

Memorandum



Date: March 18, 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:

	FY 2014-2015 to-date	January and February 2015
Total number of students registered:	181	30
Number of arts production rentals:	36	16
Number of community rentals:	130	55
Number of arts groups using the Center:	91	35
Number of civic meetings:	76	40
Number of tours and outreach:	24	12

Program highlights for January and February included:

- **Sankofa: Celebrating 40 Years of Service**

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

- In January, it presented an art exhibition called *The Black Life Experience*. The three artists that exhibited were Edward Drew from Albany, CA, Donovan Crony from Long Beach CA, and Robert McKnight from Miami, FL. The curator was Aramis O'Reilly and the event received a great review in the Miami Times.
- The second event was *Soul in the City*. The two alumni celebrities were Courtney Mickens and Nicole Clark. Their backup singers were also alumni from the Center. They all presented a fantastic performance for the audience.
- The third event was *An Evening of Praises* that allowed over 50 youth from the Center and community to become celebrities by performing in a concert sharing their history through songs.

Upcoming **Sankofa** events include:

- Women's Month exhibition, March 5-March 30, 2015, curated by Mikhaile Solomon. Artists participating in the exhibition include:
 1. Martin Nayarto
 2. Amber Gordon
 3. Sheena Rose
 4. Latoya Hobbs
 5. Bayunga Kialeuka
 - Theatrical play *Sister* by African American Performing Arts Community Theater, led by Teddy Harrell, March 6-8, 2015
- The After School Arts Academy celebrated Black History Month by presenting various Afro-centric presentations through dance, vocal music, instrumental music, visual arts and drama for students' parents and the audience. The program was designed for the children to demonstrate their 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 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. They are invited to perform at the Youth Fairs, Asian Festival at the Fruit & Spice Park and other events.
- The Liberty City Elementary School students had a great performance for their parents and teachers of all they had been learning from the Center's staff over the last two months of instruction. The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center provides instructional classes for kindergarten through 5th grade students. The staff is providing instructional classes in dance, chorus, creative dramatics, and instrumental music at the school.
- 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 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)

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

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 FY 2014-15 is 28,587.

Events presented at the Auditorium for the month of February included:

- *Full Still Hungry* performed by Contra Tiempo (February 1)

- *Berenstain Bears* performed by Matt Murphy's Production (February 16)
- *Choir Boy* written by Tarell McCraney and performed by GableStage (February 24-27)

The schools that participated in field trips to the Auditorium during the month of February included:

1. Academy for Community Education
2. Miami Beach Senior High School
3. His House Alternative Outreach Program
4. Westland Hialeah Senior High School
5. Miami Jackson Senior High School
6. Arthur and Polly Mays Conservatory
7. Miami Sunset Senior High School
8. G. Holmes Braddock Senior High
9. Pace Center for Girls
10. Homestead Senior High School
11. Robert Morgan Educational Center
12. John A. Ferguson Senior High School
13. South Miami Middle School
14. Medical Academy for Science and Tech.
15. West Miami Middle School
16. Miami Coral Park Senior High School
17. Carol City Middle School
18. Miami MacArthur South
19. Frank C. Martin K-8 Center
20. Miami Northwestern Senior High
21. Herbert A. Ammons Middle School
22. Terra Environmental Research Institute
23. Highland Oaks Middle Schools
24. Zelda Glazer Middle School
25. John I. Smith K-8 Center
26. Barbara Goleman Senior High School
27. Miami Central Senior High School
28. Homestead Senior High School
29. Miami Norland Senior High School
30. Miami Senior High
31. New World Senior High School
32. Miami Sunset Senior High School
33. Young Men's Preparatory Academy
34. North Dade Middle School
35. Carol City Elementary School
36. Pace Center for Girls
37. Coral Gables Preparatory
38. Robert Morgan Educational Center
39. Frances S. Tucker Elementary School
40. Southwest Miami Senior High School
41. Gateway Environmental K-8 Learning Center
42. South Miami Senior High School
43. Mandarin Lakes K-8 Academy
44. Biotech@ Richmond Heights
45. Primary Learning Center
46. Cutler Bay Academy of Advanced Studies
47. Ruth Broad/Harbor Bay K-8 Center
48. Hialeah Gardens Senior High School
49. Bob Graham Education Center
50. Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
51. Kensington Park Elementary School
52. Young Women's Preparatory Academy
53. Norland Elementary School
54. South Miami Senior High School
55. Norwood Elementary School
56. School for Advanced Studies Homestead
57. Sunset Elementary School
58. Robert Morgan Educational Center
59. Academy for Community Education
60. Miami Senior High School
61. American senior High School
62. Miami Northwestern Senior High School
63. Carrie P. Meek/Westview K-8 Center
64. Medical Academy for Science and Tech.
65. Cope Center North Alternative Education
66. Law Enforcement Officers Memorial
67. Coral Gables Senior High School
68. Design and Architecture Senior High School
69. Dorothy M. Wallace – Cope Center South
70. Felix Varela Senior High School
71. G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School
72. I Preparatory Academy

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	January and February 2015
Number of Events:	66	21
Attendance:	44,790	7,900

Program highlights and rentals for January and February included:

- MDCA kicked off its Open Theatre play reading series with staged readings of Juan C. Sanchez’s *Dead by Night* and Pulitzer Prize winner Nilo Cruz’s *Bathing in Moonlight*. The series has been developed in order to help nurture and workshop possible future productions.
- MDCA hosted the first in a series of Culture Talks held by CUA. The series is designed to act as an open conversation between CUA and local cultural organizations.
- For the fourth year in a row, MDCA hosted the final auditions for the Miami Marlins Energy Team.
- In what has become a tradition since the creation of our On.Stage Black Box, Teatro Avante restaged their International Hispanic Theatre Festival production of *Años Dificiles* by Roberto Cossa.
- MDCA, in collaboration with Tigertail Productions, presented the experimental dance piece *Bare Bones*.
- Once again, Argentinian pianist Raul DiBlasio performed over the Valentine’s Day weekend at MDCA. Audiences were delighted, yet again, by his mastery of popular music. Over 3,000 guests made this concert part of their romantic outing.
- Continuing with the piano theme but with a classical twist, MDCA hosted the prestigious Chopin Foundation Piano Competition. The competition is used to select the US representative at the international competition in Warsaw, Poland held every five years. This year’s competition and finals were live-streamed in their entirety.

MDCA is currently working with Matrix2 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	January and February 2015
SMDCAC Presents:	54	28
Number of rentals:	202	93
Attendance:	45,451	15,843

Total attendance at the Center since the October 2011 grand opening has exceeded 200,000 patrons.

Events presented by the Center for the month of January and February included:

- Black Creek Nights It's A Girl Thing (January 2)
- Broadway's *Guys and Dolls* (January 3)
- Jump Start Your Resolution FREE community classes (January 7-9)
- Well Strung (January 17)
- Alonzo King LINES Ballet (January 17)
 - Demo for professional dancers at INKUB8 (January 15)
 - Master class for MDC Kendall Campus dance students (January 16)
 - Master class for Adrenaline Dance students (January 16)
 - FREE Advanced Ballet Master Class for the public (January 17)
- The Second City (January 22)
 - Pre-show Second City reception with Chamber South (January 22)
- Zap Mama and Antibalas (January 24)
- Florida Grand Opera FREE Family Day (February 1)
- *Raisin' Cane* starring Jasmine Guy and the Avery Sharpe Trio (February 7)
 - *Raisin' Cane* School show (February 6)
 - *Raisin' Cane* Books and Books outreach event (February 6)
- Black Creek Night featuring Batuke Samba Funk, Brazilian Night (February 13)
- The Improvised Shakespeare Company (February 14)
 - Improvised Shakespeare Schools shows (February 13 and 14)
- Seraphic Fire (February 15)
- JazzReach Kids Cabaret (February 21)
 - JazzReach School Show (February 20)

- Peking Acrobats (February 21)
- Peter and Will Anderson (February 27)
- Mummenschanz (February 28 and March 1) (Saturday matinee performance was Sensory Friendly)
- Martin Benjerano and Vivian Sessoms (February 28)

Rentals for the month of January and February included:

- Thomas Armour Youth Ballet (every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday)
- Zumba with Ronald (every Tuesday and Friday)
- Pridelines Meeting (every Tuesday)
- Baptist Hospital Gala (January 15)
- *The Gift Horse* Presented by M Ensemble (January 22-February 8)
- The Step Crew Presented by Culture Shock Miami (January 23)
- Spicewood meeting (January 28 and February 28)
- Twelve Angry Men Presented by New Theatre (February 6-March 1)
- MISO Valentine's Day Concert (February 14)
- Dade Association of Dance Educators (February 19)

Upcoming March highlights include:

- The Cleveland Orchestra FREE community concert (March 4)
- Urban Bush Women (March 7)
- Broadway's Jekyll and Hyde (March 14)
- Beatlemania - John Daversa and the UM Frost School of Music Jazz Band (March 27)
- Cabaret Follies (March 28)

SMDCAC had a marketing booth at the annual Coconut Grove Arts Festival on President's Day weekend in February.

There were feature stories and reviews in *The Miami Herald* and *El Nuevo Herald* for Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Florida Grand Opera Family Day, and Martin Benjerano and Vivian Sessoms. Mummenschanz was featured on NBC 6.

So far this season (the season began October 1, 2014), the Center's volunteer program has saved the County \$12,460.

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

Attachments



“The Black Life Experience” exhibit opened at the Center in January and was funded by the by the Knight Foundation. It is one of several planned events and performances that brings back alumni to the Center.



That same evening, a live neo-soul concert was held in the Narcisse Theater, where patrons heard the sounds of rising stars and AHCAC alumni, Courtney Mickens and Nicole Clark.



Contra Tiempo performing their show *Full Still Hungry* on-stage at the Auditorium



Matt Murphy's Production performed the kids' storybook classic, the *Berenstain Bears*



GableStage performed *Choir Boy*, written by homegrown talent Tarrell McCraney



Juan C. Sanchez's *Dead by Night*, part of MDCSA's Open Theatre Reading Series. (Jan 12, 2015)



Dress Rehearsal of MDCA and Teatro Avante's presentation of *Años Difíciles* by Roberto Cossa. (Feb 5, 2015)



A scene from Bare Bones presented by MDCA and Tigertail Productions. (Feb 12, 2015)



Pianist Raul DiBlasio performing for a sold-out house on Valentines Day. (Feb 14, 2015)



Pianists performed with a full orchestra during the final round of the Chopin Foundation Piano Competition. (Feb 28, 2015)



SMDCAC presented a Free Family Day with the Florida Grand Opera on February 6th as part of its Family Series, offering a hands-on, behind-the-scenes experience with interactive workshops, musical activities, and a live performance of family-friendly opera selections.



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