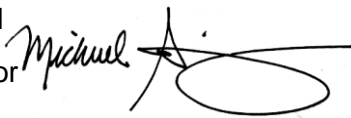


Date: June 17, 2015

To: Members,
Cultural Affairs Council

From: Michael Spring, Director A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Spring", written over a horizontal line.

Subject: FY 2015-2016 Cultural Advancement Grants Program Panel Recommendations

The FY 2015-2016 award recommendations for the Cultural Advancement Grants Program will be computed using the established funding formula for this program. The program's FY 2015-2016 total allocation and the recommended grant award amounts per Grantee will be presented to the Council for final review later this summer, after all of the "Spring Cycle" grants program panels have convened. Final grant awards are contingent upon the availability of funds in the Department's FY 2015-2016 budget, which is subject to the County's Budget as adopted in September 2015.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Cultural Affairs Council approve the funding of 28 grants for the FY 2015-2016 Cultural Advancement Grants Program.

BACKGROUND

The Cultural Advancement Grants Program Panel, chaired by Susana Ibarguen, convened on June 10, 2015 to review 28 applications requesting a total of \$2,100,000. The Panel recommended funding all 28 applications.

The Cultural Advancement Grants Program is designed to provide significant grants and technical assistance to a distinct group of Miami-Dade County's highest quality, mid- to large-size, culturally diverse performing, visual, literary and presenting arts organizations that have a history of distinguished artistic programming. FY 2015-2016 represents the last of a three-year funding cycle for this program and the panel reviewed interim cycle applications from 28 returning applicants.

All currently designated Cultural Advancement grantee organizations that re-applied to the program were recommended for funding - 14 applicants to Category A, and 14 applicants to Category B. One (1) previously designated and funded organization through this grants program, *The Black Archives History & Research Foundation, Inc.*, did not satisfactorily submit a complete application for the 2015-2016 cycle. Consequently, staff is working with this organization to explore other grant opportunities available through the Department for which they might qualify.

The Cultural Advancement Grants Program operates on a three-year review cycle. For the first year of the cycle (FY 2013-2014), a pre-application qualification/invitation to apply was issued, comprehensive applications were submitted, and a full panel review conducted. For the subsequent two years of the cycle (FY 2014-2015 and FY 2015-2016), a more streamlined application form and review process is being employed. Grants awarded in the FY 2013-2014 cycle of the program defined grant award levels for the remainder of the cycle, subject to annual adjustments to award level based on audited organizational budget information and contingent upon the availability of funding and upon a

satisfactory review and recommendation of the interim applications by the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Advancement Panel interim year review committee and the Cultural Affairs Council. Grantees must meet all program criteria satisfactorily, as well as comply with the prior year reporting requirements to be eligible for renewed funding consideration.

The program operates with two categories of eligibility, differentiated primarily by the annual operating budget size of applicant organizations.

Category A provides grants and technical assistance to large professional cultural organizations with at least two paid administrators and a total prior year's organization budget of at least \$500,000. These organizations provide year-round performances, exhibitions or presentations of art, and demonstrate the ability to attract regional, national, or international visibility as evidenced by current programs and management structure.

There are 14 applicants for consideration in Category A.

Category B provides grants, marketing and management assistance to semiprofessional and professional midsize arts organizations with at least one paid administrator and a total prior year's organization budget of at least \$200,000. These organizations provide year-round performances, exhibitions or presentations of art, and possess the potential to achieve regional, national, or international visibility as evidenced by current programs and management structure.

There are 14 applicants for consideration in Category B.

The Cultural Advancement Grants Program also features a travel/consultant financial assistance component. Cultural Advancement and designated Emerging Major Cultural Institutions grantees may submit requests in advance to the Department's professional staff for consideration and authorization for subsidies to cover eligible travel related costs and/or consultant/capacity building services and opportunities. Fantasy Theatre Factory, Inc. serves as fiscal agent in the administration of these funds. The Department continues to accept and evaluate requests from eligible grantees and to monitor unexpended carryover travel/consultant financial assistance funds that may be available from prior years to address approved requests. Any additional funds that may be identified as available for the program's technical assistance component will be factored in accordingly, and may enable amended, Category defined grant allocations.

A complete list of recommendations for Categories A and B is attached.

**Recommended
FY 2015-2016
Grant Award**

**Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs
FY 2015-2016 Cultural Advancement Grants Program – Category A
Organization / Summary of Mission**

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Bakehouse Art Complex, Inc. – Chartered in 1980, this visual arts organization is dedicated to providing artists and visual arts organizations in Miami-Dade County with a permanent facility containing affordable working and exhibition space. Key to its mission are: hands-on arts workshops for neighborhood and Miami-Dade at-risk youth; and encouraging the growth of a “working arts district” as part of an economic/community development project in Wynwood.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Bascomb Memorial Broadcasting Foundation, Inc. (WDNA-FM 88.9) - Incorporated in 1971, licensed by the FCC in 1980, WDNA broadcasts cultural, educational and informational programs in five languages, 24-hours a day. WDNA's mission is to provide quality, culturally diverse public broadcasting services to the residents of South Florida, and to provide training for individuals to create these programs.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Centro Cultural Español de Cooperacion Iberoamericana, Inc. – Founded in 1996, the Centro Cultural Español aims to make tangible the cultural presence of Spain and Latin American countries in Florida, to enhance their historical traditions and cultural expressions by promoting and fostering cultural cooperation, local creativity and the creation of a space for dialogue and exchange through relevant annual programs. CCE encourages the study and enjoyment of both Spanish language and in-Spanish cultural programming.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

City Theater, Inc. - City Theater, founded in 1996, is dedicated to the discovery and presentation of original short plays and promising artists from Florida and throughout the nation. In addition to producing original plays in its annual, award-winning "Summer Shorts" festival, the organization brings the nation's finest playwrights and noted theater professionals to South Florida for rare artistic exchanges and collaborations.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Coral Gables Cinematéque, Inc. - Founded in 2007, Coral Gables Cinematéque presents and supports media arts in South Florida, with the specific purpose of developing and running the Coral Gables Art Cinema as a venue for alternative films. The 141-seat theater operates seven days a week and presents high-quality and culturally-diverse American independent, foreign and classic programs not generally available at other venues in South Florida.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

GableStage, Inc. - Founded in 1979 as the Florida Shakespeare Theatre (FST), GableStage provides the South Florida community with classical, contemporary and new theatrical productions of artistic excellence. GableStage strives to challenge a multicultural audience with innovative productions that entertain as well as confront today's issues and ideas.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Miami Light Project, Inc. - Founded in 1989, Miami Light Project presents today's most innovative performing artists on the local, national and international arts scene, creating vital connections between artists and the community. Miami Light is committed to presenting dance, music and theater of the highest caliber, building new audiences, and commissioning new work.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Miami Dade College - Cultural Affairs Department (MDC Live) - Created by the Cultural Affairs Department of Miami Dade College in 1990 as “Cultura del Lobo,” the MDC Live Performance Series presents the newest, most-challenging performing arts being created today with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. Annual programming represents a complex mix of high quality performances and educational activities designed to make contemporary and culturally specific work accessible to the entire community.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

New Theatre, Inc. - Founded in 1986, New Theatre's mission of "producing the very best plays from the contemporary stage: works that speak to the mind and heart" is evidenced by the Theatre's repertory choices. The Theatre showcases an imaginative sampling of provocative works by American playwrights, especially Florida playwrights and 20th century classics, all sharing relevance and a focus on issues of social and humanistic interest.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Olympia Center, Inc. - Opened by Paramount as the Olympia Theatre movie palace in 1926, Gusman Center for the Performing Arts is a uniquely beautiful performing arts venue located in the heart of downtown Miami. Gusman Center provides a nurturing environment for many of Miami-Dade's performing arts organizations and has a history of presenting programs of regional, national and international interest. In August 2011, the Off-Street Parking Board (Miami Parking Authority) named the City of Miami as its successor in the administration of the Gusman Center, provided that the City transfer its management to Olympia Center, Inc.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

The Center for Literature and Theatre @ Miami Dade College - Established in 2001 by Miami Dade College as the Florida Center for the Literary Arts, The Center for Literature and Theatre @ MDC is a college-wide academic and cultural initiative that promotes the appreciation of literature in all forms and engages South Florida's diverse community in an exchange of ideas. The creation of the Center is a reflection of Miami Dade College's commitment to inspire students, as well as to serve the community by promoting the craft and power of the written word.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

The Rhythm Foundation, Inc. - The Rhythm Foundation was established in 1988 to promote multicultural exchange through the presentation of live music. The Foundation focuses on Caribbean, Latin American, Brazilian and African music - cultures which are of particular interest to South Florida residents, allowing greater depth of understanding between communities. The Foundation features internationally acclaimed artists performing in concert venues and festivals.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Seraphic Fire, Inc. - Seraphic Fire was founded in 2002 to present high quality performances of under-performed music with cultural significance to audiences in South Florida, while simultaneously encouraging the occupational advancement of musicians by providing a forum for the development and presentation of their talents.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Teatro Avante, Inc. - Teatro Avante, formed in 1979, commissions, produces and presents world renowned Hispanic plays in English and Spanish.

CATEGORY A - FUNDING RECOMMENDATION (14 ORGANIZATIONS)

**Recommended
FY 2015-2016
Grant Award**

**Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs
FY 2015-2016 Cultural Advancement Grants Program – Category B
Organization / Summary of Mission**

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, Inc. - Founded in 1997 by Russian-born Ballet Master and Choreographer Vladimir Issaev, Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida provides accessibility, community involvement, education, and training for professional and pre-professional ballet dancers. Based on the Vaganova technique of the St. Petersburg Imperial Theatre School (now the Vaganova Ballet Academy) in Russia, the company's repertoire includes works by Classical Ballet Masters as such Petipa, Fokine, Lavrosky and Bournonville, works by Artistic Director Vladimir Issaev and contemporary guest choreographers.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

ArtSouth, a Not-for-Profit Corporation – ArtSouth was founded in 2000 to provide affordable living, working, teaching, learning, exhibiting and sales space to juried emerging and established artists in Homestead. In the fall of 2013, the organization relocated to the City of South Miami where it continues year-round offerings consisting of affordable working and exhibiting space for artists, award-winning educational programs for youth and adults, lecture series, and monthly art exhibitions and entertainment in partnership with the City of South Miami's SOMIartwalk. The organization continues to provide arts-based services in extreme South Dade by sending artists/teaching staff into already-established programs at Miami Bridge, Cutler Bay Academy, United Methodist School and Chapman Partnership for the Homeless.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Ballet Flamenco La Rosa, Inc. – Formed in 1985, Ballet Flamenco La Rosa is dedicated to providing musicians and dancers from Miami's flourishing tablao (traditional flamenco club) scene an outlet for developing their talents in a theatrical setting, as well as an opportunity for young flamenco dancers to perform in a professional company. The company produces innovative collaborations with visiting artists and offers the highest level of flamenco performance to residents and visiting audiences.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc. – Founded in 1977 to produce the National Chopin Piano Competition, the Chopin Foundation of the United States has been an elected member of the prestigious National Music Council since 1980. The Foundation is a national organization with four regional councils located in Florida, New York, San Francisco and the northwest United States. The Foundation produces the annual Chopin Festival, a series of performances by the talented, young winners of major national and international piano competitions.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Coral Gables Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), Inc. – Initiated in 1985, the Coral Gables Congregational Church Community Arts Program presents the finest internationally acclaimed musicians during its Summer Concert Series in the acoustically pleasing, 450-seat church. In late 2002, the Community Arts Program was expanded to include the Conservatory for the Arts youth program, which provides free one-on-one music instruction, as well as performance and ensemble practicums, including The Young Musicians' Orchestra with a staff of professional musician instructors.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center, Inc. – The Cultural and Fine Arts Program is one of four main program service areas at the Dave and Mary Alper JCC and is comprised of a diversity of programming at the newly opened Noreen and Steven Sablotsky Cultural Arts Center on the Community Center's campus in Southwest Miami-Dade County. The Center houses a children's museum (with its own workshop), an art gallery, music studio, dance studio, and a state of the art theater with a seating capacity of 460. Cultural arts programming at the Center includes community theater, arts education, traveling museum exhibitions and the promotion of artists in all mediums.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

The Deering Estate Foundation, Inc. - Established in 1989, the Deering Estate Foundation was created to increase outreach, understanding and the enjoyment of the Deering Estate at Cutler. The Foundation is fully dedicated to advancing cultural programs and projects to preserve and protect the natural, archaeological, architectural and historic legacy of the Estate through the “Artist Village”, “Living Artist Concert Series”, Visual and Literary Artists in Residence programs, Saturday Camps for Kids and a variety of workshops, demonstrations and exhibits – all designed to educate and enhance the public appreciation of the unique characteristics of the Estate.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Fundarte, Inc. – Fundarte was founded in 2003 to produce, present and promote music, theater, dance, film, multimedia and visual arts that speak to Miami’s diverse cultures, with a special emphasis on artists from Latin America, the Caribbean and Spain. Fundarte particularly works to nurture emerging artists and those with little exposure to South Florida audiences, facilitate intercultural and international exchanges, and provide local audiences and artists with educational opportunities that expand their creative, critical and social perspectives.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Locust Projects, Inc. - Founded in 1998, Locust Projects’ mission is to facilitate the development of visual art by providing exhibition space and public exposure for contemporary artists while supporting diversity and experimentation in the field. Artists are selected from a global pool on the strength of their proposals and are encouraged to create site-specific installations as an extension of their representative work. Locust Projects serves the community through professional development seminars for artists, educational programming for youth, internships in arts administration, and a public commissions program, all free and open to the public.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Miami Beach Garden Conservancy, Inc. - The Miami Beach Garden Conservancy is an urban greenspace with a mission to provide free public access to an attractive Botanical Garden, create environmental and ecological education programs for children and adults, preserve green space, promote green living, and serve as a venue for visual and performing arts, and a tourist destination with an environmental and educational mandate. The Garden presents an annual series of horticulture lectures and demonstrations and environmental education, as well as free tours for individuals and groups and outreach to schools and community organizations.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Miami Contemporary Dance Corp, d/b/a Miami Contemporary Dance Company – Miami Contemporary Dance Company was founded in February 2000 to create high quality contemporary dance for Miami audiences and to represent Miami-Dade nationally and throughout the world while offering excellence in contemporary dance education. MCDC strives to make contemporary dance accessible to South Florida audiences with a wide range of programs from children’s dance classes to community outreach programs to professional international performances.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Murray Dranoff Foundation, Inc. - Created in 1987 by Loretta Dranoff as a tribute to her late husband, the Murray Dranoff Foundation provides a wide range of opportunities for professionals, students and the lay audience to discover and appreciate the extraordinary music created for both two piano and one piano (four hands) mediums. Every year the Murray Dranoff Foundation presents a season of international artists, performances and symposia with a goal to educate, involve and introduce duo-pianism to young musicians and international audiences.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Sociedad Pro Arte Grateli, Inc. - Sociedad Pro Arte Grateli was founded in 1973 to preserve, promote and heighten the awareness of Hispanic-American traditions and the excellence of artistic endeavor in South Florida. The Society presents high quality performances of zarzuela, operetta and other musical styles by internationally renowned performers and composers. The Society is dedicated to the preservation and presentation of Cuban theater in its genuine form.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Tigertail Productions, Inc. - Tigertail Productions was founded in 1979 to create and encourage the international exchange of innovative arts. Tigertail presents culturally diverse work by innovative artists in music, theater, film, video and the visual arts through public programs, international exchange, festivals, workshops and service projects.

CATEGORY B – FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS (14 ORGANIZATIONS)



Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Cultural Advancement Travel/Consultant Assistance Program – allocated to Fantasy Theatre Factory, Inc. as fiscal agent

TOTAL: CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT GRANTS PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS - 28 ORGANIZATIONS, plus one grant for the Travel/Consultant Assistance component of the Program