

**MINUTES OF THE  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

**February 25, 2016**

A meeting of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council was held at Vizcaya Village Garage Building, 3280  
South Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33129

**Members Present**

Adolfo Henriques, Chairman  
Alejandro Aguirre  
Mitchell Bierman  
Xavier Cortada  
Sandra Curbelo  
Denise Gerson  
Susana Ibarguen  
Robert Jensen  
Phyllis Simpkins  
Monty Trainer  
Dwayne Wynn

**Members Not Present**

Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez  
Jorge Pérez  
Janá Sigars-Malina  
Rosa Sugrañes

**Others Present**

Laura Bruney, President and CEO, Arts and  
Business Council of Miami  
Anita Gibboney, Capital Budget Coordinator, Office  
of Management and Budget  
Lydia Lopez, Office of the Mayor  
Sidra Mattson Urbom, Financial Director, Arts for  
Learning  
Mario Santana, Senior Budget Analyst, Office of  
Management and Budget

**Staff**

Michael Spring, Director  
Kelly Allocco  
Francine Andersen  
Patricia Arbelaez  
Roxana Barba  
Christina Beauvoir  
Nikenna Benjamin  
Sue Camp  
Nicole Campbell  
Lisa D'Andrea-Thompson  
Marshall Davis  
Eric Fliss  
Olga Gonzalez  
Teddy Harrelson  
Liliana Hernandez-Constanla  
Sandra Hill  
Anita Hope  
Gerry Landreth  
Regla Lee  
Marialaura Leslie  
Deborah Margol

**Staff (continued)**

Cheryl Mizell  
Gilda Mooney  
Paula Parra  
Alex Peraza  
Adrianna Perez  
Dana Pezoldt  
Brandi Reddick  
Javier Siut  
Pam Valles

Mr. Spring called the meeting to order at 11:21 AM.

He introduced guests from partner organizations, Sidra Mattson Urbom, Finance Director for Arts for Learning, and Laura Bruney, President and CEO of the Arts & Business Council of Miami.

Absent a quorum, he recommended that the meeting proceed with Reports and Discussion Items.

## REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs

Mr. Spring reported that the state legislature is still in session. The differences in the arts allocation between the two chambers will require resolution by a conference committee. He encouraged Councilors to contact legislators in support of full funding for the state arts budget.

### National Endowment for the Arts

Mr. Spring reported that the President has recommended \$150 million for the NEA, which is up from \$148 million. He recommended that Councilors visit the Arts Action Fund website for complete details as well as an arts score card for every member of Congress.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring reported on the status of the Patricia and Philip Frost Museum of Science. He reported that the museum is still having difficulty securing financing for the remainder of the project. One option discussed was to shut down construction until it could be secured. The contractor estimated that it would cost \$25 million secure the site and the option was rejected. The Mayor has put together a proposal that will convert the planned yearly operating subsidy for the museum into a one-time payment of \$45 million to help finish the construction. Part of the agreement is that the museum will not be allowed to petition the County Commission for additional operating funds until the financing of the \$5 million is retired. Mr. Cortada suggested a motion that the Cultural Affairs Council formally encourage the County Commission to accept the proposal. Mr. Spring asked that a motion be delayed until all of the Commissioners have been fully briefed and the recommendation has been formally issued. He noted that it would be best for the Council to see the details of the agreement before formally endorsing it. Given the negative press, Mr. Bierman asked if there had been a meeting with the editorial board of *The Miami Herald*. Mr. Spring reported that the Mayor had met with the editorial board to explain the proposal.
- Mr. Spring reported that Vizcaya Museum and Gardens has proposed transitioning from being a County operated facility to being governed by an independent non-profit organization which would oversee operations and fundraising under an operating agreement with the County. The structure is similar to that of the Arsht Center. Mr. Spring noted that final approval of the governance restructuring is subject to action by the County Commission. Among the plans for the future is the restoration of the Village Center. He noted that there is a team of consultants who are updating the master plan.
- Mr. Spring reported that the planning and assessment phase is underway for the Coconut Grove Playhouse. He noted that there have been meetings with GableStage and the Miami Parking Authority regarding the theater and parking needs, respectively.
- Mr. Spring reported that detailed updates on capital projects will be discussed at future meetings. He reported that the design phase for the Westchester Cultural Arts Center is underway. Zyscovich Architects was selected competitively for this project.

Chairman Henriques joined the meeting at 12:30 PM.

He introduced the department's budget analysts, Mario Santana and Anita Gibboney. He thanked them for their expertise and guidance through the process.

Mr. Trainer joined the meeting at 12:41 PM.

With a quorum present, Chairman Henriques moved to Items for Approval.

## **ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

### **Requests for Excused Absences for February 25, 2016**

Requests for excused absences submitted by Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Jorge Pérez and Rosa Sugañes were approved unanimously. (motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Mr. Cortada)

### **FY 2016-2017 Youth Arts Enrichment (YEP) Grants Program Guidelines**

Ms. Margol reported that the guidelines being approved are preliminary pending discussions with The Children's Trust on possible better ways to meet community needs.

The program guidelines for the FY 2016-2017 Youth Arts Enrichment (YEP) Grants were approved unanimously. (motion by Mr. Cortada; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

## **BUDGET AND PLANNING RETREAT REPORTS: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

### **Presentation: Business Plan and Budget Overview**

Mr. Spring highlighted the many accomplishments of the department including awards, grants and the increase in outreach and audience development.

At the previous budget retreat, the focus was on the 5-10 year outlook. This year will focus on the needs for next year.

Mr. Spring noted that the vision of the department is for Miami-Dade County "to be a major, international cultural capital." He emphasized the department's mission objectives to achieve that goal: strengthen non-profit arts and cultural organizations and artists; build new and improve existing cultural facilities and manage and program cultural facilities; and increase participation through education and outreach.

Mr. Spring reviewed the fundamentals of the department budget. He noted that the budget submitted for next year reflects a 5% reduction in grant allocations and that the budget for the "downtown" staff remains unchanged due to expense reductions.

Approximately \$1.1 million will be needed to restore the grants programs to 2013-2014 levels. In addition, \$1.6 million is needed to continue to build the capacity of the department's four facilities, which includes strengthening staffing, programming and marketing.

The department continues Culture Talks, round table discussions with cultural organizations, to help gauge the needs and concerns of the community. Among the concerns is that County grant support keep pace with the growth of the arts community. Also, the survival of cultural organizations relies on all sources of funding - public, private and earned - steadily growing to help address increased demands for greater program impact and artistic development.

Mr. Spring noted that the arts in Miami-Dade County have a significant economic impact. He also noted that a \$1 investment in an arts organization yields \$31 in other funds and that an additional \$5 million investment could yield \$155 million.

Mr. Henriques emphasized the impact of the arts on the quality of life of the residents, the economic impact and the contribution to increasing the international profile of Miami.

Mr. Henriques suggested a motion be made to request an increase of \$6.6 million to address grants' and facilities' needs. It would cover \$5 million for grants and \$1.6 million for facilities. Mr. Cortada expressed concern that the request was not for restoration of full funding.

Mr. Spring noted that under the current circumstances it would be better to focus on the growth per year. Mr. Trainer noted that this approach was very successful on the state level.

### **Council Motion Regarding the FY 2016-2017 Budget**

A motion was made to request \$6.6 million in order to provide necessary resources for grants and department-operated facilities for FY 2016-2017. The motion passed unanimously. (motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Mr. Wynn.)

### **UPDATED COUNCILOR ASSIGNMENTS FOR FY 2016-2017**

Mr. Spring directed the Council's attention to the proposed Councilors' assignments. Councilors will either serve as grants panel chair or as a panelist. He noted that should anyone express interest in particular areas, adjustments can easily be made.

### **COUNCILOR REPORTS**

- Mr. Wynn congratulated African Heritage Cultural Arts Center on their wide variety of activities celebrating Black History Month including performances and exhibitions.
- Mr. Bierman reported that the Pérez Art Museum Miami will host an exhibition of renowned Columbian artist Doris Salcedo in March. There also will be an exhibition of Haitian artist Jean-Michel Basquiat's *Notebooks*.
- Mr. Jensen reported that the revitalization of downtown Homestead is going well. The Seminole Theatre has reopened and is very active. The restored City Hall will open in March. He noted that the two banks in the city have been sold, and there could be a loss of support of the arts.
- Mr. Cortada reported that the *Clima* exhibition and activities were a success. He noted that the Mayor of Hialeah signed a climate change compact. He invited Councilors to his talk at Books and Books at the Arsht Center on March 16.
- Mr. Trainer reported that the New World School of the Arts Gala will be April 2. He reported that Miami-Dade Days was very successful. He noted that the attendance at Coconut Grove's 1st Saturday Gallery Walks is increasing. He also reported that the Coconut Grove Arts Festival had another successful year.
- Ms. Simpkins noted that she was glad to be back after an extended absence. She reported that the work of the Cultural Affairs Council is very important, and their support of small organizations has tremendous impact on communities.
- Mr. Aguirre thanked the staff on their work as well as the excellent work of the budget analysts.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:41 PM.