

MINUTES OF THE  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

April 20, 2016

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  
Mitchell Bierman  
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez  
Xavier Cortada  
Sandra Curbelo  
Denise Gerson  
Susana Ibarguen  
Robert Jensen  
Janá Sigars-Malina  
Phyllis Simpkins  
Rosa Sugrañes  
Monty Trainer  
Dwayne Wynn

**Staff**

Michael Spring, Director  
Kelly Allocco  
Francine Andersen  
Patricia Arbelaez  
Roxana Barba  
Christina Beauvoir  
Nikenna Benjamin  
Sue Camp  
Marshall Davis  
Eric Fliss  
Hanny Guedes  
Liliana Hernandez-Constanla  
Sandra Hill  
Marialaura Leslie  
Deborah Margol  
David Martinez-Delgado  
Cheryl Mizell  
Gilda Mooney

**Members Not Present**

Jorge Pérez

**Others Present**

Franklin Sirmans, Director, Pérez Art Museum Miami  
Lydia Lopez, Assistant to Senior Advisor, Office of the Mayor

**Staff (continued)**

Adriana Perez  
Kat Robertson  
Javier Siut  
Pamela Valles

Chairman Adolfo Henriques called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m.

## **ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

### **Requests for Excused Absences for April 20, 2016**

A request for an excused absence for Jorge Pérez was approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Ibarguen)

### **Approval of the March 16, 2016 Minutes**

The minutes of the March 16, 2016 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Mr. Jensen)

### **FY 2016-2017 Grants Program Panels**

The program panels for the Capital Development (CAP) Grants Program; Cultural Advancement (ADV) Grants Program; Festivals and Special Events (FEST) Grants Program; and the Major Cultural Institutions (MCI) Grants Program were approved unanimously. Chairman Henriques noted that Councilors participate on every grants program panel with one Councilor serving as chair on each panel. (Motion by Ms. Simpkins; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

## **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Update on FY 2016-2017 County Budget**

Chairman Henriques reported that Council members have been scheduling meetings with their appointing Commissioner to discuss the cultural budget. He highlighted the important role of arts projects in keeping kids off the street and developing young minds and creative thinking.

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

Ms. Beauvoir reported that ticket sales have increased by 26% over last year at this time. To date, the Culture Shock Miami program has sold 15,194 tickets this year (2015-16) as compared to 12,060 sold last year (2014-15.) She noted that total tickets sales include a combination of tickets sold for performances through TicketWeb on CultureShockMiami.com and tickets for the outreach workshops conducted with partners such as Caleb Auditorium, Miami-Dade Public School, Cultural Passport Program, South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center and Miami-Dade County Auditorium.

Ms. Beauvoir reported on recent and upcoming performances produced as part of the Culture Shock Miami Presents series including Semi-Toned, in April, that enjoyed three standing ovations, and the Black Violin performance scheduled for July 8, 2016 at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center.

Ms. Sugrañes noted that Culture Shock Miami is on the social media platform, Instagram, and encouraged the use of hashtags to attract more Instagram followers. Chairman Henriques stated that he has heard positive feedback from the community about the Culture Shock Miami program.

## PRESENTATION

Mr. Spring introduced Franklin Sirmans, Director, Jorge M. Pérez Art Museum of Miami-Dade County (PAMM).

Mr. Sirmans discussed recent exhibitions that have opened at PAMM and are scheduled to travel to other museums, including *Nari Ward: Sun Splashed* and *Firelei Báez: Bloodlines*. Mr. Sirmans noted that these exhibitions are building knowledge, creating scholarship and bringing Miami into the global art conversation. He also shared that their new Inside|Out Program, funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, which brings high-quality reproductions of art from PAMM's permanent collection to the community, has launched in Hialeah and Homestead.

Pérez Art Museum Miami is a modern and contemporary art museum dedicated to collecting and exhibiting international art of the 20th and 21st centuries. Exhibitions highlight Miami's diverse community and pivotal geographic location at the crossroads of the Americas. Designed by Pritzker Prize winning architects Herzog and de Meuron, PAMM provides an educational and civic forum for the County's residents and visitors.

## Department Facilities Updates

### Miami Dade County Auditorium

Mr. Siut reported that over the past three months the Miami-Dade County Auditorium (MDCA) hosted 39 events attracting 14,000 guests, bringing the yearly totals to 80 events and a total audience of more than 50,000. January highlights include a first time collaboration with Centro Cultural Español (CCE) to present *Nadie te Conoce Como Yo* by Spanish playwright Roger Peña Curulla, which enjoyed a 10-performance Black Box run with sold-out shows. MDCA also hosted the Miami Marlins Energy Team Final Auditions and the 2016 State of the County address by Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez, coordinated by the Department. MDCA's New Works Open Theatre Reading Series, in its second year featured Maria Irene Fornes' *Mud*, directed by Nilo Cruz and starring Deborah Sherman, Paul Tei and Carlos Orizondo and legendary Spanish singer Paloma San Basilio sold out her concert on Valentine's Day. Other performances at MDCA included Peruvian singer Gian Marco and Camille A. Brown's "Black Girl: Linguistic Play." MDCA co-presented Companhia Urbana de Danca from Brazil with Culture Shock Miami. In addition to the public performance, the group also performed for approximately 1,000 Miami-Dade County Public School students and offered a master class.

### African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Davis noted that the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center is wrapping up its After School Arts Program. The Spring Arts Workshop, a multi-arts workshop engaged students in six art classes per day and was held during the week-long public school recess period. Mr. Davis reported that the Center opened a visual art exhibition featuring the work of Purvis "Pervis" Young, born in Liberty City and raised in Overtown. The Center hosted a book event for children with celebrity actor Taye Diggs, who has published *Chocolate Me!* He also noted that *Simply Simone*, a play based on the life of Nina Simone, received outstanding reviews and was recommended by the Carbonell Awards. Mr. Davis introduced Cheryl Mizell, the Center's new Marketing and Communications Manager. Ms. Mizell provided an overview of the marketing efforts of the Center including a new media partnership with Cox Radio Group to provide public service announcements and calendar listings to the Center.

Mr. Wynn congratulated Mr. Davis and his staff for their hard work.

Chairman Henriques left the meeting and Ms. Sagrañes chaired the remainder of the meeting.

### **7th Avenue – Carver Theater**

Mr. Spring reported that the Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the 7th Avenue – Carver Theater was scheduled for Friday, April 29, 2016 at 3:00 PM. Mr. Spring noted that the theater will be operated in partnership with by Fantasy Theatre Factory and The M Ensemble. The M Ensemble will be resident theater company and Fantasy Theatre Factory will handle the day to day operations. Mr. Spring noted that the approval items for 7th Avenue – Carver Theater are expected to be on the agenda of the May Committee meeting and the June Board of County Commissioners meeting. Mr. Spring noted that it is anticipated that, pending approval, the theater will have soft opening activities over summer and will open in the fall. Tours of the space can be arranged for Councilors. Mr. Spring acknowledged the staff at South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center and Miami-Dade County Auditorium for their work in producing the ribbon cutting event as well as staff members Alex Peraza and Marialaura Leslie for working with the developer, Atlantic Pacific, and Commissioner Edmonson's office in coordinating the event.

### **Art in Public Places**

Mr. Martinez-Delgado reported that Art in Public Places (APP) continues to work on various projects including a water playground with artist-designed water jets at Zoo Miami and the installation of the façade of the new Miami-Dade Animal Services Pet Adoption and Protection Center building, designed by David Brooks.

Mr. Martinez-Delgado provided an update on the augmented reality public art project by Ivan Toth Depeña. The project features a series of murals at various sites including the Miami-Dade Cultural Center and Locust Projects that are activated through a mobile app on portable devices, including phones, iPads, etc. The project, titled Lapse, creates a three dimensional experience through groundbreaking augmented reality technology. Lapse responds to triggers and activates each of the components by revealing virtual and auditory experiences with a mobile device's camera lens and sound output.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

- Mr. Spring reported that Frost Science Museum item was approved by the Board of County Commissioners and that the construction work was moving forward. He acknowledged staff member Lisa D'Andrea-Thompson for her work on managing the project for the Department.
- Mr. Spring noted the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the annual All Kids Included Festival for kids with and without disabilities will be held on May 7, 2016 at South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center.
- Mr. Spring highlighted the recent Huffington Post article that stated "Ten years ago, Chicago, L.A., Philadelphia and Boston would be obvious contenders. But today, arguably, the Miami area might be considered *numero dos*."

### **COUNCILOR REPORTS**

- Ms. Sugrañes congratulated Mr. Spring and the entire Cultural Affairs staff for their efforts on behalf of the cultural community.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported that the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is offering a Mother's Day Brunch and a Mother's Day Tea.
- Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez reported that Edouard Duval-Carrié was nominated for the Chevalier des Artes et lettres. She also noted that the director of the Little Haiti Cultural Center is no longer with the organization.

- Mr. Cortada reported that he served as a judge for the Silver Knight Awards in the arts category and served as emcee for The Education Fund awards ceremony featuring 300 Miami-Dade Public Schools students. He shared that the level of the students' art work was exceptional. Mr. Cortada also noted that he will be performing Climakaze Miami at Miami-Dade County Auditorium.
- Mr. Trainer reported on an initiative to develop a Coconut Grove art and cultural district in West Grove.
- Mr. Wynn reported on Miami Garden's cultural trolley program.
- Ms. Sugranes reported that she has been asked once again to write an article about the arts in Miami for a major newspaper publication in Barcelona.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Leslie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized capital 'M'.

Marialaura Leslie