

**MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

October 15, 2014

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
Victor Bao
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez
Xavier Cortada
Susana Ibargüen
Robert Jensen
Janá Sigars-Malina
Phyllis Simpkins
Jorge Pérez
Rosa Sugrañes

Dana Pezoldt
Javier Siut
Ashlee Thomas
Pamela Valles

Members Not Present

Steven Alexander
Louis-Albert Jolivet
Jorge Luis Lopez
Monty Trainer

Staff

Michael Spring, Director
Carolina Alfonso
Kelly Allocco
Patricia Arbelaez
Roxana Barba
Christina Beauvoir
Nikenna Benjamin
Jessica Berthin
Sue Camp
Lisa D'Andrea-Thompson
Marshall Davis
Marie Denis
Roselin Duberceau-Baptiste
Liliana Hernandez-Constanla
Sandra Hill
Gerry Landreth
Regla Lee
Marialaura Leslie
Deborah Margol
Gilda Mooney
Alex Peraza
Adriana Perez

Others

Ramiro Ortiz, President and Chief Executive Officer,
HistoryMiami
Stuart Chase, Museum Director and Chief Operating
Officer, HistoryMiami
Roxanne Cappello, Senior Vice President and Chief
Financial Officer, HistoryMiami

Chairman Adolfo Henriques called the meeting to order at 12:14 pm.

Chairman Henriques introduced Ramiro Ortiz, President and Chief Executive Officer, Stuart Chase, Museum Director and Chief Operating Officer and Roxanne Cappello, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from HistoryMiami.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Ortiz and Mr. Chase presented the Council with a brief history of the museum, an update on current activities and upcoming plans.

Mr. Ortiz reported that HistoryMiami was founded in 1940 as a historical association featuring notable Miamians including George Merrick, Charlton Tebeau and Marjory Stoneman Douglas. The Association established the first museum for regular public use in 1962.

The museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and, in 2011, was designated as a Smithsonian Institute Affiliate which provides access to Smithsonian resources—including collections, scholarship, traveling exhibitions and the opportunity to extend membership benefits. There is also a partnership with Miami-Dade Public Schools to bring more than 30,000 students to the museum each school year.

Mr. Ortiz highlighted past accomplishments such as the acquisition of an intact Dorian seal used by Spanish monks to certify correspondence. There are only five intact seals in the world.

He also noted that, in addition to exhibitions, the museum hosts concerts and events such as a tribute to Bob Marley held in conjunction with the Bob Marley exhibit. One of Marley's sons performed at the event which attracted more than 1000 people to the plaza.

Mr. Ortiz referred to a recent article in the *Huffington Post* that was titled "HistoryMiami is a Treasure." The article noted that "This museum and its archives has always been invaluable to history buffs, educators, students and anyone who lusts details and facts for inspiration and authenticity. But lately, they're operating on another level."

Mr. Chase reported that, with the acquisition of the Miami Art Museum building, HistoryMiami has increased its public programming space by 135%. The new space is being returned to architect Philip Johnson's original design.

The museum will be focusing on non-static exhibitions which will be constantly changing and interactive. In addition, the museum has added a stage, lighting and sound systems to accommodate live concerts, many of which will become interactive components for the exhibitions. An example is "Ladies and Gentlemen ... The Beatles!", a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Beatles first visit to Miami which featured a cover band performing music from the Beatles catalog.

Future plans include a major exhibition of two sets of Audubon prints featuring 435 birds. All of the prints will be featured at once and a series of events will be planned around the exhibition.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for October 15, 2014

Requests for excused absences submitted by Jorge Luis Lopez and Monty Trainer were approved unanimously. (motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Mr. Bao)

Approval of the August 20, 2014 Minutes

The minutes of the August 20, 2014 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (motion by Mr. Jensen; seconded by Mr. Bao)

FY 2014-2015 Community Grants (CG) Program Recommendations – First Quarter

The FY 2014-2015 Community Grants program panel chaired by Janá Sigars-Malina convened on August 28, 2014, to review 30 applications requesting \$228,800.00 for the First Quarter of the program. The Panel recommended funding 30 applicants for a total of \$147,500.00.

There were no Councilor conflicts. The Panel's recommendation to fund the organizations was approved unanimously. (motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Mr. Bao)

COMPOSITUM MUSICAE NOVAE, INC.	\$2,750
Cuban American Phototheque Foundation, Inc.	\$2,407
E-COMB, Inc.	\$5,156
FLORIDA DANCE EDUCATION ORGANIZATION, INC.	\$5,156
Friends of WLRN	\$5,156
Fundarte, Inc. a/f/a for CUATROGATOS FOUNDATION, INC.	\$5,156
GIANTS IN THE CITY, Inc.	\$5,156
Greater South Dade/South Miami/Kendall Chamber of Commerce d/b/a Chamber South	\$6,875
Greater St. Paul A.M.E. Church, Inc.	\$4,125
Heroes Unite, Inc. a/f/a for Lab 9	\$3,437
Hispanic American Lyric Theatre, Inc. a/f/a for ce n'est pas nous	\$5,156
Italian Film Festival, Inc.	\$5,156
Kashmir Hindu Foundation, Inc.	\$4,812
Key Biscayne Foundation, Inc. a/f/a for Art Heart Foundation, Inc.	\$3,437
MERRICK FESTIVAL INCORPORATED	\$5,500
Miami Acting Company, Inc.	\$4,125
Miami Beach Arts Trust, Inc.	\$5,156
MIAMI SHORT FILM FESTIVAL, INC.	\$10,312
Miami Wind Symphony, Inc.	\$5,156
Music in Miami, Inc.	\$5,156
Richmond Heights Community Association, Inc.	\$5,156
SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN LISZT SOCIETY, INC.	\$2,235
South Florida Deaf Recreation Association, Inc.	\$2,407

South Florida National Parks Trust Inc.	\$2,407
THE GERMAN SCHOOL OF SOUTH FLORIDA, INC.	\$3,300
The Miami Foundation, Inc. a/f/a for Borscht Corp	\$10,312
The Miami Foundation, Inc. a/f/a for The Peter London Global Dance Company	\$5,156
The Miami Foundation, Inc. a/f/a for Thought Loom	\$5,156
The Sunflower Society, Inc.	\$5,156

FY 2014-2015 Summer Arts and Science (SAS-C) Grants Program Panel

The panel for the 2014-2015 Summer Arts and Science (SAS-C) Grants Program Panel was approved unanimously. (motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Mr. Cortada)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on the Department of Cultural Affairs' FY 2014-2015 Budget

Ms. Margol reported that the County's budget was approved on September 20. Although the department's share of general revenue funds was reduced, an increase in tourist tax collections helped to offset part of the reduction to grants programs.

Chairman Henriques noted that this scenario highlights the need for a dedicated revenue source for funding the department's activities. He emphasized the importance of the arts in the community and the impact that this has on the lives of citizens and on the economy.

Mr. Spring reported that research and polling has shown that voters who vote for tax increases tend to do so to gain new or enhanced benefits. It is important that the department and the Council have a strategy that focuses on the additional benefits of increased funding for the arts.

Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program

Ms. Tassy-Beauvoir reported that for the 2013-2014 season, Culture Shock Miami had 10,382 participants in the program. This includes paid tickets, school field trips and workshops by visiting artists.

The program will mark its 10th anniversary with the presentation of eight (8) special performances, spanning different arts disciplines, at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC). This is in addition to the regular events offered by arts organizations, both performing and visual.

In addition to the normal marketing activities, staff is involved with outreach activities which have included presentations at the Assurant Group Miami Headquarters, Miami Dade College and various parent/teacher organizations.

Department Facilities Updates

Miami-Dade County Auditorium

Ms. Arbelaez reported that during the 2013-2014 season Miami-Dade County Auditorium presented 151 events with over 110,000 patrons attending. The season showcased the diversity of the Miami community.

Partner organizations include Fundarte, the Rhythm Foundation, Tigertail, the Performing Arts Series presented by Miami Dade College and Teatro Avante. These partnerships have had the benefit of helping to develop Hispanic audiences for some of our community's premiere cultural organizations.

Coconut Grove Playhouse

Mr. Spring reported that the work of the selection committee for an architectural and engineering firm continues and remains under the "cone of silence."

He and members of the staff met with board of directors for Gablestage to discuss the future of the organization and the implications of the transition.

There is an alternative plan for the Playhouse property being proposed by Mike Eidson, which would include a second 700-seat theater. No details have been put forth yet regarding funding or management of the facility.

Art in Public Places Update

Ms. Berthin reported that the new Arcola Lakes Head Start Facility, located at 770 NW 83rd Street, is slated to open by the end of summer 2014. The new facility will provide comprehensive child-development services for low-income children and families. APP is collaborating with the Internal Services Department (ISD) to enhance two existing seating elements located at the exterior entranceway of the facility. The project budget is \$30,000, which is inclusive of design, fabrication and installation of all artistic enhancements.

Croatian born artist Sinisa Kukec was recommended to implement his design for the benches. Mr. Kukec proposed to enclose the bottom portion of the benches and camouflage the concrete benches with random flowing patterns of a SEMCO product outdoor paint.

APP is also collaborating with Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department (MDFR) to create an artist-designed terrazzo floor for two branch fire stations located in Miami Lakes and Coconut Palm. The project budget is \$12,000 for each station. Within the \$12,000, APP is recommending that \$5,000 be used as the artist design fee and the remainder used for fabrication and installation of the artist-designed elements to be incorporated into the terrazzo floor.

Artists Felicia Carlisle and Michelle Weinberg were recommended to implement their proposals, with one artist working in each station. Ms. Carlisle's proposal, entitled *Broken Triangle*, combines colors that signify air (blue), fuel (gold) and heat (orange/red) in an equilateral triangle formation with interconnecting sides, each symbolizing one of the elements that form fire. Ms. Weinberg's proposal makes use of the bright green colors found on rescue vehicles and combines them in geometric patterns on a black terrazzo. The floor design is also interspersed with metal cut outs depicting tools and symbols of rescue workers.

Ms. Berthin reported that the Fringe Projects, five temporary installations done in partnership with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for DWNTWN Art Days, were well received and garnered positive press. Artists Nick Lobo's project, *À rebours (Against Nature)*, was particularly well received. Every hour on the hour a perfume selected from the variety of downtown specialty shops was released onto street level via misting nozzles. The scent was mixed with distilled water and misted from a one story height so that it was carried for several blocks depending on the breeze.

The grand opening of the elderly housing project Gran Via Apartments, located at 12700 SW 8th Street, will be on October 16. The facility features public art on the entire north façade of the building done by Carlos Betancourt and Alberto Latorre.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring noted the passing of two leading community arts leaders. Cindi Nash, Chair of the Miami-Dade County Art in Public Places Trust, passed away on October 11. Her devotion and contributions were very important to the expansion of the Art in Public Places program.
- Mr. Spring also reported the passing of Kathy Gaubatz, long-time Executive Director of The Miami Bach Society and founder of the International Tropical Baroque Music Festival.
- Mr. Spring wrote a Letter to the Editor of *The Miami Herald* about inaccuracies that had been reported regarding the Pérez Art Museum of Miami.
- The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center was recommended for a state Cultural Facilities Grant. The requested amount was \$500,000. Funding is dependent on the state budget as determined by the legislature and the governor.
- The City of Miami Beach and the Department are exploring the possibility of Art in Public Places managing the public art component of the expansion of the Miami Beach Convention Center.
- Mr. Pérez inquired about the status of MoCA (Museum of Contemporary Art). Mr. Spring reported that MoCA is continuing its programming under new staff leadership and that a new organization, the Institute of Contemporary Art, has been formed and is headquartered in the Design District. It appears that the issue of ownership of the collection is still being determined. At this time, no County funds have been released to either organization. Mr. Spring and staff continue to get periodic updates.
- Mr. Spring urged Councilors to attend the installation ceremony on November 24 for the newly elected/re-elected County Commissioners. At that time, Commissioners will select their chair and vice-chair.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez reported that Haitian born artist Edouard Duval-Carrie was chosen by United States Artists as a USA Artists Fellow, an honor bestowed on 50 of America's finest artists with individual fellowship awards of \$50,000 each.
- Ms. Sloan-Simpkins attended The Miami/Broward Caribbean Carnival as it celebrated its 30th anniversary. She noted that it was her first time to attend and it was very exciting to see the representation from the different countries.
- Mr. Cortada reported that he will be participating in a wake for Poncho, the American crocodile that recently died after being trapped while swimming in a Coral Gables canal. It will be a celebration of life for threatened species. Poncho's Wake will coincide with the closing reception for Cortada's exhibit "Littoral Creatures".
- Mr. Bao noted that he is excited about the discussions regarding aggressively advocating for the department's budget and definitely wants to be very involved.
- Ms. Sagrañes reported that she attended a concert at South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center which was sold out.
- Chairman Henriques attended a show at Actors' Playhouse which was very exciting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry Landreth