

# Memorandum



**Date:** December 16, 2015

**To:** Members, Cultural Affairs Council

**From:** Michael Spring, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Spring". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

**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 is currently working on the design development documents, which are scheduled to be completed in February 2016.

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 2015-2016 to-date	November
Total number of students registered:	111	4
Number of arts production rentals:	33	11
Number of community rentals:	37	20
Number of arts groups using the Center:	34	15
Number of civic meetings:	40	16
Number of tours and outreach:	9	6

*Program highlights for November included:*

- The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center continues with its noted After School Arts Program and Saturday Arts workshops. Students in the After School Arts Program are picked up from various schools nearby and transported to the Center. In addition to being engaged in the performing and visual arts, students are assisted academically with their homework and with their social development. The After School Arts participants had their first showcase/demonstration on December 9th.
- The AHCAC apprenticeship programs are offered to youth in the After School Arts Program and to other youth that are interested in specialized instruction in areas such as drama, dance, visual arts, chorus, instrumental music and piano.
- The Center offers space for both its artistic and civic residency programs.

***Sankofa: Celebrating 40 Years of Service***

The Center has been successfully celebrating 40 years of service with the following events from the Sankofa series:

- A gallery exhibit during the month of November was curated by Bayunga K. and featured former and current visual artist staff members including: Charles Humes, Lucius King Sr., Ray Parris Jr., Darryn Ferguson, Carla Jamieson, Karla Cohen, Bayunga, Nana K. Blackman and Marshall L. Davis.
- The Sankofa Gala, coordinated by Ms. Anita Hope, was a huge success and brought together many alumni, artists, and community members.
  - Tarell Alvin McCraney was the keynote speaker at the event. Tarell, an alumni of the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, later went on to become a student of New World School of the Arts and Yale, and is currently teaching at the University of Miami. Tarell

- has realized many of his artistic aspirations as a prominent playwright, actor and director and has received numerous outstanding awards and recognition for his artistic works.
- The Gala also featured many talented Jazz and R&B music students and teacher alumni; among them were Ja' Nia Harden, Zipporah Hayes and Melton R. Mustafa.
- Several distinguished individuals and organizations were acknowledged for their long-term support. Amongst them were: County Commissioner Audrey Edmonson; State Representative Dr. Dorothy Bendross Mindingall; Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Director Jack Kardys; Retha Boone Fye; Bernard Coats, former Cultural Arts District Supervisor; The African Heritage Culture and Arts Coalition; Ken Knight; The Miami Times; Miami Herald theater critic, Christine Dolen; Michelle Hollinger of the South Florida Times; Lucius King Sr.; Darryn Ferguson; and Rodney Baltimore of Cox Media Hot 105.
- The Gala was sponsored by The Knight Foundation and Remy Martin.
- The Sankofa 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala and exhibition at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center were two of the final events to a year-long celebration that included artistic events, performances, lectures and workshops involving many of the student alumni, former teachers and resident artists. The concluding event will be a week-long Calabash Visual Arts series that begins December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Center plans to continue offering “Sankofa Productions” with the goal of continuing to develop new creative productions, enhancing educational services, providing special events and exhibitions and maintaining its status as an epicenter for civic engagement.

### ***Maintenance Issues***

- Roof repairs have been completed over the offices, theater and overhang around the courtyard.
- The installation of exterior security cameras in the courtyard and main parking area is scheduled to occur in December once tree trimming has been completed.

For more information on the Center’s events and offerings, please visit the Center’s website at [www.ahcacmiami.org](http://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.

Joseph Caleb Auditorium attendance for fiscal year 2015-2016, to date, is 9,148.

Performances for the months of November and December:

- November 16, 2015 – *Alexander Who’s Not, Not, Not, Not, Not Going to Move*
- November 30, 2015 – *The Three Mess-keteers* presented by Fantasy Theatre Factory
- December 1, 2015 – *The Three Mess-keteers* presented by Fantasy Theatre Factory
- December 2, 2015 – *The Three Mess-keteers* presented by Fantasy Theatre Factory

**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 2015-2016	November
Number of Events:	27	16
Attendance:	13,230	5,545

Program highlights and rentals for November included:

- MDCA and Arca Images presented *El Color del Deseo* written and directed by Pulitzer Prize winner Nilo Cruz. The play was performed in Spanish and a live simultaneous translation to English was provided.
- MDCA and FundArte partnered for the third consecutive year to bring the legendary Casa Patas Foundation to the MDCA stage. The group performed *Flamenco Frequencies* to a sold-out crowd in the mid-stage theatre configuration. This new work was choreographed by acclaimed dancer and

choreographer Karen Lugo. As in previous years, a master class was offered free of charge to local dancers.

- Ukulele sensation Jake Shimabukuru, recently performed at MDCA. Jake has single-handedly revitalized the art of playing the ukulele. He has played before thousands, performed in front of the Queen of England, and Rolling Stone Magazine called him the Jimmy Hendrix of the ukulele.

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](http://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:

	<u>FY 2015-2016 to date</u>	<u>November 2015</u>
SMDCAC Presents:	62	31
Number of rentals:	13	10
Attendance:	8,585	2,439

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

- *La Traviata* performed by Miami Lyric Opera (November 6 and 7)
- *Just The Funny* (November 6)
- Indie Flicks: *Orion The Man Who Would Be King* (November 6)
- Quincy Jones Presents Alfredo Rodriguez (November 7)
- Handel's *Coronation Anthems* performed by Seraphic Fire (November 8)
- Grace Weber (November 13)
- Jessica Lang Dance (November 14)
  - Outreach event: Coral Reef High School and Archbishop Coleman High School master classes (November 13)
  - Outreach event: FREE Community Class (November 14)
- The Comedy Zone featuring Philadelphia Plowden (November 14)
- Education and Outreach: Etiquette class - Pace High School Students (November 18)
- Black Creek Nights, indoor outdoor club night (November 20)
- Solid Soul featuring Mavis Staples and Joan Osborne (November 21)

- Ballet For Young People featuring Miami City Ballet School Ensemble (November 21)
- 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 November included:

- Feast Miami (November 8)
- Town of Cutler Bay: The Educational Advisory Committee Meeting (November 12)
- Sky High (November 21)
- New Theatre's production of *Two Weekends and a Day* (November 21-December 13)

December highlights include:

- *The Nutcracker* performed by Miami Youth Ballet (December 4 and 5)
- *Fancy Nancy Splendiferous Christmas* (December 13)
- Handel: *Messiah* performed by Seraphic Fire (December 20)

The Center staffed marketing booths at the South Miami Arts Fair (November 7 and 8), The Fairchild Tropical Garden Ramble (November 13-15) and The Miami International Book Fair (November 20-22)

WDNA 88.9 Jazz featured an interview with Managing Director Eric Fliss about the Center's 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season shows. *El Nuevo Herald* reviewed Miami Lyric Opera's production of *La Traviata* as well as Jessica Lang Dance. *Artburst Miami* also featured preview and review articles of Jessica Lang Dance. Mavis Staples' and Joan Osborne's Solid Soul concert was listed as one of the "Top Ten Things To Do In Miami" by *The Miami New Times*.

As part of the ongoing effort to engage and build dance audiences, the Center hosted Lillian Barbeito, Artistic Director of L.A. based contemporary dance company BodyTraffic during an advance site visit to Miami. While in Miami, Lillian planned for the company's upcoming residency and performance in April, 2016, toured the Miami-Dade College Kendall Campus with SMDCAC Education Manager Carla Hill, visited Mays Arts Charter High School dance students, met with Eric Fliss, Managing Director of the Center, and attended a matinee school performance by the Miami City Ballet School.

For the season that began on October 1, 2015, the Center's volunteer program has saved the County \$11,960 to date.

For a complete listing of upcoming shows and events, please visit the Center's website, [www.smdcac.org](http://www.smdcac.org).

PERFORMING ARTS NOVEMBER 6, 2015

## Tarell Alvin McCraney to speak at African Heritage Cultural Arts gala

### HIGHLIGHTS

'Kingdom City' playwright Sheri Wilner will discuss her drama after Sunday's matinee at FIU



In South Florida theater news, two playwrights will have their say at a talkback and a gala celebration.

- Playwright Sheri Wilner, whose drama *Kingdom City* centers on censorship of a theater production in a small town high school, will attend the 2 p.m. performance of her play on Sunday at Florida International University's Wertheim Performing Arts Center, 10910 SW 17th St., Miami. Miami Herald theater critic Christine Dolen will lead a talkback after the show. The play runs through Nov. 15, with performances at 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15 (\$12 for seniors and FIU employees, \$10 for FIU students). Call 305-348-0496 or visit [wpac.fiu.edu](http://wpac.fiu.edu).
- Celebrated Miami playwright and MacArthur Fellow Tarell Alvin McCraney will be the speaker at a Nov. 14 gala honoring the 40th anniversary of the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, a cultural hub and center for arts education in Liberty City. WTVJ-Channel 6 anchor Jawan Strader will host the Sankofa Gala, which begins at 6 p.m. and features music, entertainment, dinner, a gallery exhibition and a silent auction. Tickets are \$50. The center is at 6161 NW 22nd Ave., Miami. Call 305-638-6771 or visit [ahcacmiami.org](http://ahcacmiami.org).

*Christine Dolen*

*Miami Herald* article



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"*



*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.*





*The Three Mess-Keteers* (November 30, December 1, and 2)



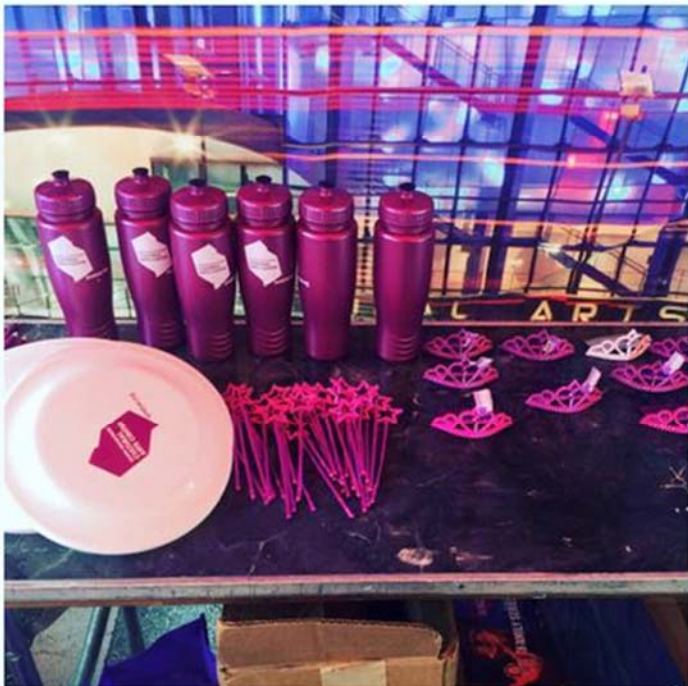
*El Color del Deseo*, written and directed by Pulitzer Prize-winner Nilo Cruz  
(November 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 15)



Casa Patas Foundation Flamenco Frequencies featuring Karen Lugo (November 8)



Theater Etiquette Course For Pace High School Students (November 18)



Promoting the Fancy Nancy show at The Miami International Book Fair (November 20-22)