

**MINUTES OF THE  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL  
March 18, 2015**

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  
Alejandro Aguirre  
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez  
Denise Gerson  
Robert Jensen  
Janá Sigars-Malina  
Rosa Sugrañes  
Monty Trainer

**Members Not Present**

Xavier Cortada  
Susana Ibargüen  
Louis-Albert Jolivert  
Jorge Luis Lopez  
Jorge Pérez  
Phyllis Simpkins

**Others**

Mitchell Bierman, Partner, Weiss Serota Helfman  
Pastoriza Cole & Bonsike

**Staff**

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

**Staff (continued)**

Javier Siut  
Pam Valles

Chairman Adolfo Henriques called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm. Absent a quorum, he moved to Reports and Discussion Items.

## **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **FY 2014-2015 County Budget Update**

Ms. Margol reported that there were no changes in the budget since the last report. She noted that an allocation plan for the Council's requested increase of \$10 million in the Department's 2015-2016 budget would be submitted at the April meeting.

The County's reclassification of certain employees into a bargaining unit is still being reviewed and is pending clarification. The impact on the budget is yet to be determined.

### **Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program**

Ms. Beauvoir reported that, to date, 6,360 tickets have been sold for the first six months of the current cultural season. In addition, 1,501 students have been reached through free outreach performances and workshops 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 7,861. This represents an increase of 33% from the first six months of the 2013-2014 cultural season

Culture Shock Miami collaborated with South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center during the months of February and March to present The Improvised Shakespeare Company, Peking Acrobats, and Mummenschanz. Because of the popularity of Peking Acrobats, a matinee performance was added to accommodate the interest of the community.

Additionally, The Improvised Shakespeare Company gave a free performance that was made available to Miami-Dade students through the Miami-Dade Public Schools' Cultural Passport Program, and a workshop was offered to Miami-Dade residents as part of Culture Shock's ongoing community outreach.

Ms. Beauvoir reported that February's public performances, school performances, and outreach activities reached over 3000 people. Mr. Henriques inquired as to the reasons for the significant increase. She noted that the primary reason is the ability for Culture Shock Miami to present shows and outreach activities as well as the co-production opportunities with South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center. Another factor is the collaboration with the Miami-Dade Public School System Cultural Passport to present and co-present shows at the Joseph Caleb Auditorium.

Ms. Sigars-Malina joined the meeting at 12:45 pm.

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

### **Requests for Excused Absences for March 18, 2015**

Requests for excused absences submitted by Louis-Albert Jolivet, Xavier Cortada, Jorge Luis Lopez and Jorge Pérez were approved unanimously. (motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

### **Approval of the February 25, 2015 Minutes**

The minutes of the February 25, 2015 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Mr. Jensen)

## FY 2014-2015 Community Grants Program Recommendations – Third Quarter

The FY 2014-2015 Community Grants program panel chaired by Deborah Margol convened on February 26, 2015, to review 26 applications requesting \$194,655 for the Third Quarter of the program. The Panel recommended funding 26 applicants for a total of \$129,000.00.

There were no Councilor conflicts. The Panel's recommendation to fund the organizations was approved unanimously. (motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

A Greener Miami, Inc.	\$5,326
Area Performance Gallery, Inc. a/f/a for Nazmo Dance Collective	\$5,326
Arts Ballet Theater of Florida a/f/a for The Opera Atelier, Inc.	\$5,326
Bascomb Memorial Broadcasting Foundation, Inc. a/f/a for Jazz Educator Community Coalition	\$3,071
City of North Miami Beach	\$3,551
Fire Haus Projects, Inc.	\$4,261
Florida Opera Prima, Inc.	\$5,326
Friends of the Miami-Dade Public Library, Inc.	\$5,326
Fuzion Dance Artists, Inc. a/f/a for Collective Portal	\$2,841
Greater Miami Billfish Tournament, Inc.	\$2,663
Heroes Unite, Inc.	\$4,261
Hispanic American Lyrical Theater, Inc. a/f/a for Miami Chamber Music Society	\$5,326
Master Chorale of South Florida, Inc.	\$5,326
Miami International Jazz Fest, Inc.	\$5,326
Miami Light Project, Inc. a/f/a for Siren Arts	\$4,793
Miami River Fund, Inc.	\$7,101
National Art Exhibitions of the Mentally Ill, Inc.	\$5,326
National Tropical Botanical Garden, Inc.	\$5,326
Nu Deco Ensemble, Inc.	\$5,148
Pari Passu Foundation, Inc.	\$4,531
The Dance Now! Ensemble Inc. a/f/a for Atma Yogadance	\$5,326
The Miami Foundation, Inc. a/f/a for PhilanthroFest International, Inc.	\$10,652
The Miami Oratorio Society, Inc.	\$5,326
Tradisyón Lakou Lakay, Inc. a/f/a for Criança de Ouro	\$5,113
Urgent, Inc.	\$5,326

After asking for clarification, Mr. Aguirre requested a motion to reconsider noting that the he had a conflict with Miami River Fund, Inc. The motion passed unanimously. (motion by Mr. Jensen; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

A motion was made to remove Miami River Fund, Inc. from the package of recommendations and was voted on individually. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Aguirre abstaining. (motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

The Panel's recommendations to fund the remaining organizations were approved unanimously. (motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Mr. Jensen)

Mr. Henriques noted the positive impact of the program. Ms. Sigars-Malina observed that it was amazing to see the growth of the organizations through the years.

### **FY 2015-2016 Grants Program Panels**

The FY 2015-2016 Grants Program Panels for International Cultural Exchange (ICE) Grants Program and Youth Arts Miami (YAM) Grants Program were approved unanimously. (motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

### **FY 2015-2016 Developing Arts in Neighborhoods (DAN) Grants Program Guidelines**

The guidelines for the FY 2015-2016 Developing Arts in Neighborhoods (DAN) Grants Program were approved unanimously. (motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Mr. Jensen)

## **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS (continued)**

### **Department Facilities Updates**

#### **South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center**

Mr. Fliss reported that the month of February was record breaking with two shows being of particular note. Peking Acrobats, a co-production with Culture Shock Miami, was so popular that a second show was added to the schedule. Approximately 1400 tickets were sold for both shows.

The Swiss-based visual theater and comedy troupe, Mummenshantz, also a co-presentation with Culture Shock Miami, sold over 1800 tickets. The company presented a sensory friendly matinee show on February 28.

In March, The Cleveland Orchestra presented a free community concert. In addition, they held four outreach events. The events were extremely successful and the orchestra is exploring future opportunities.

Mr. Fliss reported that the LED marquee should be installed in the next few months.

Mr. Jensen congratulated Mr. Fliss and the staff of SMDCAC. He noted that their attention goes beyond the building but extends to creating a positive and enjoyable customer experience.

Mr. Henriques inquired as to the number of attendees that come from the local community. Mr. Fliss reported that, based on their analysis, approximately 60% of the audience lives within five miles of the center.

Mr. Fliss also reported on the success of the Theater Etiquette workshops, a collaboration with Culture Shock Miami and SMDCAC staff. Among the topics were audience etiquette, featuring the Culture Shock Miami video "The Top 10 Rudest Things to Do at a Culture Event," a backstage tour with onstage role-playing and a session with Shirley Richardson, M Ensemble, on professional etiquette in an audition or a performance setting

### **Joseph Caleb Auditorium**

Ms. Valles noted that construction in the complex is still ongoing. She reported that more than 28,000 students have been in attendance since October 1, 2014.

Among the performances were *Full Still Hungry* performed by Contra Tiempo, *Berenstain Bears* performed by Matt Murphy's Production and *Choir Boy* written by Tarell McCraney and performed by GableStage which included a question and answer session.

Ms. Perez noted that most of the contracts for the performers at Caleb were extensions of contracts that are already in place at other venues. This allows Caleb to present the shows at a significantly reduced cost.

### **Coconut Grove Playhouse**

Ms. Margol reported that the operating agreement with GableStage and the design contract with the team led by Arquitectonica was unanimously passed by the County Commission's Economic Prosperity Committee. The items will now go to the full County Commission meeting on Tuesday, April 21st.

Mr. Aguirre inquired if the project will be scalable. Ms. Margol noted that scalability will be determined by the design team. She also noted that renowned architect Jorge Hernandez is part of the team and will be assessing the historic preservation concerns.

### **Art in Public Places Update**

Ms. Reddick reported that Art in Public Places continues its work to implement public art projects for the expanded Miami Beach Convention Center. The estimated public art allocation is \$4.3 million. A Call to Artists was issued and 524 applications were submitted, 26 of which were chosen as finalists with one withdrawing.

The finalists will be visiting the site over a three day period in the coming weeks. Presentations of proposals are scheduled for September 24 and 25.

A national Call to Artists was issued for the NW 7th Avenue Transit Village and 149 applications were submitted. The 7th Avenue Transit Village is a mixed-use development project located in the heart of Liberty City, one of Miami-Dade's oldest and most celebrated communities. This multi-modal hub will provide 140 units of affordable housing, a theater, a multi-level parking garage and a transit hub.

Art in Public Places is working with Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces on The Underline. The project will create an iconic 10 mile linear park under Metrorail. It will connect people and places within Miami's vibrant and diverse communities. The spaces will be transformed by integrating public art, open spaces, landscape architecture, bike and pedestrian pathways as well as environmental and urban design. The project received a \$500,000 grant from ArtPlace America.

The Florida Black Bear sculpture by Tom Otterness is being installed in the Miami-Dade County Children's Courthouse. It is a large bronze sculptural installation at the entrance of the courthouse and will greet visitors as they enter the facility. Comprised of a four-foot tall mother bear, playing the role of the judge, and a series of small bears,

who are participating in a trial, the installation reflects the proceedings of the courts. In addition, multiple bear cubs will be found frolicking throughout the public areas of the courthouse.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Ms. Margol noted that Mr. Spring was attending Arts and Culture Day in Tallahassee.
- Dr. Phillip Frost and his wife, Patricia, have donated an additional \$10 million to support the planetarium at The Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science which is under construction in Miami's Museum Park.
- The "Culture Talk" roundtable sessions are continuing. The next session will involve grantees from Developing Arts in Neighborhoods (DAN) and Community Grants (CG). Previous sessions included the Major Cultural Institutions (MCI) and the Advancement (ADV) grantees.

## COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Mr. Jensen reported that the "Topping Out" ceremony for the City of Homestead's new City Hall, designed by Rodriquez and Quiroga, was held in February. He also reported that The United States Navy Band performed at South Dade Senior High School with great enthusiasm. And he presented a lecture entitled, "South Dade Black History from 1900 to the Present" in Florida City as part of Homestead Center for the Arts lecture series.
- Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez reported that the Knight Foundation awarded \$5 million to Pérez Art Museum of Miami and \$5 million to Institute of Contemporary Art Miami (ICA Miami).
- Mr. Bierman noted that Pinecrest Gardens' Banyan Bowl is an underappreciated venue. He commended the excellence of the South Motor Jazz Series which showcases a broad range of jazz genre featuring both national and international artists.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported that the Orchid Festival at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens was a great success. She reminded the Council that the Chihuly exhibit will end on end May 31. She also noted that there are evening tours of the gardens on Thursday and Sunday until then.
- Mr. Trainer reminded the Council that Miami-Dade Days will be held in Tallahassee on April 8 and 9.
- Ms. Gerson reported that The Woman's Club of Coconut Grove recently hosted the annual Young Arts Gallery competition. It is a juried art show and sale for Miami-Dade County Public School students.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gerry Landreth