

Date: August 19, 2015

To: Members, Cultural Affairs Council

From: Michael Spring, Director 

Subject: FY 2015-2016 Festivals and Special Events Grants Program (FEST) Panel Recommendations

The FY 2015-2016 award recommendations for the Festivals and Special Events (FEST) 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 FY 2015-2016 Budget once adopted in September 2015.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council approve the funding of sixteen (16) grants for the FY 2015-2016 Festivals and Special Events Grants Program. Of the sixteen (16) grants, one (1) organization, Miami Hispanic Ballet Corp., had not submitted an application during the comprehensive grant cycle in FY2014-2015 and was therefore, evaluated on a comprehensive basis during this panel evaluation and is being recommended for funding contingent upon available funds during this fiscal year. One (1) previously designated and funded organization through this grants program, Festival Miami presented by the University of Miami Frost School of Music, did not submit a complete application for the 2015-2016 cycle. Staff is working with this organization to explore other grant opportunities available through the Department for which they might qualify.

BACKGROUND

The Festivals and Special Events Grants Program (Comprehensive Year) Panel, chaired by Deborah Margol, convened on June 23, 2015 to review 16 applications requesting a total of \$1,230,000. The Panel recommended funding all 16 applications.

Applications were determined to be eligible based on the program's guidelines and criteria, and were designated by the panel as qualified for funding consideration. In accordance with the program's guidelines, grant awards for any newly designated Festivals and Special Events organizations are made only if additional funding becomes available for interim fiscal years through an increase of funds available for the program.

The Festivals and Special Events Grants Program is designed to support festivals and special events taking place in FY 2015-2016 which are coordinated and presented by legally incorporated 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Florida corporations and/or units of local government. The program operates with two categorical designations:

1) **Cultural Organizations** - those organizations whose missions predominantly emphasize close examination of artistic disciplines and present activities that occur primarily indoors; and

2) **Community Organizations** - those organizations whose missions predominantly emphasize the celebration of heritages, arts and entertainment events and present activities that occur primarily outdoors.

Within each of these two categories, the applicant pool is divided into three levels for evaluation and funding consideration:

Division A: organizations with annual project budgets of more than \$1,000,000

Division B: organizations with annual project budgets between \$400,000-\$999,000

Division C: organizations with annual project budgets between \$150,000-\$399,999

Additionally, organizations must demonstrate an uninterrupted track record of producing the activity; a Board of Trustees/Directors; a professional staff leader/team; a reputation for programmatic excellence and credibility on a local, regional, national or international level; effective, broad reaching marketing strategies; and matching funds from the private sector.

The Festivals and Special Events Grants Program operates on a three-year review cycle. FY 2014-2015 marked the beginning of a three-year cycle. In the first year of the cycle (FY 2014-2015), a comprehensive application submission was required, and a full panel review was conducted. In the current and next year of the cycle (FY 2015-2016 and FY 2016-2017), a more streamlined application form and review process is being employed. Grants awarded in the FY 2014-2015 cycle of the program defined a grant award level for the next two years of the cycle, subject to annual adjustments based on 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 Festivals and Special Events interim year review panel and the Cultural Affairs Council. Grantees are required to satisfy all program criteria, as well as prior year's reporting requirements to be eligible for renewed consideration for funding.

Funding for Festivals and Special Events Grants Program is derived from departmental proprietary revenues. All funding recommendations are contingent upon approval of the Department of Cultural Affairs' FY 2015-2016 budget by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners and Mayor, and are subject to availability of funds.

Attached is a list describing the projects recommended for funding.

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
FY 2015-2016 FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS GRANTS PROGRAM**

Cultural Organizations: Division A

Miami Dade College
Miami Book Fair International

*Award to be calculated based
upon FEST funding formula*

Funds are requested to support the Annual Miami Book Fair International, held November, 2015 in downtown Miami. The literary festival, the largest and finest of its kind in the United States, transforms the Wolfson Campus of Miami-Dade College into the center of the literary world for 8 days. Over 300,000 book lovers, locals and visitors from throughout the United States and other countries visit downtown Miami to enjoy more than 300 acclaimed authors reading from their books and participating in panel discussions.

Miami Dade College
Miami International Film Festival

*Award to be calculated based
upon FEST funding formula*

Funds are requested to support the presentation of the annual Miami International Film Festival, to be held March, 2016 in downtown Miami and South Beach. This multi-event film extravaganza, recognized as one of the top film festivals in the United States, brings as many as 65,000 individuals to the Gusman Center, South Beach and the sands of Miami Beach over its 9-day run, while various other events surrounding the festival will draw additional people to Miami-Dade County.

National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, Inc.
youngARTS Week

*Award to be calculated based
upon FEST funding formula*

Funds are requested to support youngARTS Week, January, 2016, the annual culminating events of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts' Arts Recognition and Talent Search (ARTS), a nationwide campaign to identify and recognize America's most talented 17 and 18-year-old dancers, actors, musicians, photographers, vocalists, writers, architects and visual artists. youngARTS Week rewards up to 141 of the most talented ARTS candidates with an all-expenses paid week in Miami-Dade County, where these national finalists participate in auditions and master classes, and perform or exhibit at artistic showcases which are open to the public free of charge.

The Music Association of Miami
The Cleveland Orchestra, Miami

*Award to be calculated based
upon FEST funding formula*

In January 2016, "Cleveland Orchestra Miami" (COM) will present its ninth season of concerts and education and community engagement activities in Miami-Dade County. The concerts are performed by the world-class Cleveland Orchestra under Music Director Franz Welser-Möst and Principal Guest Conductor Giancarlo Guerrero. The Cleveland Orchestra has been ranked as one of the "Top Ten Orchestras in the World" by Gramophone Magazine. The Orchestra has a long tradition of international acclaim that is continuing with high demand for its concerts. The centerpiece of the season is the Orchestra's concert series that takes place November-April each year at the Adrienne Arsht Center's John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall.

Cultural Organizations: Division B

There were no applicants in the Cultural Organizations: Division B category.

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
FY 2015-2016 FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS GRANTS PROGRAM**

Cultural Organizations: Division C

Inffinito Art & Cultural Foundation, Inc.
Brazilian Film Festival

*Award to be calculated based
upon FEST funding formula*

Funds are requested to support the Annual Brazilian Film Festival of Miami, the only film festival in the world exclusively of Brazilian cinema. The festival showcases approximately 40 Brazilian films and brings more than 200 actors, distributors and exhibitors of the international film industry. The festival takes place June, 2016 at two locations in Miami Beach over its week-long run. The festival also features a Brazilian marketplace, seminars, workshops open to the public with free admission.

Miami Bach Society, Inc.
Tropical Baroque Festival

*Award to be calculated based
upon FEST funding formula*

Funds are requested to support the Miami Bach Society's Tropical Baroque Music Festival 2016, a series of eight early-music concerts performed in venues throughout Coral Gables. The festival features local, national, and international performers of the highest caliber, performing the works of composers whose work dates prior to the 19th century. The festival takes place from Feb-March, 2016.

International Ballet Festival of Miami
Miami Hispanic Ballet Corp.

*Award to be calculated based
upon FEST funding formula*

Funds are requested to support the Annual International Ballet Festival of Miami, the only one of its kind in the State of Florida, which is responsible for bringing to Miami-Dade County performances by over 200 artists from more than 20 ballet companies representing countries from Europe, Asia, Latin America and North America.

Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival
Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival

*Award to be calculated based
upon FEST funding formula*

Funds are requested to support the 14th Annual Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, to be held April - May, 2016. The Miami Festival will boast an impressive array of films including features and shorts, panel discussions and events across its 10 day event.

Patrons of Exceptional Artists, Inc.
Miami International Piano Festival

*Award to be calculated based
upon FEST funding formula*

Funds are requested to support the Annual Miami International Piano Festival - Discovery Series being held May, 2016 at the Colony Theater on Miami Beach. This 5-day music festival spans two weekends and presents the United States debut recitals by the world's most promising young pianists. The overall quality of the festival and its unique programming attract the participation of important musical scholars, producers, filmmakers and writers who participate as guest lecturers.

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
FY 2015-2016 FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS GRANTS PROGRAM**

Community Organizations: Division A

**Coconut Grove Arts and Historical Association
*Coconut Grove Arts Festival***

Award to be calculated based upon FEST funding formula

Funds are requested to support marketing costs for the Coconut Grove Arts Festival, one of the largest and most prestigious events of its kind the world. Held during President's Day weekend in February, the festival draws over 150,000 people to Miami from throughout Florida, the United States, Canada, Latin America and Europe. More than 336 internationally acclaimed artists selected from over 1,600 applicants exhibit in 11 categories. The festival is ranked as one of the top five arts festivals in the country by Sunshine Artist Magazine.

**Florida International University Board of Trustees,
for the benefit of the School of Hospitality
*South Beach Wine and Food Festival***

Award to be calculated based upon FEST funding formula

Funds are requested to support the annual South Beach Wine and Food Festival to be held February, 2016 in Miami Beach. The festival hosts a masterful blend of industry celebrities, world class seminars and tastings, and exclusive dinners providing an innovative and unique four-day epicurean experience. The centerpiece of the festival is the Grand Tasting Village, featuring seminar tents offering educational opportunities in the culinary arts such as chef chats, demonstrations, and cultural and lifestyle seminars.

Community Organizations: Division B

**Junior Orange Bowl Committee, Inc.
*Jr. Orange Bowl Festival***

Award to be calculated based upon FEST funding formula

Funds are requested to support the Annual Junior Orange Bowl Festival. The festival brings together more than 12,000 youth from 60 countries and throughout the United States and includes drawing, photography, the cultural arts, chess, sporting events and "The World's Largest Youth Parade." There are 20 varied cultural and sporting events from October 2015 to March 2016.

**Miami-Broward One Carnival Host Committee Inc.
*Miami Carnival***

Award to be calculated based upon FEST funding formula

Funds are requested to support the annual Celebration of Miami Carnival. Events feature bands, costumed masquerades, calypsos, food and thousands of revelers. The festival attracts and engages the leading costume designers, musicians, and visual artists, paying homage to the Caribbean Diaspora community based in the South Florida.

**Miami Design Preservation League
*Art Deco Weekend***

Award to be calculated based upon FEST funding formula

Funds are requested to support Miami Design Preservation League's (MDPL) three-day festival in January, Art Deco Weekend (ADW). ADW celebrates the architecture and culture of Miami Beach's Art Deco District. MDPL will produce, promote and present ADW for the 37th time in January of 2016.

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
FY 2015-2016 FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS GRANTS PROGRAM**

Community Organizations: Division C

**Bayfront Park Management Trust
2016 New Year's Eve Celebration**

*Award to be calculated based
upon FEST funding formula*

Funds are requested to support Downtown Miami's 2016 New Year's Eve Celebration on December 31, 2015 in Bayfront Park. This event is the largest free New Year's Eve celebration in South Florida, providing a safe, nonalcoholic, family-oriented environment to ring in the new year. The event includes a 50-foot holiday tree, a menorah lighting ceremony, the Big Orange's ascent and fireworks over Biscayne Bay.

**German American Social Club
Oktoberfest**

*Award to be calculated based
upon FEST funding formula*

Funds are requested to support Oktoberfest Miami, an annual festival celebrating German traditions. In keeping with the mission of the German American Social Club, the festival is open to the general public and aims at preserving, exhibiting and fostering German culture, traditions and folk life. The festival will be held October 2015 on the grounds of the German American Social Club of Miami. Attendance is expected to exceed 20,000.