

Memorandum



Date: June 17, 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. The Department submitted an application to the State Cultural Facilities Grant Program for the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center for the FY15-16 grant cycle (funding determination for the program has not yet been finalized), and will be submitting an application for the Miami-Dade County Auditorium for the FY16-17 grant cycle.

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	May 2015
Total number of students registered:	290	32
Number of arts production rentals:	65	10
Number of community rentals:	214	23
Number of arts groups using the Center:	160	20
Number of civic meetings:	178	22
Number of tours and outreach:	41	6

Program highlights for May included:

- The After School Arts Academy provided its final showcase production to the parents and the community on May 22, 2015. The students' final after school arts recital demonstrated the degree of their development for this year and once again provided a means for the students to further develop themselves as performing and visual artists. 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 students' talent to their parents and the community; and
 - (4) Assess the effectiveness of the instructional design.
- Students from Liberty City Elementary, which had been receiving performing arts instruction from the Center's staff, had their final artistic showcase on May 14, 2015.
- The partnership between the Center's After School Arts Academy, Miami Children's Initiative and Orchestra Miami concluded the program with an opera performance at Miami Northwestern High School on May 30, 2015. Selected students performed in an opera alongside professional performers.
- Registration information for the Summer Arts Conservatory is available and enrollment has begun.
- Matrix2 is continuing the development of the Center's website and marketing materials.

Sankofa: Celebrating 40 Years of Service

The Center has been successfully celebrating 40 years of service with the following events from the Sankofa series:

- The Sankofa experience continued with the return of former students and teachers, who performed alongside current staff members to provide a stellar experience in *Jazz*. This show featured Grammy-nominated trumpet player Shareef Clayton, pianist Willerm Delisfort, and sax

player Harvey Lockhart. Also on the stage were: Melton R. Mustafa (son of the legendary Melton Mustafa); Zipporah Hayes (former student, current instructor, and professional singer); Arnilris Williams and Ja’Nia Harden (noted jazz singers); Miami Force (a Hispanic Jazz Band); Jazzy Travis Quinn (trombone player, former student and teacher); and John Harden and Waldron Dunkley (Center’s current teaching professionals).

- AHCAC resident artist Augusto Soledade of Brazzdance gave a rousing performance titled *Oduns Paths & Journey* as part of the AHCAC Sankofa celebration. Two pieces were choreographed by Augusto Soledade in tribute to his former teachers, Tony Award-winning Garth Fagan (choreographer of *Lion King*) and Clyde Morgan (guest choreographer and professor at State University of New York (SUNY) at Brockport).
- The Amadlozi Gallery hosted the following three exhibitions during the month of May:
 - *Emerge*, curated by Robert McKnight and featuring prominent local artists including: Nadine Anderson, Nana Blackman, Carol Bowman, Nadia Desdejerdan, Makati Janiwi, Loni Johnson, Donald McKnight, Julia Polonyi and Utah.
 - *Capturing Brazzdance*, a creative photograph exhibition by Jade Matarazzo. The exhibition is the result of local dance photographers capturing the dance company beyond the fleeting moment of performance. The exhibition coincided with the Brazzdance production.
 - The final exhibition showcased the works of a group of young artists who were instructed by Addonis Parker. The exhibition was sponsored by One United Bank and Miami Children’s Initiative.

Other News

- The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center was acknowledged for its long-term services with two distinguished awards.
 - The first award recognition came from the organization of Jack and Jill, a national organization with a local branch in South Florida focusing on social support for black youth and special events to encourage the positive development of student participants.
 - District 3 Commissioner Audrey Edmonson presented a County proclamation designating May 22nd as African Heritage Cultural Arts Center Day. The proclamation recognizes the Center’s 40 years of service and was presented during the *Oduns* performance.
- Alumni Marshall L. Davis Jr. was recently asked to provide tap dance classes at the nationally acclaimed Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.
- 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)

Maintenance Issues

- Leaks from the roof-mounted HVAC units continue to re-appear during rainy days.
- The HVAC units in the theater often need to be repaired.
- Holes in the parking lot paving are re-appearing and will need to be repaired and patched before the drainage is addressed and the parking lot is re-surfaced.

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 32,503.

Events for the month of May:

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

Events for the month of June:

- June 12, 2015 – The Great Pizza Contest

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	May 2015
Number of Events:	110	15
Attendance:	71,640	15,315

Program highlights and rentals for May included:

- MDCA and MDC Live Arts continued their annual partnership by presenting Canadian dance troupe RubberBandDance, which performed their latest offering titled *Empirical Quotient*. Led by choreographer Victor Quijada, the group exquisitely combines classical, contemporary, urban and even circus arts in their work.
- Cuban singer Albita returned for her annual Mother's Day concert at MDCA, once again delighting the audience with her stage mastery.
- MDCA and Karen Peterson Dancers collaborated for the third year in a row in bringing mixed ability dance to the On.Stage Black Box. The presentation marked the 25th anniversary for the company and included dancers from Ireland, Serbia, as well as the United States.
- Columbian salsa group Grupo Niche made a triumphant return to Miami's music scene with a sold out concert at MDCA.
- Ballet Flamenco La Rosa presented their version of Strindberg's *The Father* set to flamenco choreography in our Mid-Stage Theatre. It included the participation of performers from Spain, Sweden and the US. The production will travel to the playwright's birthplace of Sweden next year.
- MDCA and Pablo Croce Productions presented the US premier of Siudy's *Flamenco Intimo* featuring world renowned flamenco virtuoso Farruquito.
- MDCA and Florida Chamber Orchestra continued their classical music series with the presentation of Crosstown String Quartet.

MDCA continues to work 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	May 2015
SMDCAC Presents:	75	7
Number of rentals:	337	25
Attendance:	75,065	13,680 (as of May 26)

Since opening the SMDCAC in October of 2011, over 244,000 patrons have attended activities at the Center.

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

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

Rentals for the month of May included:

- Thomas Armour Youth Ballet (every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday)
- Zumba with Ronald (Every Tuesday and Friday)
- Pridelines Meeting (every Tuesday)
- Greater Miami Youth Symphony Concerts (May 3)
- Our Pride Academy (May 9)
- Somerset Kindergarten Graduation (May 12)
- Somerset 5th Grade Graduation (May 13)
- Somerset 8th Graduation (May 14)
- Palm Glades Academy Art Exhibition (May 16)
- Pinecrest Academy South End of the Year Show (May 19)
- Archbishop High School Graduation (May 22)
- Miss South Florida Teen Pageant (May 24)
- D-FY-IT Event (May 26)
- Coral Reef Montessori 3rd Grade Graduation (May 27)
- Pinecrest Preparatory 8th Grade Graduation (May 27)
- Somerset Senior High School Spring Show (May 28)
- Mays Conservatory End of the Year Show (May 29)
- STARS Dance Studio Recital (May 30)
- New Theatre's Production of *Leveling Up* (May 29 running through June 21)

June highlights include:

- Why Not Why, *Neighborhood Nights*, Cabaret Series (June 13)
- Antiheros Theater Workshop For Youth (June 27)

The Center recently launched promotions for its summer shows which include three cabaret performances by local artists: Why Not Y, Jim Camacho and Just The Funny; a main stage show by Classic Albums Live, The Beatles – Abbey Road; and a music workshop series for underserved students called Guitars Over Guns. Other summer programming is to be announced.

The Center recently received notice of the following grant awards from South Arts:

- \$6,170 to present STREB (dance spectacle) in the 2015-2016 season;
- \$7,500 to present Jose Limon Dance Company in the 2016-2017 season; and
- \$2,400 to launch an independent film series in 2015-2016.

The South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center was nominated for the People's Choice Award in Building Design by the American Institute of Architects.

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

Attachments



New World Symphony (May 5)



Page Turner's Adventures - *Mixed-up Fairy Tale* (May 8)



RubberBandDance Group's
Empirical Quotient (May 02)



Albita performing during
her annual Mother's Day
concert (May 09)



Grupo Niche performed in front of a sold-out house (May 16)



The US premiere of Siudy's *Flamenco Intimo* featuring Farruquito (May 30)



All Kids Included Family Festival (May 2)





Our Pride Academy Performance and Fundraiser (Rental—May 9)

SOUTH MIAMI-DADE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER PRESENTS: SUMMER SHOW SERIES JUNE - AUG 2015

SOUTH MIAMI-DADE
CULTURAL
ARTS CENTER

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 8:30PM

WHY NOT Y

RYAN RAINES/KELLY KESSEL/PIO MOLINA

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 8:30PM

JUST THE FUNNY

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 8:30PM

JIM CAMACHO AND HIS BAND

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 11AM

THE OKEE DOKEE BROTHERS



SATURDAY, JULY 25, 8PM

CHICAGO REPERTORY BALLET THE FOUR SEASONS

AND OTHER WORKS
MUSIC BY: ANTONIO VIVALDI
RECOMPOSED BY: MAX RICHTER

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 6PM

CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE THE BEATLES-ABBEY ROAD

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 8PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 4PM

MIAMI LYRIC OPERA'S RIGOLETTO



STEINWAY PIANO GALLERY | Knight Foundation | CULTURE SHOCK MIAMI.COM | SOUTH MIAMI-DADE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER | Mercedes-Benz of Center City | SOUTHLAND MALL

smdcac.org 786.573.5300



IT IS THE POLICY OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO COMPLY WITH ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. THE FACILITY IS ACCESSIBLE AND ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE. TO REQUEST MATERIALS IN ACCESSIBLE FORMAT, AND/OR ANY ACCOMMODATION TO ATTEND AN EVENT AT THE SOUTH MIAMI-DADE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER, PLEASE CONTACT STEPHANE APONTE, 786-573-5314, SAPONTE@MIAMI-DADE.GOV AT LEAST FIVE DAYS IN ADVANCE TO INITIATE YOUR REQUEST. TTY USERS MAY ALSO CALL 711 (FLORIDA RELAY SERVICE).