

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

January 20, 2016

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

Alejandro Aguirre
Mitchell Bierman
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez
Xavier Cortada
Sandra Curbelo
Denise Gerson
Susana Ibarguen
Robert Jensen
Janá Sigars-Malina
Rosa Sugrañes
Monty Trainer

Members Not Present

Adolfo Henriques, Chairman
Jorge Pérez
Phyllis Simpkins

Others Present

Jill Deupi, Beaux Arts Director and Chief Curator,
Lowe Art Museum
Daniel Ricker, Watchdogreport.com

Staff

Michael Spring, Director
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
Gilda Mooney
Alex Peraza

Staff (continued)

Adrianna Perez
Dana Pezoldt
Brandi Reddick
Javier Siut
Pam Valles

Serving as chair, Ms. Sugrañes called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM.

Mr. Spring introduced Sandra Curbelo, the newest appointee to the Cultural Affairs Council, appointed by Commissioner Juan Zapata.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Spring introduced Jill Deupi, Beaux Arts Director and Chief Curator of the Lowe Art Museum.

Ms. Deupi noted that the Lowe Art Museum has the largest and most comprehensive collection of western and non-western art in the region.

The museum is dedicated to being a resource for education. Among the programs is ArtLab @ The Lowe which explores artistic movements in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Germany and Austria. Visitors have the opportunity to examine original works of art associated with the various influences of the region.

The Lowe provides programs for the community including school field trips and Family Days for children and adults to explore art and culture through music, dance, storytelling and hands-on art activities.

ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION

Approval of the November 18, 2015 Minutes

The minutes of the November 8, 2015 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez; seconded by Ms. Ibarguen)

FY 2016-2017 Grants Program Guidelines

The program guidelines for Capital Development (CAP) Grants Program, Cultural Advancement (ADV) Grants Program, Dance Miami Choreographers' (DMC) Program, Festivals and Special Events (FEST) Grants Program, Hannibal Cox, Jr. (HCJ) Grants Program, International Cultural Exchange (ICE) Grants Program, Major Cultural Institutions (MCI) Grants Program and Youth Arts Miami (YAM) Grants Program were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for January 20, 2016

Requests for excused absences for Adolfo Henriques, Jorge Pérez and Phyllis Simpkins were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

FY 2015-2016 Summer Arts and Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grants Program Recommendations

The FY 2015-2016 Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grants Panel, chaired by Councilor Monty Trainer, convened on January 13, 2016, to review 28 applications. The Panel recommended funding all 28 applications for a total of \$450,000. The Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grants Program was created as a joint initiative of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and The Children's Trust.

Individual grant recommendations that involved Councilor conflicts of interest were removed from the package of recommendations and voted on individually. The following Council members declared a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on the following:

Mr. Bierman - Florida International University Board of Trustees for the benefit of the College of Engineering

Mr. Cortada - Florida International University Board of Trustees for the benefit of the College of Engineering; Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, Inc.

Ms. Sigars-Malina - Miami City Ballet, Inc.; Miami Theater Center Inc.

Mr. Aguirre - Barry University, Inc.

The Panel's recommendations to fund the remaining organizations were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Cortada; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

Area Performance Gallery, Inc. d/b/a Area Stage Company	\$14,990.00
Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, Inc.	\$12,111.00
ArtSouth, A Not-For-Profit Corporation	\$16,177.00
Diva Arts & Entertainment, Inc.	\$13,877.00
enFAMILIA, INC.	\$19,347.00
Florida Film Institute, Inc.	\$8,408.00
Greater Miami Youth Symphony of Dade County, Florida, Inc.	\$30,000.00
Locust Projects, Inc.	\$10,966.00
Miami Dance Project, Inc.	\$18,763.00
Miami Music Project, Inc.	\$18,328.00
Miami Stage Company/Miami Children's Theater Inc.	\$14,167.00
Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department	\$14,074.00
Museum of Contemporary Art, Inc.	\$15,456.00
Musical, Inc.	\$14,838.00
PATH: Preserving, Archiving & Teaching Hiphop, Inc.	\$14,087.00
Performing Arts Center Trust, Inc. dba Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade	\$30,000.00

County	
South Florida Youth Symphony, Inc.	\$9,708.00
Teatro Prometeo	\$7,951.00
THE DAVE AND MARY ALPER JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.	\$16,848.00
The Miami Children's Museum, Inc.	\$16,589.00
The Motivational Edge, Inc.	\$13,615.00
The Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, Inc.	\$30,000.00
Urgent, Inc.	\$15,849.00

The Panel's recommendations to fund the remaining organizations, for which there were the above-noted Councilors' conflicts of interest and abstentions, were voted on individually and passed unanimously as follows:

Mr. Aguirre abstaining for Barry University, Inc. (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Mr. Cortada)	\$13,882.00
Mr. Bierman, Mr. Cortada Florida International University Board of Trustees for the benefit of the abstaining for College of Engineering (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Ms. Ibargüen)	\$14,850.00
Mr. Cortada abstaining for Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, Inc. (Motion by Mr. Jensen; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)	\$17,969.00
Ms. Sigars-Malina abstaining for Miami City Ballet, Inc. (Motion by Mr. Cortada; seconded by Mr. Bierman)	\$16,926.00
Ms. Sigars-Malina abstaining for Miami Theater Center Inc. (Motion by Mr. Cortada; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)	\$10,224.00

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on FY 2016-2017 State Arts Budget

Mr. Spring reported that the state legislature is currently in session. He directed the Council's attention to the handout outlining the legislative goals of the Florida Cultural Alliance. He noted that the arts budget for last year was the second largest in the country only behind New York.

He reminded Councilors that Arts and Culture Day in Tallahassee is January 26. Mr. Cortada requested a list of local legislative committee members to contact. Mr. Aguirre suggest that a full list of legislative members be circulated.

Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program

Ms. Beauvoir report that as of October 1st, more than 120 performances have been made available to the program's target audience for the first quarter of the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

In continuing Culture Shock Miami's partnership with venues managed by the Department of Cultural Affairs, the program has expanded its collaboration efforts with the Caleb Auditorium and Miami-Dade County Auditorium to include free, daytime student performances.

Culture Shock Miami continues to expand its use of social media. The social networking sites have helped staff apprise the program's target audience of newly available performances. In addition, the social networking tools inform the program's fans of workshops, events and other opportunities presented by the program's cultural partners. The program's Facebook Fan page currently has 9,257 fans, an increase of 51% from January 2015.

Department Facilities Updates

African Heritage Cultural Art Center

Ms. Anita Hope reported that The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center concluded its 40th Sankofa Anniversary celebration on November 14, 2015, with an attendance of more than 300 people. It also marked the re-emergence of the Calabash Visual Arts Festival.

The Calabash Visual Arts Festival included a special gallery exhibition entitled "Dragonfly" curated by Bayunga Kialeuka and Robert McKnight. "Dragonfly" featured the works of past and current staff members.

Ms. Hope noted that *Simply Simone – the Music of Nina Simone*, a musical revue based on the life of an American musical icon featuring Sarah Gracel Anderson, Toddra Brunson, Deana Butler-Rahming and AHCAC alumnus, Ja'Nia Harden, will be opening on February 19, 2016.

Miami-Dade County Auditorium (MDCA)

Mr. Siut introduced Ms. Nicole Campbell, who will be serving as finance manager for MDCA.

He reported that during the first quarter of 2015-2016, MDCA hosted 43 performances with more than 36,000 in attendance.

Among the programming highlights was a collaboration with Arca Images to present *El Color del Deseo* written and directed by Pulitzer Prize winner Nilo Cruz. The play was performed in Spanish with a live simultaneous translation to English.

In addition, MDCA and FundArte partnered for the third consecutive year to bring the Casa Patas Foundation to the MDCA stage. The group performed *Flamenco Frequencies* to a sold-out crowd in the mid-stage theatre configuration.

7th Avenue – Carver Theater

Mr. Spring reported that construction on the theater is projected to completed be within a month.

An operating agreement with Fantasy Theater Factory and M Ensemble is being finalized. Fantasy Theater Factory will handle all operational needs, and M Ensemble will serve as the resident theater company.

Art in Public Places

Ms. Reddick reported that in collaboration with Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces and the Friends of the Underline, Art in Public Places received a \$200,000 grant from ArtPlace America to implement a series of temporary public art projects that will span from March 2016 - January 2017. The consulting artist team of Bhakti Baxter, Nicolas Lobo, Naomi Fisher and Agustina Woodgate will work collaboratively to create works of public art that vary in duration and serve to build community excitement as the Underline develops.

A Professional Advisory Committee meeting will be held on January 29 to review the site specific project proposals for the City of Miami Antonio Maceo Park Project. The following Miami-based artists will present: Linda Chamarro, Fabian Peña, Johnny Robles and Loriel Beltran.

Artists also will be recommended to develop proposals for the Sea Level Rise Project, a series of temporary public art interventions being produced in collaboration with the University of Miami School of Communications. The projects are funded by a \$60,000 grant from the Knight Foundation.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring reported that the report providing a breakdown of grants awards by commission district was submitted and accepted by the Board of County Commissioners.
- The Mayor's State of the County Address will be hosted by Miami-Dade County Auditorium on January 27.
- Mr. Spring reported on the status of the Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science.
 - The County has currently invested \$165 million through the voter approved General Obligation Bond program.
 - The project is approximately 72% complete.
 - Financial consultants are working on securing additional financing based on pledges to the museum.
 - Mayor Gimenez has proposed to use the annual \$4 million of operating support that the County earmarked for the museum to generate \$45 million to help finance the final construction.
 - The County has requested that the museum's board include County appointments, including Mr. Spring and Deputy Mayor Ed Marquez.

Mr. Cortada note the importance and uniqueness of a major science museum. He expressed concern about the construction delays affecting the education of young students who are missing that experience.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Mr. Jensen reported that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Festival Parade held on January 16 was a great success. He also reported that the Seminole Theatre has reopened with great fanfare. The Homestead Rodeo will be held January 22-24.
- Mr. Cortada invited Councilors to the closing reception and artist talk for CLIMA on January 28 at Milander Center for Arts & Entertainment.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported that the 10th annual Chocolate Festival will be held at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden from January 22-24. She also encouraged Councilors attend "Thursday Nights at Fairchild" which will be held through April 2016, featuring narrated tram tours and lectures by horticulture specialists.
- Mr. Trainer reported that annual Miami-Dade County Days was held in Tallahassee January 9 and 10. The 53rd Coconut Grove Arts Festival will be held on February 13 – 15. The festival will be providing a booth for South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center and Culture Shock Miami.

- Ms. Sugrañes noted that she called into WLRN's "Tropical Currents," hosted by Joseph Cooper and Bonnie Berman, as they discussed the State of the Arts of South Florida with guest Michael Spring.
- Mr. Aguirre encouraged Councilors to contact not only legislators but lobbyists regarding the state arts budget.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Landreth