

Memorandum



Date: January 21, 2015

To: Members, Cultural Affairs Council

From: Michael Spring, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Spring". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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 begun to prioritize the list of work. Life safety issues and major building systems such as HVAC, roofing, and electrical systems are being prioritized.

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.

- African Heritage Cultural Arts Center: \$1.0 million
- 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:

	<u>FY 2014-2015 to date</u>	<u>Dec ember 2014</u>
Total number of students registered:	151	99
Number of arts production rentals:	14	6
Number of community rentals:	75	23
Number of arts groups using the Center:	56	19
Number of civic meetings:	36	17
Number of tours and outreach:	12	5

Program highlights for December

- The Center has been successful in obtaining the following grants and donations:
 - \$75,000 Knight Arts Challenge grant to help fund the activities planned for the Center's 40th anniversary celebration, *Sankofa: Celebrating 40 Years of Service*;
 - \$500 from Amerigroup for the jazz festival to be held as part of the *Sankofa* celebration; and
 - \$10,000 from an anonymous donor to support the upcoming Summer Arts Conservatory.
- The After School Arts Program concluded its second session of the fiscal year with a showcase to demonstrate the students' progressive development in the various art disciplines. The program will continue to develop and enhance the students' artistic, social and academic skills during the current third session.
- The Kuumba Winter Arts Workshop concluded its two-week program providing an Afro-centric perspective of the art disciplines. The Center was honored to welcome a demonstration from South African touring group *Africa Umoja*, which provided a sampling of African culture through dance and songs.
- Over 700 community members attended Commissioner Edmonson's annual toy drive held at the Center on December 22nd. Many families expressed their desire to have their children engaged in the Center's various programs. Affordability of the Center's modest tuition costs is an ongoing issue.
- Diaspora Arts Coalition, FAMU, and Rising Sons and Daughters held their annual Kwanzaa events at the Center.
- The Center's apprenticeship groups, Winds of Heritage Dance Company, the Hands of Visions, and Voices of Heritage, are preparing for various performances and exhibitions which will tour throughout the community.
- The All Kids Included (AKI) program held another successful ZOT's arts workshop at the music hall on December 13th.
- The Center's collaboration with Orchestra Miami will continue with a maximum of 50 children.

- The Center has started a program at Liberty City Elementary School offering after school arts activities for kindergarten through 5th grade students. AHCAC staff is providing instructional classes in dance, chorus, creative dramatics, and instrumental music at the school.
- As last year's recipient of an African American Achiever Award, Managing Director Marshall L. Davis has been asked to be a judge in the selection of this year's recipient in the Cultural Arts category and to promote the award ceremony events which will be held in April. Ashlee Thomas has nominated former Center employee and former jazz trumpeter for the Count Basie Band Melton Mustafa, Sr., who is now associated with Florida Memorial University.
- The Center continues to work with Matrix 2 to develop the Center's website and marketing materials.
- Through the Art in Public Places program, the following artists have been short listed 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)

An orientation and site visit for artists is being scheduled for February.

Sankofa: Celebrating 40 Years of Service

The following kick-off events have been scheduled for January 23, 2015:

- Black History Exhibition "The Black Life Experience," curated by Aramis O'Reilly and featuring:
 - Donovan Crony, California (Video)
 - Edward Drew, California (Photography)
 - Robert McKnight, Miami (Installation)
- *Soul in the City*, a live concert featuring Courtney Mickens and Nicole Clarke, both alumni of the Center.

For more information on the Center's events and offerings, please visit the Center's website at www.ahcacmiami.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. It is still anticipated that the parking lot serving the Auditorium and the adjoining Caleb Center office complex will be closed to prepare the site 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 beginning of 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.

Attendance to date at the Joseph Caleb Auditorium for FY2014-15 is 17,315.

A performance scheduled for December 12th, *Stella the Snow White Queen* which was to be presented by the Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia, had to be cancelled. A broken water pipe resulting from the construction of the garage at the Caleb Center disrupted the water service to the facility.

Shows scheduled for January are:

- Orchestra Miami's *The Purple Palace* (January 13, 2015)
- Miami Dade College & The Rhythm Foundation present *The Nile Project* (January 26, 2015)
- Theatreworks USA's *The Fly Guy & Other Stories* (January 29, 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:

	<u>FY 2014-2015</u>	<u>December 2014</u>
Number of Events:	45	14
Attendance:	36,890	23,925

Program highlights and rentals for December

- MDCA welcomed the Thomas Armour Youth Ballet (TAYB) for what has become an annual tradition. Each year, TAYB stages their production of the Nutcracker starting the week after Thanksgiving, helping MDCA kick off the holiday season. This year's events were again a huge success with the

production being enjoyed by over 7,500 guests, including 6,000 school children. For the second consecutive year, one performance was designed to be sensory friendly.

- The holiday festivities continued with “Ice Castle,” a presentation by Maria Verdeja School of the Arts. The event included four performances for school children and one for patrons of all ages. Over 9,000 patrons enjoyed this production, including over 7,500 school children.

MDCA is currently working with Matrix 2 on the development of its website and marketing campaigns for selected events.

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	December 2014
SMDCAC Presents:	26	2
Number of rentals:	109	29
Attendance:	29,619	13,720

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

- The Nutcracker by Miami Youth Ballet (December 6)
- Handel’s Messiah (December 21)

Rentals for the month of December included:

- Thomas Armour Youth Ballet (every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday)
- The Nutcracker by Miami Youth Ballet (December 5)
- New Theatre’s *The Gospel According to Jerry* (December 5-14)
- Pinecrest Holiday Show (December 8 and 15)
- Somerset Holiday Show (December 9-10)
- The Nutcracker by Artistic Dance (December 12-13)
- Greater Miami Youth Symphony Winter Concert (December 14)

January highlights include:

- Guys and Dolls (January 3)
- Jumpstart Your Resolution (January 6-10)
- Alonzo King Lines Ballet (January 17)
 - Two Free advanced ballet master classes with Alonzo King Lines Ballet (Thursday, January 15 at INKUB8 and Saturday, January 17 at SMDCAC)
 - Pre-show Lecture: "Where Are The Black Ballet Dancers in America?" presented by Anjali Austin, Associate Professor (Florida State University)
- Well-Strung (January 17)
- The Second City Hits Home! (January 22)

The South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center was featured in Carl Rachelson's Community Newspaper article, *Best of Miami 2014: According to me*. Shows such as Kurt Elling, Jon Batiste and Etienne Charles were praised as some of the best shows of 2014.

So far this season (the season began October 1, 2014) the Center's volunteer program has saved the County \$7,020.

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

Attachments