

Memorandum



Date: June 15, 2016

To: Members, Cultural Affairs Council

From: Michael Spring, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Spring". The signature is stylized 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 prioritized 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. The A/E team is in the process of developing the construction documents, while the Department provides interim reviews.

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 + \$500,000 State Cultural Facilities Grant
- Joseph Caleb Auditorium: \$1.4 million (balance remaining)
- Miami-Dade County Auditorium: \$4.0 million + \$500,000 State Cultural Facilities Grant

The Department has actively pursued and continues to apply for additional funding from the State Cultural Facilities Grant Program through the following applications:

- FY 15-16 \$500,000 for the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center (awarded);
- FY 16-17 \$500,000 for Miami-Dade County Auditorium (awarded);
- FY 17-18 \$500,000 for Caleb Auditorium (application submitted on June 6, 2016).

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 2015-2016 to-date	April / May	
Total number of students registered:	230	8	45
Number of arts production rentals:	116	16	14
Number of community rentals:	133	12	16
Number of arts groups using the Center:	134	21	19
Number of civic meetings:	172	20	24
Number of tours and outreach:	45	5	6

Program highlights for April and May included:

- The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center’s *After School Arts Program* is concluding its final session for the school year, with the program’s showcase/recital scheduled for June 3rd at the Center’s *Wendall A. Narcisse Performing Arts Theater*. Each class will be performing to demonstrate the skills and knowledge acquired by the students during the school year.
- Kinad, Inc. brought their Mobile Museum to the Center to educate the students in the After School Arts Program on the history of noted individuals from the African Diaspora.
- The Links, Inc., a volunteer service organization, held a drumming workshop for some of the Center’s students with master drummer William Stewart of Solutions In Music Corp.
- The Sankofa Spring Jazz Fest was held on April 2, 2016 at the Center and featured renowned Jazz organist and pianist Bobby Floyd who plays with the Count Basie Orchestra. Other participants included former music instructor and Jazz saxophonist Melton R. Mustafa, and several AHCAC alumni: John and Ja’Nia Harden, Jazz soloist Courtney Mickens, and Latin Jazz artist Cachita Lopez. The artists thrilled the audience with their individual Jazz interpretations.
- The Center was honored to partner with Dr. Nanny Thomas, wife of the late muralist Oscar Thomas and president of his namesake foundation. Curated by Robert McKnight, the exhibition titled “*Walk a Mile in My Shoes*” showcased art works by community muralists and honored outstanding muralist Mr. Oscar Thomas. Artists in the exhibition included: Carol Brown, A.J. Brown, Dan Gator, Makhai, Ed King, Marvin Weeks, Isaie Mathias, Jacquelyn Gopie, William Cordova, Chris, Ziggy, Rosa Napia, Moal and Woff Sencus King.

- Center staff members John Harden and Zipporah Hayes provided entertainment for the audience attending the ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for the 7th Avenue Transit Village, named after Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson
- Former alumnus Marshall L. Davis Jr., an associated choreographer for the upcoming Broadway production “*Shuffle Along*,” had the pleasure of meeting Oprah Winfrey during one of the show’s previews. Bianca Brewton, also an alumnus of the Center, danced in the HBO music production of Beyoncé’s *Lemonade* and is scheduled to perform in Miami with Beyoncé.
- Initiated by the late Ken Knight, the Center partnered with Sherry Suttles, who wrote and secured a \$25,000 Florida Arts and Culture Grant for the Mende Film Festival to showcase Gullah Geechee history and culture. Gullah Geechee were Africans who had unique skills in iron making, rice planting, and other viable crafts, making them prized in the slave trade due to their knowledge and skills. The festival culminated at the Center on April 30th after touring North and Central Florida.
- Dwayne Zot of Zot Artz provided a special workshop for the After School Program students, teaching them his unique craft and design techniques.
- The Center’s apprenticeship programs organized two outstanding performances:
 - Instructor, AHCAC alumnus and noted local soloist Zipporah Hayes led a performance entitled *Entourage*. The classically inspired show included a live band and sensational lighting designed by Eric Quinn, an alumnus of the AHCAC. The apprenticeship program students, ages 12 to 13, were mentored by professional vocalists who performed alongside with them.
 - The AHCAC Winds of Heritage Dance Company performed *Together We Dance* at the Little Haiti Cultural Center. The program was designed and coordinated by AHCAC dance director Anita Hope, who conceptualized the concert as a means to foster positive relationships and comradery amongst various emerging and thriving dance communities. The Winds of Heritage Dance Company was joined by Augusto Soledad’s Brazzdance Company, Academy of the Arts & Minds Charter High School Dance Department, Dance Integrity Performing Arts Theater, Diva Arts Dance Academy, dance major Deja Darbonne of New World School of the Arts, and special guest artist Ja’Naye Thurston, currently performing with Latin-Reggae artist Yandel.

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. The parking lot serving the Auditorium and the adjoining Caleb Center office complex is closed 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.

Joseph Caleb Auditorium attendance for fiscal year 2015-2016, to date, is 29,995.

Performances for the months of April, May and June:

- April 23, 2016 – Youth Arts In The Park Spring 2016 Culminating Event
- April 26, 2016 – Theatre works USA presents Henry and Mudge
- May 11, 2016 – New World Symphony
- June 14, 2016 – Fantasy Theatre Factory's *Whales, Magic & Cheese... Oh My!*
- June 24, 2016 – Fantasy Theatre Factory's *Fantasy Stew*

Upcoming summer shows:

- July 12, 2016 – Page Turner Adventure's *Steam Trunk Circus*
- July 26, 2016 – Page Turner Adventure's *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 2015-2016	May
Number of Events:	113	10
Attendance:	67,465	8,005

Program highlights and rentals for March:

- MDCA and Florida Chamber Orchestra continued their classical music series with the presentation of *Buenas Tardes, Tango*. The program featured a 26-piece orchestra, tango dancers, singers and played to a full audience in the Mid-Stage Theatre configuration.
- MDCA and Centro Cultural Español en Miami (CCE) along with the Copperbridge Foundation collaborated to bring the innovative DanzAbierta to Miami with their presentation of *Malson*. The feisty,

contemporary dance troupe led by choreographer Susana Pous performed to a full house in the Mid-Stage Theatre configuration.

- A second collaboration with CCE for the month brought up-and-coming Spanish singer La Flaka to Miami for the first time. La Flaka is the winner of Spain’s version of *The Voice*.
- MDCA collaborated once again with Karen Peterson and Dancers to present *Identity*, a mixed ability dance created by Karen Peterson Dancers and Portugal-based Plural-Nucleo de Danca and Amalgama Companhia de Danca.
- Colombian singer Charlie Zaa returned to MDCA after a sold-out performance in 2013. He presented selections from his new album *Mi Mejor Regalo* in another sold-out performance.

For more information on MDCA’s events and offerings, please visit the website at: www.MiamiDadeCountyAuditorium.org

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 2015-2016 to date	May 2016
SMDCAC Presents:	138	5
Number of rentals:	103	14
Attendance:	42,424	6,811

May marks the beginning of SMDCAC’s rental season, whereby the majority of activity at the Center is comprised of graduations, recitals and community events.

Events presented by the Center for the month of May included:

- All Kids Included Field Trips (May 4-6)
- All Kids Included Family Festival (May 7)
- Leon Foster Thomas (May 21)

Rentals for the month of May included:

- New Theatre’s *Roof* (May 1)
- Mother’s Day Jazz Concert (May 8)
- National Public Radio’s *From the Top* Culminating Performance (May 12)
- Somerset End of the Year Show (May 16)
- Mays Annual Performance (May 19)

- Advantage Academy Palm Glades Art Show (May 20)
- Archbishop Coleman High School Graduation (May 21)
- Somerset - 5th Grade Graduation (May 25)
- Somerset - 8th Grade Graduation (May 25)
- Somerset - High School Graduation (May 27)
- Stars Dance Studio Recital (May 28)
- CACEC Performance (May 29)
- Pinecrest Academy - 5th Grade Graduation (May 31)

SMDCAC artist Leon Foster Thomas was featured in interviews to promote his performance on WDNA 88.9 and WZAB Caribbean radio.

The Center has announced its summer series which includes performances by Black Violin (July 8), Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* by Classic Albums Live (July 9), Burlesque Magnifique: Summer Edition (July 15 & 16), Havana Hop (July 16), Flamenco Puro: Sentio (July 23 & 24), Led Zeppelin II by Classic Albums Live (August 6), and Miami Lyric Opera's *Tosca* (Aug 27 and 28).

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



Spring Jazz Fest (April 2)





"Walk a Mile in My Shoes" Gallery Exhibition



Zot Artz Workshop



Henry and Mudge (April 26)



New World Symphony (May 11)



Alma Dance Theatre's *Flowers for Spring* (March 31—April 1)



Los Libres Cautiverios de Ricardo y Leonisa by Josep Maria Miro (April 9)



DanzAbierta's *Malson* (May 5)



Colombian singer Charlie Zaa (May 14)



First US performance by La Flaka,
winner of Spain's version of *The Voice* (May 20)

ENTERTAINMENT APRIL 1, 2016 6:06 PM

BY JORDAN LEVIN

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Renowned young jazz singer returns home to Miami-Dade

HIGHLIGHTS

- Grammy-winning jazz singer Cécile McLorin Salvant performs in South Dade on Saturday.
- Raised in Pinecrest, Salvant has been called the next great female jazz vocalist.
- Multicultural Miami background helped inspire Salvant's artistry.

Pinecrest-raised singer Cécile McLorin Salvant has been hailed as the next great female jazz singer, an heiress to the mantle of Sarah Vaughan and Ella Fitzgerald. Critics have rhapsodized about her voice, her soulful performances, her originality. Yet when Salvant — whose second recording, *For One to Love*, won the Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Album in February — was going to Coral Reef Senior High, music wasn't even at the top of her list of potential occupations.

"I did want to be a singer, but I wanted to be a lot of other things," says Salvant, who returns to her home turf on Saturday to perform at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center in Cutler Bay. "I had this long list of careers. I wanted to be a writer, and a professor of English or history. I wanted to write plays."

Although she studied piano and sang with the Miami Choral Society children's choir from the time she was a young girl, Salvant was also the academically accomplished, bilingual daughter of a Haitian physician and a French Guadeloupean mother who founded the French American School in Miami.

She didn't discover her true calling until she was in law school in France, where an eccentric but inspiring teacher at the conservatory where she was studying on the side awakened her passion for music.



Miami Herald article

“I chose jazz, but I could have gone many ways,” Salvant says. “Pop is very seductive, but . . . I was interested in theater and drama. I wanted to be able to express deeper things than ‘I want to look good for my man tonight.’ ”

In 2010, the unknown jazz newcomer won the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition for her debut album, *WomanChild*, which garnered a Grammy nomination and a host of other honors. Since then, jazz musician and educator Wynton Marsalis and critics from *The New York Times*, NPR and many other outlets have raved about her.

Now Salvant is thrilled to return for what will be her fourth concert in Miami.

“I’d been singing professionally for years before I felt like I had a place singing in Miami,” she says. “So it feels really good to connect with my hometown.”

Salvant credits her parents and her multicultural upbringing with opening her up to music beyond the hits that enraptured her teenage friends.

“I was really lucky to be brought up in a house where we listened to all kinds of genres and eras of music with no preconceived notions,” she says. “From Cesária Évora to Appalachian music to French music to R&B. Classical music and jazz was part of it but not the only music we listened to at home. That was really important to me. I feel that’s a parent’s role, to say listen to all these different kinds of music, explore all these different cultures.”

She has brought the same dedication to music that she gave to her academic studies, as well as a rare degree of integrity — something she plans to emphasize when she speaks to a group of music students from the Robert Morgan Educational Center at the SMDCAC.

“They need to do it for the music itself and always be in service to the music,” says Salvant, who has begun to write and record her own songs. “There’s nothing worse than a self-serving artist making it about how great they sound and how they can advance their career.”

“Another thing I talk about is how important it is to actually work, to do a lot of research and practice. It will be lonely and not easy, and not all of them will have the stamina and will to do it. You have to put a lot of work in if you want the luxury of doing what you want to do . . . and not just hope your life will be all fun and you’ll have your dream job.”

But Salvant’s discipline is balanced by her imagination and playfulness. Among the many qualities that have charmed audiences and music critics is the creative, dramatic flair she brings to her performances, and the humorous touch she gives to unexpected, sometimes old-fashioned songs like *Wish I Could Shimmy Like My Sister Kate*.

“It’s about having a good time, pretty and light and funny and sweet,” Salvant says. As much as she’s dedicated to jazz, Salvant confesses to a lingering love for pop music — which has appealed to her since she was a teenager at Coral Reef.

“I knew all the hits and what was in and not in,” she says. “It’s fun and of our time, and as a teenager it’s wonderful to feel like you’re enjoying the latest trend. I still love it today, though I have reservations.”

She’s also a fan of Kendrick Lamar, Rihanna and Drake’s *Hotline Bling*.

“I’ll be walking down the street and catch myself singing these songs,” she says. “This is a little embarrassing. I was in the supermarket and this song came on and I was singing along and I was like ‘who is this?’ and I realized it’s Justin Bieber. I was really conflicted.”



All Kids Included Family Festival (May 7)



National Public Radio's *From the Top* Culminating Event (May 12)



Somerset Graduation (May 25)