

# Memorandum



**Date:** April 15, 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

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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	March 2015
Total number of students registered:	235	54
Number of arts production rentals:	45	9
Number of community rentals:	169	39
Number of arts groups using the Center:	116	25
Number of civic meetings:	128	52
Number of tours and outreach:	28	4

### *Program highlights for March included:*

- The After School Arts Academy continues to provide instruction to develop the talents of the participating students. This program will be commencing its final session in mid-April.
- The Spring Arts Workshop program was held from March 23 to March 27, 2015. The students who participated in the program were engaged in 6 classes per day and gave a stellar performance on Friday for their parents, family and the general community.
- The program for the Summer Arts Conservatory, and the instructional staff that will be required, is being planned.
- 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. This month, the Winds of Heritage Dance Company, the Voices of Heritage, and the Percussion Emblem Drum Line performed at the Youth Fair during opening week.
- Under their new facilitator, Ms. Butler, the Miami Children's Initiative and the Orchestra Miami organizations are adding approximately 24 more children to the AHCAC after school program. The students are continuing the orchestra program, with a performance scheduled for May.
- The AHCAC continues to provide instructional services for The Liberty City Elementary School students. The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center provides instructional classes for kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The staff is providing instructional classes in dance, chorus, creative dramatics, and instrumental music at the school. The school reported their best parent attendance during a recent performance by the students in the AHCAC program.
- The Center continues to work with Matrix2 to develop the Center's website and marketing materials. Matrix2 recently presented a preview of the website, which will up in beta form for testing before finalizing it. The development of the site was well-received; information regarding the Center's mission, services, history, operation, directions and programs are being conveyed in a positive manner, and navigation of the site is friendly and inspiring.

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

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

- The Amadlozi Gallery exhibition for March is in recognition of National Women’s Month. Entitled *Divinity Revealed* and curated by Mikhaile Solomon, the exhibit includes the following artists:
  - Amber Robles Gordon - a mixed media artist from Washington D.C.;
  - Latoya M. Hobbs - a painter & printmaker from Baltimore, MD;
  - Sheena Rose - media and fine artist, and a foreign student; and
  - Martin Nyarto – painter and sculptor from Union Gap, Washington.

Installation of all the art work was completed by Bayunga Kialeuka. The opening reception was well attended and was enhanced with the catering service of the Miami Northwestern Senior High Hospitality students under the leadership of Chef Pinckney Stephens.

- The theatrical play *Sister* by African American Performing Arts Community Theater, led by Teddy Harrell, was presented from March 6-8, 2015. The show had a full audience each day with standing-room only on Sunday.

Upcoming **Sankofa** events include:

- April 23 - Art Exhibition entitled *Emerge* will be on exhibit until May 19, 2015. The exhibition will feature local artists from the community, such as Julia Polonyl, Caron Bowman, Donald McKnight, Nana Blackman and Makati Janlwi.
  - May 7-9 - Spring Jazz Festival, featuring workshops, clinics and rehearsals, and will showcase alumni from the center, community and local schools. The festival will be featuring young up-and-coming artists such as Willerm Delisfort, Shareef Clayton and Harvey Lockhart.
  - May 23 - Brazz Dance Theater will present a dance program named “ODUN Paths & Journey.”
- 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](http://www.ahcacmiami.org).

### **Joseph Caleb Auditorium**

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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 March included:

- *Young Big Talented Dreams* – talent search by Actors’ Playhouse (March 21)

***Miami-Dade County Auditorium***

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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	March 2015
Number of Events:	77	11
Attendance:	51,000	6,210

Program highlights and rentals for March included:

- The Chopin Foundation Piano Competition Finals, which had begun in February, continued into the beginning of March. The competition winner was Eric Lu, who received a cash prize of \$75,000 and will compete for the international title in Warsaw, Poland.
- MDCA and FundArte presented the 2015 edition of Global Cuban Fest. This year's offerings included famed pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Jorge Luis Pacheco and Aldo Lopez-Gavilan, of which the latter two went on to perform at the Kennedy Center the following day.
- MDCA and Florida Chamber Orchestra continued their classical music concert series with a performance by Ileana Cortizo (piano) and Nora Lee Garcia (flute).
- MDCA, in collaboration with Grammy Nominee Jose Negroni, presented *Encounter II*, the second installment of the popular jazz concert. The concept for the concert is to bring together a group of great musicians on a stage and watch the magic happen. This year's group included Ed Calle, Roberto Perera and Federico Britos, among others. The concert was presented in the Mid-Stage Theatre configuration.
- As part of MDCA's Open Theatre play reading series, this month's staged readings included *Trojan Women* and *Musica para Hitler*.
- MDCA and Pablo Croce Productions presented Venezuelan actress Prakriti Maduro in *Frida Kahlo, Viva La Vida*. This one woman show has been performed in several countries and this was the US debut. It played to sold-out crowds on the On.Stage Black Box over two nights.
- Sociedad Pro-Arte Grateli presented the operetta *El Conde de Luxemburgo*.

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	March 2015
SMDCAC Presents:	69	14
Number of rentals:	240	38
Attendance:	52,211	6,760

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 March included:

- The Cleveland Orchestra FREE community concert (March 4)
  - Cleveland Orchestra Outreach Coral Reef HS (March 3)
  - Cleveland Orchestra Outreach Workshop for Seniors (March 3)
  - Cleveland Orchestra Outreach Perrine Elementary and Goulds Elementary (March 4)
- Urban Bush Women Performance (UBW) (March 7)
  - UBW Master Class for Thomas Armour Youth Ballet (March 5)
  - UBW Master Class for Miami Southridge and Miami Jackson Senior HS (March 6)
  - UBW Free Dance Community Class with Artistic Director Jawole Willa Jo Zollar (March 7)
  - UBW Pre-Show Lecture with Artistic Director Jawole Willa Jo Zollar (March 7)
- Caribbean Connection, Black Creek Nights club night (March 13)
- Broadway's Jekyll and Hyde (March 14)
- Mays Conservatory Theater Etiquette Workshops Presented by SMDCAC (March 16 and 18)
- All Kids Included Teacher's Workshop (March 20)
- Beatlemania - John Daversa and the UM Frost School of Music Jazz Band (March 27)
- Cabaret Follies (March 28)

Rentals for the month of March included:

- Thomas Armour Youth Ballet (every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday)
- Zumba with Ronald (every Tuesday and Friday)
- Pridelines Meeting (every Tuesday)
- Judy Gold Presented by The Rrazz Room (March 1)
- Leadership Miami meeting (March 14)
- Rotary Foundation reception (March 14)
- Young Talent Big Dreams, Actors' Playhouse (March 15)
- Nicole Henry Presented by The Rrazz Room (March 20)
- *Basetrack Live* Presented by MDC Live Arts (March 21)
- *Bang The Ivories* Presented by Murray Dranoff Foundation (March 28)

Upcoming April highlights include:

- Stephen Guerra and the UM Frost School of Music Studio Jazz Band (April 10)
- Eclectica (April 11)
- Launch Party for Mr. Pauer's Orange Album, Black Creek Nights club night (April 17)
- *America's Next Top Bachelor Housewife Celebrity Hoarder Makeover Star Gone Wild*, The Kinsey Sicks (April 18)
- *Cinderella*, Family Show (April 18)
- *Bach + Mahler*, Seraphic Fire (April 19)
- Ballet Memphis, Presented by Culture Shock Miami (April 25)

A year to year comparison of SMDCAC ticket sales to date reflects a 62% increase for the 2014-15 season, as well as a 30% increase in season subscribers over last season.

The following local businesses participate in the SMDCAC Employee Discount program offering monthly discounts to performances:

- Miami-Dade County
- Marriot and Courtyard of Dadeland
- Miami Chamber of Commerce
- Assurant Solutions

- Mercedes Benz of Cutler Bay
- Best Western Kendall and La Quinta Cutler Bay

SMDCAC recently implemented a Theater Etiquette Workshop series, an original outreach concept developed by the SMDCAC Production and Education and Outreach departments. It was conceived in an effort to educate the students at Arthur & Polly Mays 6-12 Conservatory of the Arts on best practices and professional conduct in the theater. Workshops were presented on Monday, March 16 (dance students) and Wednesday, March 18, 2015 (theater and music students) at SMDCAC. The workshops were presented in collaboration with the Center's professional crew, staff, Culture Shock Miami and actors from the celebrated M Ensemble theater company.

The first part of the two-hour workshop was dedicated to a comedic take on the "Top Ten Rudest Things..." that can occur in a theater setting. The Culture Shock Miami-produced video presented the situations through teen friendly improvisation. The video worked as a great way to begin the conversation between the students and the workshop leaders.

After the video presentation, the group was divided into two groups: onstage and backstage experience and performance expectations. The onstage portion of the workshop focused on professional expectations as a performer on the main stage as well as basic technical "mini labs" that allowed the students to hear about the different careers available as part of a professional crew and the importance of good lighting, sound and understanding stage positioning. Professional expectations was led by M Ensemble company members and was dedicated to building a resume, professional pictures and best practices for a successful audition.

Before the students left, time was allotted for de-brief and feedback on the workshop. The students and teachers were grateful for the experience.

SMDCAC had a marketing booth at the annual Deering Estate Seafood Festival on Sunday, March 29.

Urban Bush Women was featured on NBC 6, Artburst and *South Florida Times* in advance promotion of the show.

A review of the Dranoff Foundations' *Bang The Ivories* concert in Florida Classical Review complimentarily described the Center's Mainstage Concert Hall's acoustics as "clear and bright."

So far this season (the season began October 1, 2014) the Center's volunteer program has saved the County \$81,120.

For a complete listing of upcoming shows and events, please visit the Center's website, [www.smdcac.org](http://www.smdcac.org).

Attachments



Opening reception for *Divinity Revealed* at the Amadlozi Gallery.

The exhibition is in recognition of National Women's Month and was curated by Mikhaile Solomon.





AFRICAN HERITAGE  
CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

40TH ANNIVERSARY SANKOFA CELEBRATION



African American Performing Arts Community Theatre, Inc.

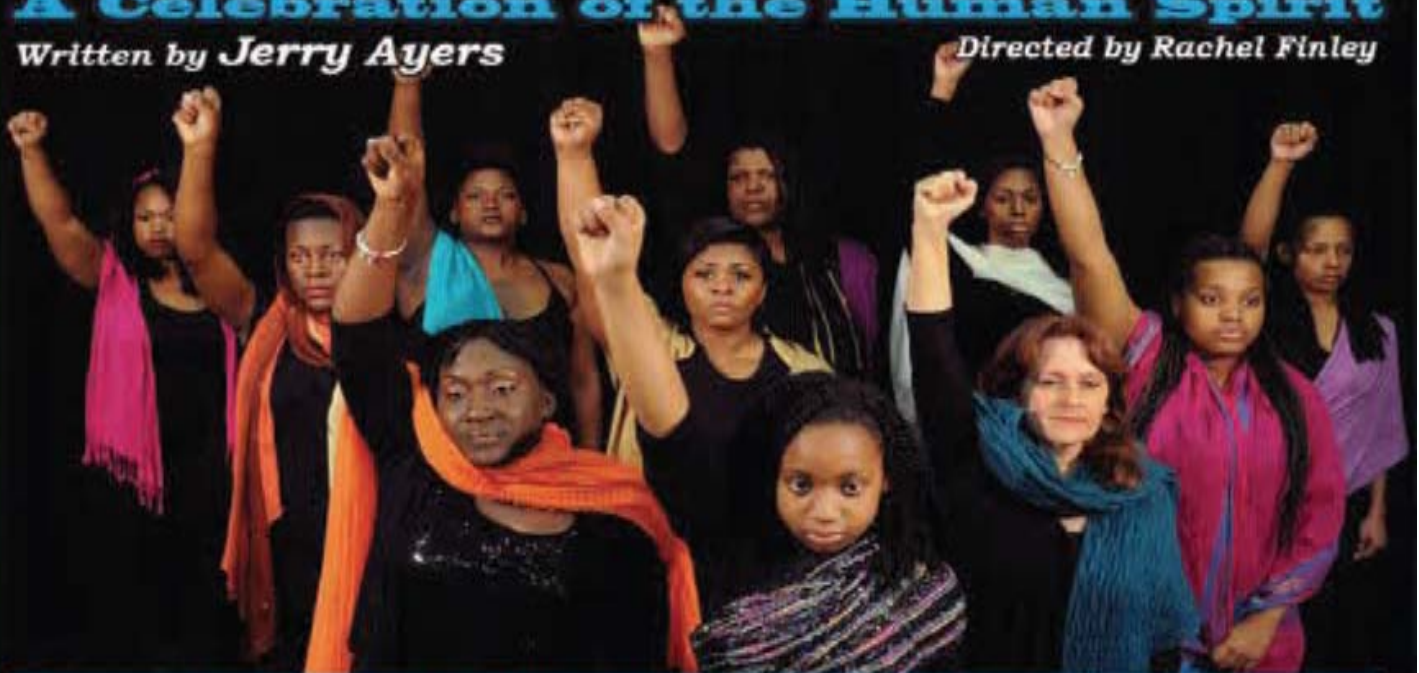
PROUDLY PRESENTS

# SISTERS!

A Celebration of the Human Spirit

Written by Jerry Ayers

Directed by Rachel Finley



"A powerful and evocative play with a talented cast of women, telling tales in word, song and movement which took the audience's breath away. Jerry Ayers' script, drawn from Dorothy Sterling's book *We Are Your Sisters: Black Women in the Nineteenth Century*, is a kind of dramatic collage. Beginning in the 1830s with the stories of enslaved women, and ends in the 1890s as free black women are becoming teachers, doctors, business women, nurses and more. The women in its large cast play 68 roles, bringing to life both famous figures (Sojourner Truth, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet Tubman) as well as slaves, students, preachers, singers and even members of the Ku Klux Klan." - Christine Dolen; Miami Herald

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

6161 NW 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

Miami, FL 33142

ONE WEEKEND ONLY!

MARCH 6-8, 2015

SHOWTIMES

Friday, March 6 at 7:30 pm (\$20 Admission)  
Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 pm (\$25 Admission)  
Sunday, March 8 at 4:00 pm (\$20 Admission)



Knight Foundation



It is policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disability Act. The facility is accessible. To request materials in accessible format and/or accommodations to attend an event at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, please contact Orla Wilkins at 305-638-6771 or ahcac@miamidade.gov at least five days in advance to submit your request. TTY users may also call 711 (Florida Relay Service).

For tickets or info visit: [www.aapact.com](http://www.aapact.com) • Phone: 305-503-6171 • Email: [theatre@aapact.com](mailto:theatre@aapact.com)

Gonzalo Rubalcaba's performance during Global Cuban Fest 2015 (March 7, 2015)



Food trucks were part of Global Cuban Fest 2015 (March 7, 2015)



December Bueno performance  
(March 13, 2015)



Reading of *Musica para Hitler*, part of the Open Theatre reading series  
(March 20, 2015)



Theater Etiquette Workshop for Mays Conservatory (March 16 and 19)



Auditions for Actor's Playhouse'  
Young Talent Big Dreams  
(March 15)

