

MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

October 21, 2015

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

Alejandro Aguirre
Mitchell Bierman
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez
Xavier Cortada
Susana Ibargüen
Robert Jensen
Janá Sigars-Malina
Jorge Pérez
Rosa Sugrañes
Monty Trainer

Members Not Present

Adolfo Henriques, Chairman
Denise Gerson
Phyllis Simpkins

Staff

Michael Spring, Director
Kelly Allocco
Francine Andersen
Patricia Arbelaez
Roxana Barba
Christina Beauvoir
Nikenna Benjamin
Sue Camp
Marshall Davis
Roseline Duberceau-Baptiste
Eric Fliss
Olga Gonzalez
Sandra Hill
Gerry Landreth
Regla Lee
Marialaura Leslie
Deborah Margol
David Martinez-Delgado
Gilda Mooney
Dana Pezoldt
Brandi Reddick

Staff (continued)

Katherine Robertson
Javier Siut
Pam Valles

Mr. Jorge Pérez called the meeting to order at 12:09 PM. Absent a quorum, he recommended that the meeting proceed according to the agenda beginning with Reports and Discussion items.

Mr. Spring directed the Council's attention to a handout titled "The Top 15 Things About the Cultural Arts in Miami-Dade County" which can be used to better explain the impact of the arts in the community. This was prepared in response to a suggestion from the Council at the September meeting.

He noted that the economic data is derived from the *Arts & Economic Prosperity IV*, a study conducted by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with Americans for the Arts. A new study is being prepared which will take a year to complete. The data will be updated as soon as it is available.

Ms. Sigars-Malina entered the meeting at 12:11 PM. With a quorum present, Mr. Pérez proceeded according to the agenda.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences

Requests for excused absences submitted by Chairman Adolfo Henriques, Denise Gersen and Phyllis Simpkins were approved unanimously. (motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

Approval of the September 16, 2015 Minutes

The minutes of the September 16, 2015 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

Waiver of Bid Procedures Allowing Payment for Performers, Artists and Artistic Services and Projects for Culture Shock Miami

Ms. Beauvoir recommended that the Cultural Affairs Council approve a waiver of formal bid procedures to allow the Department of Cultural Affairs to contract and pay professional performers, visual artists, and associated expenses for artistic services and projects in support of Culture Shock Miami.

The amount is not to exceed \$30,000.00 per performance, project or exhibition fee, or an aggregate amount not to exceed \$300,000.00. This waiver will remain in place for two years or until the aggregate recommended amount is expended, whichever occurs first.

The bid waiver was approved unanimously. (motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Mr. Cortada)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on the Department of Cultural Affairs' FY 2015-2016 Budget

Ms. Margol reported that the Board of County Commission passed the budget for FY 2015-2016. She noted that grants funding will maintain the same level of funding as FY 2014-2015. She noted that as reported, there will be an increase in administrative costs due to an increase in charges for internal County services.

She also reported that, for the first time since 2007, staff will be eligible for salary merit raises.

Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth

Ms. Beauvoir reported that Culture Shock Miami closed out the 2014-2015 season with ticket sales totaling 10,055. In addition, 2,005 students were reached through free outreach performances and workshops organized in collaboration with the Miami-Dade Public School System and the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC), bringing the program's 2014-2015 reach to a total of 12,060. This represents an increase of 16% over the FY 2013-2014 program reach (10,382).

The program is increasing its presentations from eight (8) performances presented in 2014- 2015, to ten (10) special performances in 2015-2016. In addition to SMDCAC, the program is collaborating with new partners and co-presenting with the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center and Miami-Dade County Auditorium to increase its programming and broaden its audience reach.

She noted that the program continues to market its offerings aggressively via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The Culture Shock Miami Facebook Fan Page and Twitter account provide daily updates and any last-minute offerings available to the program's target audience. These social networking sites have helped staff inform the program's target audience of newly available performances and ticket inventory. The program's Facebook Fan Page currently has 8,458 fans, an increase of 78% from October 2014 when the total number of fans was 4,756.

Department Facilities Updates

African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Davis reported that the After School Arts Program which began August 24, 2015 has an enrollment of 185. The Summer Arts Conservatory, a 10-week intensive instructional program, had an enrollment of 300 students.

He noted that the 40th anniversary celebration continues. Two plays have been presented, including the Obie award winning *Zooman and The Sign* by playwright by Charles Fuller. Funding for the production was provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation as part of a Knight Arts Challenge grant to the Center.

He invited Councilors to a gala celebration for the 40th Sankofa Celebration with keynote speaker Tarell Alvin McCraney on November 14.

Miami-Dade County Auditorium

Mr. Siut reported that Miami-Dade County Auditorium (MDCA) hosted 163 events in 2014-2015 with an attendance of 107,850. He noted the International Hispanic Theater Festival presented many of the plays from theater companies around the world at MDCA.

He announced that MDCA will be kicking off the first of what will become an annual Children's Festival with a presentation of *The Ugly Duckling* in Spanish.

Mr. Spring noted that MDCA was formerly a rental facility. The Auditorium has now forged partnerships with presenting organizations and has starting producing its own shows. The result is high quality entertainment and an expanded audience.

7th Avenue - Carver Theater

Mr. Spring reported that the 7th Avenue Transit Village Theater is a 180-seat theater that is part of a mixed-use development project in the heart of Liberty City. The development includes affordable housing and a Transit hub.

An operating agreement between Fantasy Theatre Factory and M Ensemble is being developed. Fantasy Theatre Factory will handle all operational needs and M Ensemble will serve as the resident theater company. The first performance in the new theater will be in 2016.

Art in Public Places

Ms. Reddick reported that over a series of three days, September 28 – 30, 2015, seventeen artists presented site specific project proposals to the City of Miami Beach Art in Public Places selection committee, City of Miami Beach representatives, and Miami-Dade Art in Public Places representatives:

She reported that at the selection committee meeting, it was announced that there will be an additional public art opportunity for the main lobby entrance of the Convention Center. Additional funds from the construction budget will be allocated to address this new opportunity.

The following artists were recommended to be commissioned for the City of Miami Beach Convention Center: Joseph Kosuth (Main Lobby Entrance); Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dragset (Monumental Exterior work for Convention Center Park); Franz Ackerman (Southeast Exterior Walls); Ellen Harvey (Grand Ballroom and Pre-Function Level 2); Sarah Morris (Northeast Grand Ballroom Exterior Walls); and Joep van Lieshout (Northeast Grand Ballroom Park and VIP Ballroom Lobby).

Mr. Spring noted that Miami-Dade County Art in Public Places will be managing the project for an administrative fee of \$600,000.

Mr. Bierman inquired as to who makes the final decision on the artists for the project. Mr. Spring noted that the City of Miami Beach Commission gives the final approval for project and that they are scheduled to review the recommendations in June 2016, after a number of other prerequisite reviews occur.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring reported that the ADA Silver Anniversary Summit held in September was a success. More than 350 arts leaders attended the celebration of the 25th year of the passage of the American with Disabilities Act. Featuring national experts, the summit focused on accessibility and inclusion in the arts and how cultural organizations can make their programs more accessible for individuals with disabilities.
- Mr. Spring participated in a two-day forum hosted by The P3 Institute in September.
- He reported that the process to restructure the management of Vizcaya Museum and Gardens requires additional work with the Board of County Commissioners. The new structure will be modeled after the one used for the Arsht Center. The County will retain ownership of the property but a professional non-profit entity, the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens Trust, would manage the facility. The Chair of the County Commission has announced that there will be a workshop on the proposal for Commissioners and their staff to provide more opportunity to discuss the matter.
- Mr. Spring reported that the team from Zyscovich Architecture has launched the design process for the Westchester Cultural Arts Center. The Center will be built near the Bird Road entrance to Tropical Park and will include a studio theater, classrooms and community meeting spaces.
- He reported that environmental tests are being done on Coconut Grove Playhouse to determine if asbestos is present.
- He reported that there are ongoing talks with the Arsht Center and the Florida Department of Transportation regarding the development of a new parking garage located southwest of the Ziff Ballet Opera House.
- Mr. Spring congratulated Mr. Pérez for being awarded the 2015 BCA Leadership Award by Americans for the Arts for his extraordinary vision, leadership and commitment to supporting the arts. He will also be awarded the Alvah H. Chapman, Jr. Award of Excellence by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce in November.

Mr. Pérez left the meeting at 1:13 PM. Ms. Sagrañes chaired the remainder of the meeting.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Mr. Cortada reported that he met with editorial board of *The Miami Herald* to discuss how the power of the arts empowers the powerless. He noted that he will have a performance piece in Hialeah during Art Basel which will focus on the impact of rising sea level. It will emphasize that Hialeah is the fourth most vulnerable city in the state to sea level rise.
- Mr. Trainer reported that Miami-Dade County Days will be held in February 2016.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reminded councilors that Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden will be hosting the 74th Annual Ramble, November 7 - 9.
- Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez reported that the current exhibition at The Wolfsonian is amazing and that she is very excited by the new direction they are taking.
- Mr. Jensen reported that the Seminole Theatre in Homestead, built in the 1920's, reopened with approximately 1,000 people attending the celebration.
- Mr. Bierman reported that his son will be starring in *The Ballad of Janis Matthews & the Dodo Scouts* at Area Stage Conservatory. The play will be directed by Giancarlo Rodaz, son of Maria Banda-Rodaz and John Rodaz.
- Ms. Sagrañes reported that the Coral Gables Museum will be holding a fundraiser and her son will be the Master of Ceremonies.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry Landreth