

Memorandum



Date: October 21, 2015

To: Members, Cultural Affairs Council

From: Michael Spring, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Spring", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

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 prioritized 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 A/E team submitted the schematic design documents at the end of September. The Department is reviewing the proposed improvements with members from each of the facilities.

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. The Department has been awarded a \$500,000 grant for the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center for the FY 15-16 grant cycle of the

State Cultural Facilities Grant Program, and has submitted an application for Miami-Dade County Auditorium for the FY 16-17 grant cycle.

- African Heritage Cultural Arts Center: \$1.0 million + \$500,000 State Cultural Facilities Grant
- 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	September
Total number of students registered:	609	12
Number of arts production rentals:	93	8
Number of community rentals:	287	12
Number of arts groups using the Center:	211	16
Number of civic meetings:	242	21
Number of tours and outreach:	50	3

Program highlights for July included:

- The After School Arts Program started on August 24, 2015, a week after the Summer Arts Conservatory ended. The program is active Monday through Friday, from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM and offers two classes per day for the 5-6 year-old students. Students 7 years of age and older are offered one class per day due to their longer school hours. The program has 79 students currently enrolled (up to the end of September).
- Apprenticeship program classes and rehearsals are offered in the evening, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Apprenticeship programs are offered to students in the After School Arts Program and other youth that are interested in specialty activities such as drama, dance, visual arts, chorus, instrumental music and piano. The two apprenticeship programs currently active are Winds of Heritage Dance Company and the AHCAC Percussion Ensemble.
- AHCAC staff held a meeting with over 25 of the resident artists and civil resident groups to renew their yearly membership and set up schedules on the calendar for the 2015-16 year. All previous groups and artists are planning to be involved with the programs at the Center.

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 main Sankofa event for the month of September was *Hustle*, a play written and directed by Keith Wade. The play is set on a basketball court and explores the lives of black men dealing with

daily life issues. Over the four days of production, over 150 patrons enjoyed the show. The play was reviewed by the *Miami Herald* and the *Miami Times*.

- The art gallery showcased images from scenes of the play *Hustle* during the run of the production.
- *Zooman and the Sign*, a production by award-winning playwright Charles Fuller, will be presented during two weekends starting Oct. 2nd. Directed by John Pryor, the Obie Award-winning play tells the story of a teen murderer in Philadelphia, who senselessly terrorizes his community without regard to race. Funding for this production has been provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation as part of a Knight Arts Challenge grant.
- On November 14, the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center will host the Sankofa Gala with the theme of “Celebrating 40 years of Community Empowerment through the Arts.” The event will start with a cocktail reception from 6 PM to 7 PM, followed by the gala from 7 PM to 10 PM. The gala event will be held at the Wendell A. Narcisse Theater and will feature live entertainment.

Other News

- 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

- Roofing repairs are being planned for the theater and canopy areas where leaks continue to appear during rain events.

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. The parking lot serving the Auditorium and the adjoining Caleb Center office complex is closed 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.

Awards

The Joseph Caleb Auditorium received the 2015 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for its program titled “Caleb Cultural Passport Program.” The award received was for Best of Category in Arts and Historic Preservation, which honors innovative programs that enhance services for the residents.

The attendance at the Joseph Caleb Auditorium to the date is 36,288.

Upcoming events for the month of October:

- *Spot The Dog* presented by Kids Entertainment Theatre Terra (October 9)
- *Combinado Argentina De Danza* presented by Miami Dade College Live Arts (October 16)
- *Madeline* presented by Arts Power Touring Company (October 20)
- *The Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil Frank Wailer* presented by Arts Power Touring Co. (October 26)

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	September
Number of Events:	163	7
Attendance:	107,850	6,195

Program highlights and rentals for September included:

- The International Ballet Festival of Miami concluded their 20th anniversary production with a gala performance at MDCA.
- MDCA and Jose Negroni’s 2014-2015 jazz series culminated with a sold-out performance by Puerto Rican trumpeter Humberto Ramirez.
- MDCA and Tigertail presented guitarist Marc Ribot in concert. The Miami Herald named Marc Ribot the number one critics’ choice in jazz in their *Season of the Arts* edition.

- Sociedad Pro-Arte Grateli presented pianist Enrique Chia in concert. The popular musician consistently draws sold-out crowds to his yearly concerts at MDCA.

MDCA continues to work with Matrix2 on the development of marketing campaigns for selected events.

Work on the website has been completed and the site is now live:

www.MiamiDadeCountyAuditorium.org

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	September 2015
SMDCAC Presents:	120	26
Number of rentals:	462	10
Attendance:	98,782	1,479 (as of September 30)

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

- *Tsunami*, a docudrama directed by Nilo Cruz (September 12-October 3) (A Carbonell-recommended performance)
- Indie Flicks, An Evening of Short Films by Ian Samuels (September 18)
- SMDCAC Dance Classes:
 - Beginning Ballet – ages 5 to 9 years
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00 PM (September 15-December 10)
 - Intermediate Ballet – Ages 10 to 14 years
Thursdays at 5:00 PM and Saturdays at 12:30 PM (September 17-December 12)
 - Jazz/Contemporary Dance – ages 8 to 14 years
Tuesdays at 5:00 PM and Saturdays at 1:30 PM (September 15-December 12)
- Pridelines Meeting – every Tuesday

Rentals for the month of September included:

- Oasis Backyard Event (September 6)
- Best Buddies Workshop (September 22-25)
- Miami-Dade County Small Business Development Workshop (September 23)
- Miami Youth Ballet Dance Creative (September 25-27)

October highlights include:

- Backyard Bash Season Kickoff featuring Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Hot 8 Brass Band, Aaron Lebos Reality and DJ Le Spam (October 10)
- Indie Flicks: Movement and Location
- Igor Butman and Moscow Jazz Orchestra with special guest Fantine (October 16)
- Sofia Rei (October 17)
- Anais Mitchell (October 23)
- Big Friendly Giant (October 24)
- *Mirada Flamenca* performed by Siempre Flamenco (October 24 & 25)
- Concert Band And Soldiers' Chorus of the U.S. Army Field Band (FREE) (October 29)
- *The Twelfth Night* performed with shadow interpretation by Asolo Repertory Theatre (October 30)

South Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center was named twice as a top location for Dance in *The Miami Herald Season of the Arts* for the upcoming performances of STREB: Extreme Action Company and Savion Glover with Jack Dejohnette.

Playwright and Director Nilo Cruz and Actor Serafin Falcon were featured on Telemudo and NBC 6 morning shows promoting the production of *Tsunami*.

The Center was at the recent Children's Trust Expo promoting the Family Series and other upcoming shows for this season to families throughout Miami-Dade County.

For the season that began October 1, 2014, the Center's volunteer program saved the County \$122,419.

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



Scenes from the play *Hustle*



Gallery show featuring images from the play *Hustle*



AFRICAN HERITAGE
CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

MARSHALL DAVIS, DIRECTOR



CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

40th *Bankofa Gala*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015

COCKTAILS AT SIX O'CLOCK

DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT AT SEVEN O'CLOCK

KEY NOTE SPEAKER - TARELL ALVIN McCRANEY

WENDELL A. NARCISSE THEATER

6161 NW 22ND AVENUE, MIAMI, FL 33142

\$50 PER PERSON

RSVP AHOPE@MIAMIDADE.GOV (305)638-6771

"CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT THROUGH THE ARTS"



John S. and James L.
Knight Foundation

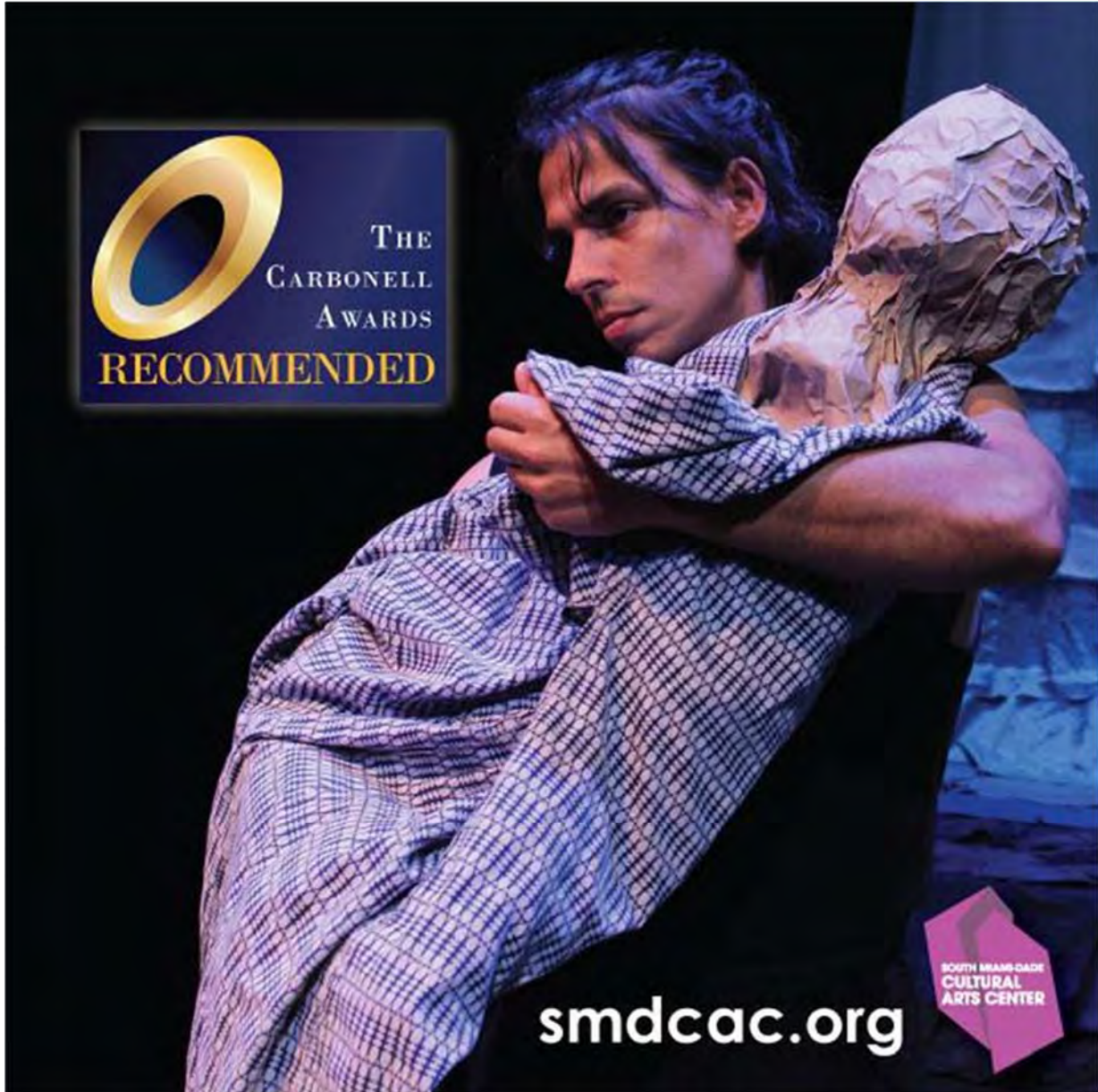


The Center is managed by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, with funding support from the office of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners.

A dancer from the Korean Ballet Company during the International Ballet Festival of Miami (September 13)



Puerto Rican trumpeter Humberto Ramirez performing during the final concert of the 2014-2015 Jazz Series (September 20)



Tsunami, Carbonell Recommended Performance

(September 12 - October 3)

You're invited to our

BACKYARD bash!

OCT
10
7PM

STARRING
**Big Bad
Voodoo
Daddy**



SWING INTO SOUTH MIAMI-DADE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER'S EXCITING 5TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON AT OUR **free** BIG BAND BACKYARD BASH!

SAT, OCT 10 / 7PM
FREE; TICKET REQUIRED

Kick off the Center's 2015-2016 season with a FREE "Backyard Bash" on the Concert Lawn of the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center. Enjoy the sounds of Swing and New Orleans Jazz with featured acts: **BIG BAD VOODOO DADDY, HOT 8 BRASS BAND, AARON LEBOS** and **DJ LE SPAM**. Food and drinks are available for purchase.

Between the music explore the Center's many performance spaces, meet our staff, look through our season schedule and secure seats for your favorite upcoming shows.

Bring lawn chairs and picnic blankets. No coolers permitted. Space is limited. Ticket required.



Aaron Lebos



DJ Le Spam



Hot 8 Brass Band

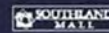


smdcac.org

786.573.5300

10950 SW 211 St.
Cutler Bay, FL 33189

#SMDCACbash



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 STEPHANIE 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).

Backyard Bash Poster