

**MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
November 18, 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
Xavier Cortada
Denise Gerson
Susana Ibarguen
Robert Jensen
Janá Sigars-Malina
Monty Trainer

Members Not Present

Adolfo Henriques, Chairman
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez
Jorge Pérez
Phyllis Simpkins
Rosa Sugrañes

Others Present

Lydia Lopez, Office of the Mayor
Timothy Rodgers, Director, The Wolfsonian - FIU

Staff

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

Staff (continued)

Katherine Robertson
Javier Siut
Pam Valles

Serving as Chair, Mr. Aguirre called the meeting to order at 12:18 pm.

Mr. Aguirre introduced Dr. Timothy Rodgers, who was formerly the director of Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art in Arizona.

Presentation: Timothy Rodgers, Director, The Wolfsonian - FIU

Dr. Rodgers noted that in addition to expanding the physical museum, he wanted to expand the availability of the museum's permanent collection online. The collection contains approximately 120,000 objects making it the second largest university collection behind Harvard University.

One of the goals is to increase earned revenue by leveraging real estate holdings. He is exploring potential partnerships with the City of Miami Beach as well as local developers to expand earned revenue.

Dr. Rodgers expressed concern about the storage of the collection on Miami Beach.

Mr. Aguirre asked for clarification of those concerns. Dr. Rodgers noted the high humidity and the sea level rise.

In addition to protecting the collection, a more inland location would make the collection more available to students and researchers.

The Council welcomed Dr. Rodgers to Miami and expressed its continued support for The Wolfsonian-FIU.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for November 18, 2015

Requests for excused absences submitted by Adolfo Henriques, Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Jorge Pérez and Rosa Sugrañes were approved unanimously. (motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Mr. Jensen)

Approval of the October 21, 2015 Minutes

The minutes of the October 21, 2015 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (motion by Mr. Cortada; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

FY 2015-2016 Community Grants (CG) Program Recommendations – Second Quarter

The FY 2015-2016 Community Grants program panel chaired by Deputy Director Deborah Margol convened on October 29, 2015, to review 33 applications requesting \$277,400.00 for the Second Quarter of the program. The Panel recommended funding 30 applicants for a total of \$160,000.00.

Individual grant recommendations that involved Councilor conflicts of interest were removed from the package of recommendations and voted on individually. The following Council members declared a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on the following:

Mr. Bierman - Florida International University

Mr. Cortada - Florida International University

Mr. Trainer - National Tropical Botanical Garden and Rotary Foundation of South Miami

The Panel's recommendations to fund the remaining organizations were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Cortada; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

A.Y.U.D.A., Inc.	\$1,943.00
Branches, Inc.	\$5,070.00
Brazilian Voices Inc.	\$4,140.00
Center for The Advancement of Jewish Education, Inc.	\$10,140.00
City of West Miami	\$2,957.00
COMPOSITUM MUSICAE NOVAE, INC.	\$6,337.00
Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival Organization, Inc.	\$8,450.00
Florida Guitar Foundation, Inc.	\$4,647.00
Florida Opera Prima, Inc.	\$2,957.00
Fundarte, Inc. a/f/a for Academic, Cultural & Charitable Exchanges Corp.	\$3,169.00
Fundarte, Inc. a/f/a for Cuatrogatos Foundation, Inc.	\$4,394.00
IFCM, Corp.	\$12,675.00
Kashmir Hindu Foundation, Inc.	\$1,022.00
Miami Acting Company, Inc.	\$6,337.00
Miami Arts Parade Foundation, Inc.	\$4,225.00
Miami Theater Hub, Inc. D/B/A Miami New Drama	\$3,802.00
Mid Eastern Dance Exchange, Inc.	\$2,957.00
Musicall, Inc.	\$6,337.00
Opa-locka Community Development Corporation, Inc.	\$6,337.00
Sabrina Cohen Foundation, Inc.	\$5,070.00
Shakespeare in the Park Miami, Inc.	\$8,450.00
South Florida Lindy Collective Corporation	\$2,112.00
St. Patricks Day Committee, Inc.	\$6,337.00
St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Community	\$6,337.00
Tradisyon Lakou Lakay, Inc.	\$5,492.00
United Jewish Generations, Inc.	\$4,225.00
Waving Hands, Inc.	\$5,492.00

The Panel's recommendations to fund the remaining organizations, for which there were the above-noted Councilor conflicts of interest and abstentions, were voted on individually and passed unanimously as follows:

Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of The College of Architecture and the Arts \$4,647.00

(Motion by Mr. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

Rotary Foundation of South Miami, Inc. \$8,450.00

(Motion by Mr. Cortada; seconded by Mr. Bierman)

National Tropical Botanical Garden, Inc. \$5,492.00

(Motion by Mr. Cortada; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

FY 2015-2016 Summer Arts and Science (SAS-C) Grants Program Panel

The panel for the FY 2015-2016 Summer Arts and Science (SAS-C) Grants Program Panel was approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Mr. Bierman)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program

Ms. Beauvoir reported that 970 tickets have been sold for the first two months of the 2015-2016 cultural season. In addition, 1,138 students and teachers have been reached through free outreach performances and workshops in collaboration with the Miami-Dade Public School System, Murray Dranoff Foundation, and the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, bringing the program's total reach to date to 2,108.

Culture Shock Miami will present and co-present ten special performances, spanning different arts disciplines. In addition to South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, the program is collaborating with the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center and Miami-Dade County Auditorium to broaden its audience reach.

The program is collaborating with the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center to present a series of Theater Etiquette workshops. Each workshop begins on the Center's mainstage, where students attend an interactive presentation of Culture Shock Miami's *Top 10 Rudest Things You Can Do at a Cultural Event*, and learn about and discuss proper theater etiquette.

The presentation is followed by back-of-house tours, hands-on activities, and question and answer sessions with Center staff, crew, and resident artists. While teaching proper theater etiquette, the workshops provide students with the opportunity to experience and understand the inner workings of a cultural arts venue.

Four workshops have been scheduled for the 2015-2016 season. More than 210 students have attended the first two workshops.

Department Facilities Updates

South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Fliss reported that during the month of October 2015, the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center presented 31 events and had three rentals with a total attendance of 6,146. Events included the annual Backyard Bash Season Kickoff featuring a variety of performers representing a wide range of genres to help reflect the diversity of the community.

The Center hosted a Flamenco workshop for home-schooled students. In cooperation with New Theatre and Culture Shock Miami, the Center is presenting a series of four theater etiquette workshops for students.

The Center is now offering affordable dance classes. Classes that are being offered are Beginning Ballet for ages 5 to 9 years, Intermediate Ballet for ages 10 to 14 years and Jazz/Contemporary Dance for ages 8 to 14 years.

Mr. Fliss reported that Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay recently agreed to a three-year sponsorship of the Center's Family Series.

Mr. Fliss previewed a short video about the Center that was posted on the homepage of the County's portal, www.miamidade.gov.

Joseph Caleb Auditorium

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

Shows presented during the month of October were *Spot The Dog*, *Combinado Argentina De Danza*, *Madeline* and *The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil Frank Wailer*. Attendance for fiscal year 2015-2016, to date, is 5,922.

7th Avenue – Carver Theater

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

A ribbon cutting ceremony should take place by the end of the year/beginning of next year, and it is anticipated that the first performance will be in spring 2016.

Art in Public Places Update

Mr. Martinez-Delgado reported that the City of Miami has engaged Art in Public Places to commission public art for the Antonio Maceo Park, which is largely used by the elderly residents who live in the surrounding area. Four artists have been shortlisted to design a floor for the new community room.

The budget for the project is \$18,000 and artists' proposals will go to the Professional Advisory Committee on December 10, 2015.

The Fringe Projects 2015, temporary art installations in downtown Miami's less conventional spaces, features works by David Brooks, Dara Friedman and Nate Page. The installations will be on view through January 2016.

A National Call to Artists will be issued in December 2015 for a project at the Wynwood Community Resource Center. Art opportunities will be both interior and exterior. The project budget for public art is \$225,000.

Ivan Toth Depeña's *Augmented Reality* project is set to launch in April 2016. The interactive project allows visitors to enjoy an enhanced experience using their smartphone or tablet at five locations in Miami.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring reported that "The Top 15 Facts About the Arts in Miami-Dade County" is posted on the department's website, www.miamidadearts.org. He also directed the Council's attention to the Council agenda that will feature a fact per month.
- The Board of County Commissioners has requested a district breakdown for grants. He noted that the report will be issued soon by the Mayor with copies sent to the Council. This provides information about cultural activities happening in each County Commission district.
- The Westchester Cultural Arts Center will be built in Tropical Park and is being designed by Zyschovic Architects. The facility will provide cultural programming and instruction focusing on Hispanic arts and culture and will feature a studio theater, a lobby that can be used as an exhibition space, classroom space, a plaza as well as spaces for an office and storage.
- Mr. Spring reported that work continues to help GableStage develop the organizational infrastructure necessary to manage Coconut Grove Playhouse.
- The 40th Anniversary Gala for the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center took place on October 29. In attendance were several dignitaries including elected officials, both past and present, as well as representatives of *The Miami Herald* and *Miami New Times*. A dynamic keynote speech was delivered by Tarell Alvin McCraney.
- Mr. Spring reported that the State of Florida would be participating in the economic impact study sponsored by American's for the Arts.
- Ms. Allocco continues to work with the Beacon Council on survey designed to measure business support for the arts.
- Mr. Spring noted the passing of Dr. Preston Marshall, founder of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in Liberty City. He noted that Dr. Marshall was a tireless civil rights advocate and a longtime educator.
- Two employees were recognized for their work at Miami-Dade County, Francine Andersen and Regla Lee, who are both celebrating their 20th anniversary with the County.
- Mr. Aguirre reminded Councilors that the Florida Legislative session is beginning earlier this year. Mr. Spring reported that Sherron Long, president of the Florida Cultural Alliance is already in Tallahassee with the Alliance's lobbyist, Frank Meiner.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Mr. Cortada invited Councilors to a series of panels, performances and exhibitions entitled *Clima* ("climate" in Spanish). The events are designed to bring more awareness of climate change and sea level rise. One of the aims of *Clima* is to engage scientists through art.
- Mr. Trainer reported that the annual Miami-Dade Days will be held in Tallahassee on February 8-9, 2016. He encouraged Councilors to attend if possible because it provides them an opportunity to meet with state legislators. He also reported that the Miami Watercolor Society held the opening of their exhibition at the Coconut Grove Arts Festival Gallery on November 7 with more than 200 people in attendance.
- Ms. Gerson reported that she served as a judge for the South Miami Art Festival.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reminded Councilors that "Give Miami Day" will be November 19. She reported that she and her family will be walking in a 5K event on November 21 at Zoo Miami on behalf of the Children's Bereavement Center. The Center provides free Peer Support Groups for children, young adults, and adult caregivers after the death of a loved one.
- Mr. Jensen reported that the Redland Farm Life School is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Plans are underway to revive the original historic building as the Redland Farm Life Culinary Center.

- Mr. Aguirre congratulated Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden on its work to reintroduce native orchid species back into the South Florida urban landscape. He also encouraged Councilors to participate in "Give Miami Day."

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry Landreth