. Reddick reported that Miami-Dade County Art in Public Places will be managing the selection and installation of public art at the new Miami Beach Convention Center. Four possible locations for public art have been identified. An international "call to artists" is being issued.

The Children's Courthouse is estimated to be completed in 2015 and will feature works by Carlos Alves, Jackie Chang, Roberto Suarez and Tom Otterness.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring reported that the second County budget hearing had to be “redone” due to an advertising misprint and it was done in accordance with State law. There were no changes from the original proceedings.
- The chairman for the National Endowment for the Arts, Jane Chu, was guest speaker for a town meeting held on December 2 at the Jorge M. Pérez Art Museum of Miami-Dade County. She later toured various sites throughout the County that included the Opa-Locka Community Development Corporation and the New World Center.
- The funding for the National Endowment for the Arts remains the same under the current Congressional budget.
- The Florida Cultural Alliance is recommending that the state FY 2015-2016 budget for the arts be funded at the level of \$49 million, representing the recommendations produced through the Division of Cultural Affairs competitive grant review process.
- Ms. Hernandez-Constenla distributed the *2014-2015 Golden Ticket Guide to the Arts*. Mr. Cortada asked about the origin of the program. Mr. Spring noted that the inception of the program was funded with the help of a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts. The cost of printing the book for the immensely success program is now incorporated into the department's budget. In addition to being automatically mailed to constituents in the department's database, the book is distributed through libraries, senior centers and the Mayor's and Commissioners' offices to their constituents.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Ms. Chancy-Gonzales recently returned from France and is hoping to bring some of the exhibitions she experienced to Miami.
- Ms. Ibarguen reported that the Pérez Art Museum is exceeding projections for visitors to the museum.
- Ms. Simpkins has started an after-school arts program at Robert B. Ingram Elementary School. The first performance for the program will be held tonight, December 17.
- Mr. Trainer reported that on December 6, as part of the Coconut Grove Gallery Walk, the opening reception highlighted the photography exhibit *Writing With Light: The Civiltà Romana Collection* by world renowned Italian Academy Award winning cinematographer, noted author, and artist, Vittorio Storar.
- Mr. Cortada reported that Florida International University (FIU) is now offering a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) and a Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) in Studio Arts. He also reported that Miami Beach is collaborating with FIU on the 100th celebration of the anniversary of the city.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported that the Art Basel events at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden were very well received. She noted that as part of “Art at Fairchild,” Fairchild is featuring a Chihuly installation, which is his most comprehensive garden exhibition to date and is extremely popular. She also noted that Chihuly has not done three installations in one location other than Fairchild.
- Chairman Henriques noted that National Endowment for the Arts Chairman, Jane Chu, congratulated the staff the department on their work. He also emphasized the positive, long-term impact of the work of the department on the lives of the constituents as well on the local economy.

Mr. Spring reported that China Valles passed away at the age of 89. Mr. Valles, a renowned radio personality and the founder of The Sunshine Jazz Organization, was a major influence on the South Florida jazz scene for more than fifty years.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Landreth