

Memorandum



Date: May 20, 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. The scope of work is being further refined to align with current facility needs, budget limitations, and potential grant opportunities.

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	April 2015
Total number of students registered:	258	23
Number of arts production rentals:	55	10
Number of community rentals:	191	22
Number of arts groups using the Center:	140	24
Number of civic meetings:	156	28
Number of tours and outreach:	35	7

Program highlights for March included:

- The After School Arts Academy is now in its final session for this year, and the students are currently preparing for the final recital, which will include performances by the Saturday dance students. The showcase performances serve to:
 - (1) Demonstrate the child’s development;
 - (2) Develop the child’s ability, confidence and creative expression in front of an audience;
 - (3) Showcase the student’s talent to their parents and the community; and
 - (4) Assess the effectiveness of the instructional design.
- The students in the after school art program from the partnership between Miami Children’s Initiative and Orchestra Miami will be holding their showcase performance in May. Selected students will perform in an opera alongside professional performers.
- AHCAC staff attended a special three day workshop/conference organized in partnership with the Center for Social Change and the national program called *Coaches*. The conference focused on understanding, managing and teaching students. Additionally, the Center for Social Change has provided a part-time instructor for the Center’s Saturday dance program.
- The AHCAC continues to provide instructional services for students at the Liberty City Elementary School. The Center provides instructional classes in dance, chorus, creative dramatics, and instrumental music for kindergarten through 5th grade students.
- Enrollment and registration information for the Summer Arts Conservatory is now available for interested parents to begin enrolling their children. Post cards have been mailed out to inform the public of the program.
- Matrix2 is developing the Center’s website and marketing materials. The development of the website has been well-received; information regarding the Center’s mission, services, history, operation, directions and programs is 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 40 years of service with the following events from the Sankofa series:

- Sankofa presented former Navy Seal and founder of the National Black Scuba Divers, Mr. Ric Powell, as a speaker this month. Mr. Powell is a professional musician who collaborated with R&B legend Donny Hathaway in producing *This Christmas*. Mr. Powell spoke about finding the sunken slave ship *Henrietta Marie* in the Florida Keys and organizing the placement of a monument at the site.
- From April 24, 2015 to May 20, 2015, the Amadlozi Gallery is presenting an exhibit entitled *Emerge*, which was curated by Robert McKnight and features the following prominent local artists: Nadine Anderson, Nana Blackman, Carol Bowman, Nadia Desdejerdan, Makati Janlwi, Loni Johnson, Donald McKnight, Julia Polonyl and Utah. Installation of 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.

Upcoming **Sankofa** events include:

- May 7-9 - Spring Jazz Festival, featuring workshops, clinics and rehearsals, and showcasing alumni from the Center, the community and local schools. The festival will be featuring young up-and-coming artists such as Willerm Delisfort, Shareef Clayton and Harvey Lockhart.
 - May 22 to June 3 - Art Exhibition entitled *Capturing Brazzdance*, featuring Augusto Soledade of Brazzdance. The exhibit is the result of local dance photographers capturing the dance company beyond the fleeting moment of performance.
 - May 22 and 23 at 8:00PM - Brazzdance Theater presents a dance concert 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)

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 ongoing 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 28,649.

Upcoming events:

- May 5, 2015 – New World Symphony
- May 8, 2015 – Page Turner’s Adventures - *Mixed-up Fairy Tale*

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	April 2015
Number of Events:	95	18
Attendance:	56,325	5,325

Program highlights and rentals for April included:

- MDCA and Bistoury Theatre premiered a brand new work, commissioned by MDCA, called *Tribe*. *Tribe* is an experimental dance/theatre performance that presents issues of homelessness. This performance was a technically challenging piece that included multiple video projections, live music, rain, tropical storm winds and dancers suspended from bungee cords. *Tribe* has been invited to participate in dance festivals in Cuba and Colombia.
- MDCA presented *Sirens in Space* in collaboration with dancer/choreographer Pioneer Winter.
- MDCA and FundArte presented a weekend dedicated to climate change that was titled *Climakaze*. It included conferences and discussions on the topic, a trip to the Everglades and two performance pieces: *Polar Bear Fever* by Antonio Salinas and *Preparing for the Obsolescence of the Y Chromosome* by Michelle Ellsworth.
- MDCA continued its Open Theatre Reading Series with presentations of *El Color del Deseo* by Nilo Cruz, featuring an all-star cast of actors, and *Game of Life and Chance* an adaptation of works by Moliere.
- MDCA collaborated with Tigertail on their FLA-FRA Festival for the second consecutive year by presenting Adrien Moignard and Nadia Beugre.

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	April 2015
SMDCAC Presents:	75	6
Number of rentals:	292	52
Attendance:	59,287	7,076

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 April included:

- Stephen Guerra and the UM Frost Studio Jazz Band Concert (April 10)
- Eclectica (April 11)

- Black Creek Nights Launch Party for Mr. Pauer's Orange Album (April 17)
- Cinderella Family Show (April 18)
- The Kinsey Sicks, Dragapella show (April 18)
- Seraphic Fire *Bach and Mahler* (April 19)
- All Kids Included School Field Trips (April 29-May 1)

Rentals for the month of April included:

- Thomas Armour Youth Ballet (every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday)
- Zumba with Ronald (Every Tuesday and Friday)
- Pridelines Meeting (every Tuesday)
- Christ Fellowship Easter Services (April 5)
- Women Playing Hamlet Presented by New Theatre (April 3-April 26)
- Miami Symphony Orchestra Concert (April 12)
- All Kids Included Art Exhibition Judging (April 16)
- Spicewood meeting (April 22)
- Ballet Memphis Presented by Culture Shock Miami (April 25)
 - Ballet Memphis community master ballet class (April 25)

Upcoming May highlights include:

- 9th Annual All Kids Included Free Family Arts Festival (May 2)
- Siempre Flamenco *Café Cantante* Performances (May 15-17)
- Vonda Shepard (May 16)

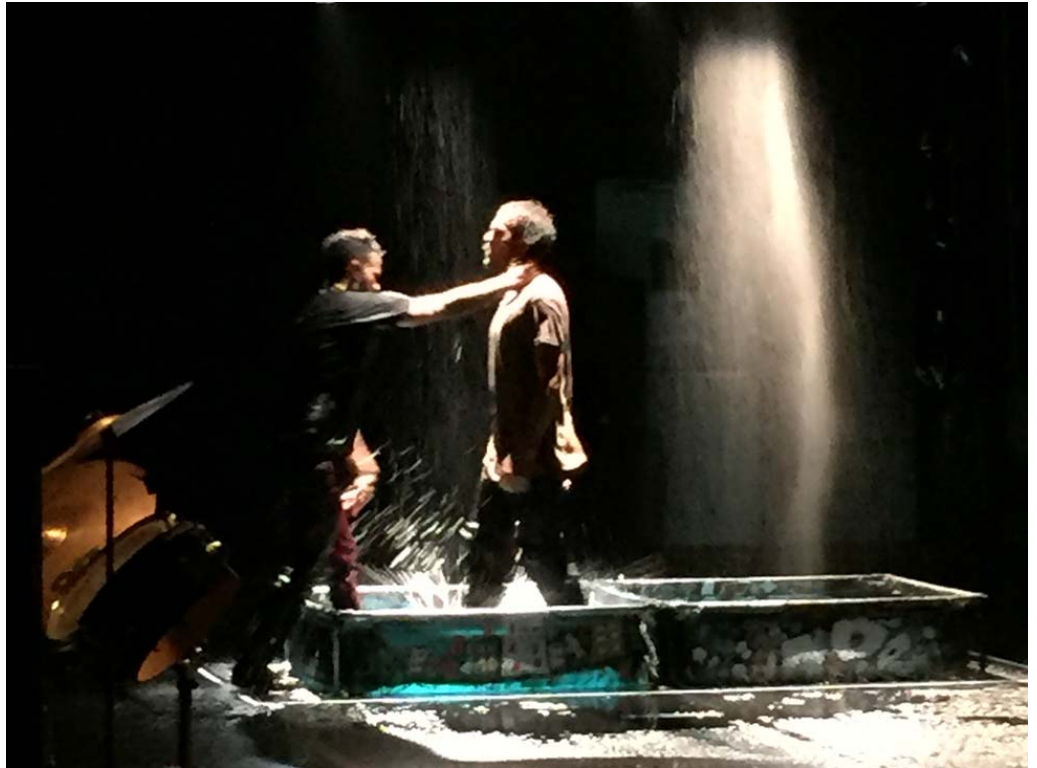
The South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center was nominated and recognized by Chamber South for an Excellence Award for its outstanding contribution to the community.

Recent press coverage of performance at the Center includes a feature on Ballet Memphis in the Miami New Times and an interview with Managing Director Eric Fliss promoting the All Kids Included Family Festival on NBC 6. SMDCAC promoted the All Kids Included Family Festival on CW TV and Channel 7.

So far this season (beginning October 1, 2014) the Center's volunteer program has saved the County \$90,545.

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

Attachments



Tribe being performed
at the On.Stage Black Box
(April 2-5)



Photo exhibit that was a
companion piece to *Tribe*
(April 2-5)

Preparing for
The Obsolescence of the Y Chromosome
by Michelle Ellsworth
(April 11)



El Color del Deseo
by Nilo Cruz,
part of the
Open Theatre
Reading Series
(April 15)



SOUTH MIAMI-DADE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

FRIDAY APRIL 17TH
SOUTH MIAMI DADE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER PRESENTS:
BLACK CREEK NIGHTS

MR. PAUER
ORANGE

LIVE PERFORMANCE + SPECIAL GUESTS
ANA & MAYE OSORIO + DAMA VICKE

SPECIAL ACOUSTIC SET BY:
ITAWE (LOCOS POR JUANA) • TUMBAO (XPERIMENTO) • NACHO (ARBOLES LIBRES)

DJ SET BY:
KIKO DE GALLO + CHATO

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WWW.SMDCAC.ORG
10950 SW 211TH ST, MIAMI, FL 33189
WWW.MRPAUER.COM





Young patrons attending *Cinderella* (April 18)



Ballet Memphis Community Outreach Class (April 25)



CULTURE SHOCK MIAMI PRESENTS

A FREE BALLET MASTER CLASS WITH
BALLET MEMPHIS
SAT, APR 25 11AM-12:30PM

Come learn from a group identified as a "national treasure" by the Ford Foundation. Ballet Memphis produces more original work than any other company its size and continues to breathe new life into the arena of classical ballets. This is a great opportunity!
Class is recommended for Ballet Dancers ages 11 years old and up.

LOCATION: South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center
10950 SW 211 St. | Cutler Bay, FL 33189

CULTURE SHOCK MIAMI.COM

See these artists perform LIVE at SMDCAC on **SATURDAY, APR 25 AT 8PM.**
\$5 tickets for students 13-22
PLUS another \$5 ticket for a companion of any age!

\$5 access to the arts ages 13-22 at
cultureshockmiami.com 305.375.1949

Culture Shock Miami is a program made possible by the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, The John S. & James L. Knight Foundation, and TicketWeb.

