

**MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
August 20, 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
Steven Alexander
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez
Xavier Cortada
Jorge Luis Lopez
Phyllis Sloan-Simpkins
Rosa Sugrañes

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Victor Bao
Susana Ibaragüen
Robert Jensen
Louis-Albert Jolivert
Jorge Pérez
Janá Sigars-Malina
Monty Trainer

STAFF

Michael Spring, Director
Kelly Allocco
Patricia Arbelaez
Roxana Barba
Nikenna Benjamin
Sue Camp
Eric Fliss
Liliana Hernandez
Sandra Hill
Regla Lee
Deborah Margol
Gilda Mooney
Alejandro Peraza
Adriana Pérez
Dana Pezoldt
Brandi Reddick
Javier Siut
Christina Tassy-Beauvoir
Ashlee Thomas
Pamela Valles

OTHERS PRESENT

Anthony Atwood, Ph.D., Military Museum & Memorial of South Florida
Marialaura Leslie

Chairman Adolfo Henriques called the meeting to order at 12:19 p.m. Due to a lack of quorum at the outset of the meeting, he requested that Reports and Discussion Items be reviewed first.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Culture Shock Miami – Discount Tickets for Youth Program

Christina Tassy-Beauvoir reported that *Culture Shock Miami* continues to expand its programming offerings for the 2013-2014 season. To date, 7,791 tickets have been sold for the first 11 months of the season, bringing total ticket sales for the program's 2013-2014 to 10,050. Over the summer, the program enjoyed a successful marketing collaboration initiative with the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts with *H2OMBRE: Brave the Elements*. The Arsht Center donated a total of 500 tickets to this show for the *Culture Shock Program*; to date, over 400 of the tickets had been sold. It is anticipated that the entire allocation of tickets will sell out by the end of August 2014. In addition, staff continues to work on securing events that will be presented for the next season, including five (5) co-presentations with the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, and four (4) main stage productions presented exclusively by *Culture Shock*. Finally, Ms. Tassy-Beauvoir noted that in celebration of the program's 10th anniversary, The Miami Herald printed a feature story about the program which appeared in the newspaper's *Tropical Life* section. The piece

was written by a member of ArtBurstMiami.com, a free online news bureau initiated by the Department dedicated to covering the arts in Miami-Dade County.

Department Facilities Updates: South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

Eric Fliss reported that the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC) will close out the summer with a performance by the U.S. Army Jazz Ambassadors on September 20, 2014. SMDCAC will kick-off the 2014-2015 season with the *Backyard Bash Concert*, a free community-wide celebration on the facility's concert lawn. Mr. Fliss reported an overall increase of tickets sales of 13% over last year, with significant increases in sales for SMDCAC's *Family Concerts* and *Cabaret Series*.

Jorge Luis Lopez joined the meeting at 12:23 p.m.

Mr. Fliss concluded his presentation by reporting that in honor of the 52nd independence celebrations of Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago, SMDCAC collaborated with the Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator to present *Dance Party on the Plaza* on Friday, August 15, 2014. The event featured two (2) of Miami's renowned local Caribbean DJs, and celebrated the popular musical genres of soca and reggae. The event was very well attended and considered a resounding success.

Department Facilities Updates: African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

Ashlee Thomas reported that the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center (AHCAC) has concluded its summer arts conservatory program, a 10-week comprehensive instructional program that provides camp participants with a foundation in the performing, fashion, and visual arts. The program concluded with a recital featuring an instrumental music concert, choral concert, drama presentation, fashion show, and art exhibit presented by the participants of the summer conservatory program. She noted that AHCAC staff collaborated with the Bass Museum of Art to provide additional outreach experiences for campers, which included photography classes and visual art lessons. This summer's program served over 300 students. In addition, AHCAC staff continues to prepare for AHCAC's 40th anniversary celebration. AHCAC is a finalist in the *Knight Arts Challenge*, an annual competition sponsored by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to provide funding support for innovate art "ideas" for South Florida. Deborah Margol added that AHCAC staff has been diligently working with Matrix 2, a Miami-based marketing and advertising company, to develop a branding strategy and collateral materials for AHCAC. Councilor Alejandro Aguirre suggested that AHCAC staff reach out to Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces to explore the possibility of adding one or more of their parks as a site for the photography program.

Department Facilities Updates: Coconut Grove Playhouse

Michael Spring reported that the architectural selection process for restoration of the Coconut Grove Playhouse is currently underway. The Miami Parking Authority continues to make improvements to the area surrounding the Playhouse, and has successfully secured the building. Mr. Spring reported that staff continues to keep the Coconut Grove Village Council informed regarding the status of the Playhouse on a regular basis, and has developed a close working relationship with the council and chair. As the successor theater company, GableStage, Inc. has begun a formal internal planning process with the goal of developing an architectural brief for the Playhouse.

Xavier Cortada joined the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

Given the presence of a quorum, Chairman Henriques returned to the Items for Approval.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for August 20, 2014

Requests for excused absences submitted by Victor Bao, Susana Ibarguen, Robert Jensen, Louis Albert Jolivet, Jorge Pérez, Janá Sigars-Malina and Monty Trainer were approved unanimously (motion by Mr. Aguirre, seconded by Steven Alexander).

Approval of the July 16, 2014 Minutes

The minutes of the July 16, 2014 Council meeting were approved unanimously (motion by Mr. Alexander, seconded by Rosa Sagrañes).

Miami-Dade County Budget: FY 2014-2015 Grants Recommendations for Annual Programs

Mr. Spring reported that since the release of the FY 2014-2015 County Budget by Mayor Carlos Gimenez in July 2014, the projected budget shortfall of \$200 million has since narrowed. Negotiations between management and County unions also continue. Mayor Gimenez and his team have scheduled a series of town meetings to be held throughout Miami-Dade County in order to answer questions and/or address concerns by citizens regarding the County's budget. Additionally, the Board of County Commissioners has scheduled meetings of the Committee of the Whole to further discuss the FY 2014-2015 County budget. The final budget hearings are scheduled to take place on September 4, 2014 and September 18, 2014, beginning at 5:01 p.m. at the Stephen P. Clark Government Center.

Mr. Spring informed the Council that the proposed FY 2014-2015 County budget recommends that General Fund revenues allocated to support cultural grants be reduced by 10%, a reduction of approximately \$750,000. He noted that growth in other Department revenue streams (such as Tourist Tax collections and other revenue sources) will result in a net reduction of approximately \$250,000 to the Department's competitive grants programs. As per the Council's request, Mr. Spring distributed a series of "talking points" Councilors can refer to when meeting with members of the Board of County Commissioners. Ms. Margol continued the presentation by directing the Council's attention to a summary of proposed grants to nonprofit cultural organizations in FY 2014-2015 for grants programs for which panels have convened to date, and provided an in-depth review of the impact of the proposed reductions on each program.

Councilor Rosa Sagrañes requested an update regarding the Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA) and the status of their negotiations with the City of North Miami. Mr. Spring reported that MoCA and the City of North Miami are currently in mediation. A subset of MoCA's board of directors have formed a new nonprofit corporation in the state of Florida, the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), and are in the process of applying for federal tax-exemption as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service tax code. At the moment, ICA has identified the Moore Building in the Design District as their exhibition space. He noted that should either (or both) entities demonstrate that they have met the eligibility criteria for grants funding support and are recommended for funding by the Council, the recommendation(s) would be presented as an item for approval to the Board of County Commissioners.

Chairman Adolfo Henriques strongly encouraged members of the Council to meet with their appointing County Commissioners and garner support for a favorable budget for the Department. The proposed FY 2014-2015 grants recommendations for annual programs passed unanimously (motion by Steven Alexander, seconded by Ms. Sagrañes).

Art in Public Places Update

Brandi Reddick provided the Council with updates on various Art in Public Places (APP) commissioned projects located throughout Miami-Dade, including works by artists Adler Guerrier at the Miami-Dade County Fire Department facility, Jefre Manuel's sculpture at the Northside Police Station, and Aramis O'Reilly's work at the Arcola Lakes Senior Center. A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled to take place on August 22, 2014 at the Miami-Dade County Animal Services Facility in Doral; artist Carlos Betancourt has been commissioned by APP to design the interior of the facility. Finally, Ms. Reddick reported that Gurr Johns International Fine Art Consultants has completed its appraisal and condition report of the APP collection. The report will be presented to the APP Trust at their next regularly scheduled meeting on September 9, 2014.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- 1) The Board of County Commissioners' budget hearings are scheduled to take place on September 4, 2014 and September 18, 2014. Department staff will calendar the two (2) meetings in order to meet the requirements of the State of Florida Sunshine Law.
- 2) The Board of County Commissioners approved Mayor Gimenez's recommendation to award the architecture, engineering, and specialty consultant services contract for work at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, the Joseph Caleb Auditorium and the

Miami-Dade County Auditorium to Rodriguez and Quiroga Architects Chartered. Department staff is working with the firm to assess and prioritize capital needs at each facility.

3) Matrix 2, a Miami-based marketing and advertising company, is working with the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center and the Miami-Dade County Auditorium to develop a branding strategy and collateral materials for each facility.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

Chairman Henriques strongly encouraged Council members to attend the upcoming budget hearings. The Council agreed to postpone their regularly scheduled meeting in September and meet in October 2014.

Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez reported that she is working on brining a major exhibition that will be shown in Paris, France in November 2014 to Miami.

Xavier Cortada invited the Council to attend the opening of his next exhibition, *Littoral Creatures*, at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center on September 13, 2014. The opening will also be a celebration of his 50th birthday.

Mr. Alexander reported that he continues to work with ArtSouth and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Xavier Suarez to identify surplus property that would allow for the organization to reopen the art center and resume operations. A lease agreement is currently being finalized.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gilda B. Mooney".

Gilda B. Mooney