

**MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
April 15, 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
Mitchell Bierman
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez
Xavier Cortada
Denise Gerson
Susana Ibargüen
Robert Jensen
Phyllis Simpkins
Rosa Sugrañes
Monty Trainer

Members Not Present

Alejandro Aguirre
Louis-Albert Jolivert
Jorge Luis Lopez
Jorge Pérez
Janá Sigars-Malina

Others

Lydia Lopez, Office of the Mayor

Staff

Michael Spring, Director
Kelly Allocco
Patricia Arbelaez
Roxana Barba
Christina Beauvoir
Nikenna Benjamin
Sue Camp
Marshall Davis
Roseline Duberceau-Baptiste
Eric Fliss
Teddy Harrell
Sandra Hill
Gerry Landreth
Regla Lee
Marialaura Leslie
Deborah Margol
Alex Peraza
Adriana Perez
Brandi Reddick

Staff (continued)

Javier Siut
Pam Valles

Chairman Adolfo Henriques called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

Mr. Henriques officially introduced new Councilor Mitchell Bierman, Partner, Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole & Bonsike to the Council. Mr. Bierman has served as an attorney for Miami-Dade County and as a trustee on the Art in Public Places Trust. He was appointed by Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava, who represents District 8.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences

Requests for excused absences submitted by Alejandro Aguirre, Jorge Luis Lopez, Jorge Pérez and Janá Sigars-Malina were approved unanimously. (motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Simpkins)

Approval of the March 18, 2015 Minutes

Ms. Ibarguén noted that she had requested an excused absence for the March 18 meeting which was not reflected in the minutes. She requested that the minutes be amended. The minutes of the March 18, 2015 Council meeting were approved unanimously as amended. (motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Simpkins)

FY 2014-2015 Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA) Grant Recommendation

Ms. Margol reported that there have been ongoing talks with Babacar M'Bow, Director of Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami and the city manager of North Miami, Aleem Ghaney, regarding the future of the museum. She noted that the City of North Miami is committed to supporting its viability.

Based on the discussions and review of the current activities, the Department recommends providing a grant to the museum as a Targeted organization. The funds would be available for marketing and public programming.

Questions were raised about funding for the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) in the Miami Design District. Mr. Spring noted that, as a new organization, they had been recommended to apply for a Community Grant to begin to establish a funding history with the Department.

Other questions were raised about the accreditation of MoCA. Ms. Allocco reported that the current accreditation by the American Association of Museums (AAM) is in effect for another year.

Mr. Trainer made a motion that the Council approve the funding. Mr. Cortada seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

FY 2015-2016 Grants Program Panels

The panels for the 2015-2016 Capital Development (CAP) Grants Program, Cultural Advancement (ADV) Grants Program, Festivals and Special Events (FEST) Grants Program, Hannibal Cox, Jr. Cultural (HCJ) Grants Program and Major Cultural Institutions (MCI) Grants Program were approved unanimously. (motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

FY 2015-2016 Budget Updates

County

Ms. Margol reported on recommendations for allocations of spending based on the increase of \$10 million to the budget being requested by the Council. Among the recommendations were increases to the grants programs and to Culture Shock Miami.

Increases to three facilities, South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, Miami-Dade County Auditorium and African Heritage Cultural Arts Center would include funding for staffing, marketing, and programming as well as basic capital needs.

No increase was recommended at this time for Joseph Caleb Auditorium due to ongoing construction and the limitations in programming that have resulted. A subsidy of \$700,000 would be set aside for the 7th Avenue Transit Village Theater to use as an incentive to attract an operator for the facility.

Mr. Trainer made a motion that the Council endorse the proposed plan. Ms. Simpkins seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

State

Mr. Spring reported that the recommendation advanced by the Florida Cultural Alliance for FY 2015 – 2016 funding for state arts support is \$49 million. This represents full funding for all grants recommended through the Division of Cultural Affairs competitive review process and would benefit more than 100 arts organizations in Miami-Dade County.

The House of Representatives and the Senate have differing budget recommendations which will need to be resolved in a conference committee or in a special session.

Mr. Spring encouraged Councilors to become members of the Florida Cultural Alliance which is the primary advocate for the arts in Tallahassee.

Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program

Ms. Beauvoir reported that Culture Shock Miami continues to expand its offerings for the 2014-2015 season, with more than 140 events available to its target audience during the first quarter of the 2014-2015 fiscal year. To date, 7,030 tickets have been sold for the first seven (7) 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 8,531. This represents an increase of 38% from the first seven (7) months of the 2013-2014 cultural season.

Culture Shock Miami will be participating in the 9th Annual All Kids Included Festival on May 2, 2015 by sponsoring the festival's outdoor stage and will include performances by School of Rock and The Rodiles. These performers were carefully selected because of their appeal to the program's target audience. In addition, Culture Shock Miami Program Managers Christina Tassy-Beauvoir and Gerry Landreth, will be on hand to promote the program.

Mr. Trainer expressed concern that people who are not part of the program's target audience are purchasing tickets. Ms. Beauvoir and Mr. Landreth outlined what steps have been taken to minimize any abuse, including specific language in all promotional materials as well as working directly with box office managers.

Department Facilities Update

African Heritage Cultural Arts Center (AHCAC)

Mr. Davis introduced Theodore "Teddy" Harrell as the newest employee for AHCAC. Mr. Harrell was the founder/artistic director of African American Performing Arts Community Theatre (AAPACT).

AHCAC is celebrating its 40th-year anniversary. Upcoming events for the month of May include the art exhibition, *Emerge*, featuring local artists from the community. The *Spring Jazz Festival* will feature workshops, clinics and rehearsals, and will showcase alumni from the center, community and local schools.

Mr. Davis announced that Ashlee Thomas will be leaving AHCAC and will be joining the Betty T. Ferguson Recreation Complex. He noted that she has been a great asset to the center and that she will be missed.

Miami-Dade County Auditorium (MDCA)

Mr. Suit reported that MDCA hosted 77 events with 51,000 patrons attending since the beginning of the 2014-2015 season. In addition to regular performances, MDCA sponsors The Open Theatre Play Reading Series, which activates spaces in the facility on days when there are no performances.

MDCA is currently working with Matrix2 on the final stages of the development of its website which should be launched at the end of May 2015.

Coconut Grove Playhouse

Mr. Spring reported that the design contract with the team led by Arquitectonica was unanimously passed by the County Commission's Economic Prosperity Committee. The item will now go before the full County Commission on Tuesday, April 21.

Mr. Trainer inquired about the reports regarding Kevin Spacey's interest in the Coconut Grove Playhouse project. Mr. Spring reported that he had met with Mr. Spacey and, as of now, there is no plan for his involvement.

Art in Public Places (APP)

Ms. Reddick reported that the opening of the Miami-Dade Children's Courthouse featuring works by Tom Otterness, Xavier Cortada and others will be April 24. Ms. Romeu and Ms. Reddick are attending to final installation details.

Artists' meetings for the Miami Beach Convention Center expansion project will be held over two weekends. Internationally renowned artists will be visiting the site to help them formulate their proposals. Final proposals will be submitted in September 2015.

The applications for the Call to Artists for the NW 7th Avenue Transit Village are being reviewed by staff. Recommendations will be forwarded to a Professional Advisory Committee for further review and selection.

APP continues work on restoration projects including *The Miami Line*, which is awaiting permit approval.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring introduced Lydia Lopez, his new assistant in the Mayor's Office.
- Arts and Culture Advocacy Day, sponsored by the Florida Cultural Alliance, on March 18 in Tallahassee was successful.

- The Department continued the monthly Culture Talks Roundtable program with constituents, focusing most recently on grantees of the Developing Arts in Neighborhoods (DAN) and Community Grants (CG) programs. The next roundtable will be held with recipients of children's programs grants, Youth Arts Miami (YAM) and Summer Arts and Sciences Camps for Kids (SAS-C).
- The Bass Museum will be closing for 18 months for renovations. Plans are being finalized to move exhibitions and programming to the neighboring Miami-Dade Public Library.
- Ms. Margol reminded that financial disclosure forms required by the County are due and offered assistance should it be needed.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Ms. Sagrañes commented on the murals in the parking garage of the downtown Miami Whole Foods Market. She noted that it enhanced the shopping experience.
- Mr. Trainer reported that Miami-Dade County Days in Tallahassee was a success. It marked the 27th year of the event which features the annual "Paella Fest." Miami-Dade County Mayor Carol Gimenez and Governor Rick Scott were in attendance.
- Mr. Cortada reported that he delivered a presentation to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) on his use of art to engage science, scientists and the broader community. He reported that he has been selected to participate in National Weather Center Biennale. He will be presenting his *Wind Words: Water* project.
- Ms. Gerson reported that she will be attending *Havana Art Biennial 2015*.
- Ms. Ibarguen reported that she enjoyed a performance by Miami City Ballet. She also congratulated Culture Shock Miami on an article in *The Miami Herald* by Christine Dolen and noted that she strongly endorses the program.
- Mr. Jensen reported that he had attended Black History celebrations in Goulds.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry Landreth