

# Memorandum



**Date:** November 19, 2014

**To:** Members, Cultural Affairs Council

**From:** Michael Spring, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Spring". The signature is fluid and cursive, 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

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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 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.

Rodriguez and Quiroga Architects Chartered has provided 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 begun to prioritize the list of work. Life safety issues and major building systems such as HVAC, roofing, and electrical systems are being prioritized.

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.

- African Heritage Cultural Arts Center: \$1.0 million
- 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:

	<u>FY 2014-2015 to date</u>	<u>October</u>
Total number of students registered:	99	99
Number of arts production rentals:	6	6
Number of community rentals:	23	23
Number of arts groups using the Center:	19	19
Number of civic meetings:	17	17
Number of tours and outreach:	5	5

### *Program highlights and rentals for October*

- The After School Arts Academy has a total of 99 students enrolled in the program, which operates from 2:00 PM to 6:30 PM. The program consists of instructional classes in various art forms, including dance, chorus, visual arts, fashion arts, drama and music. The classes provide the students, ranging from 5 to 16 years of age, an opportunity to demonstrate and develop their latent talents and abilities.
- The evening programs consist of resident artists and community residents using the spaces for meetings, rehearsals, and classroom training for youths and/or adults in dance, theater, visual arts, ceramics, etc. Rentals also activate the Center during the weekends.
- A partnership with Orchestra Miami and Miami Children's Initiative has created a free music program open to students interested in the After School Arts Academy and becoming part of an opera production. Forty-six students are currently enrolled in the program.
- The AHCAC is partnering with Liberty City Elementary School to offer an After School Arts Program for kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. AHCAC staff is providing instructional classes in dance, chorus, creative dramatics, and instrumental music at the school as of November.
- As a part of Sankofa: Celebrating 40 years of Service, a Call to Artists has generated 85 applicants competing for the visual art exhibitions that will be held as part of this year-long celebration. Selection of artists will occur in November for exhibitions at the Center throughout 2015.
- The Harvest Fest Halloween family program was held on October 31<sup>st</sup> and it was a big success thanks to all the partners involved, including: Gate Restoration Center, Power U, Glory Temple Ministries, Miami Children's Initiative, Cultural Arts Alumni, *Top Flight Steppers*, Northwestern Class of 1962, the Center's staff and residents of the adjacent neighborhoods.

### *Ongoing maintenance and capital improvements at the AHCAC*

- A proposal for exterior security cameras and equipment has been requested and is a priority for the safety of the Center's staff and patrons.

- A call to artists was issued through the Art in Public Places program for the design of the Center's marquee and 65 applications were received. Short listing of the proposals by a Professional Advisory Committee occurred on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Center is continuing to work with Matrix 2 on marketing materials for the Sankofa celebration, general advertising brochures, digital flyers, postcards, and the website.

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**

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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. It is still anticipated that the parking lot serving the Auditorium and the adjoining Caleb Center office complex will be closed to prepare the site 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 upcoming loss of parking once the construction of the parking garage for the Caleb Center begins, 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. Until construction begins, the Auditorium is continuing to accept other rentals.

Attendance for the month of October was 7,474.

#### October Events:

- October 15, 2014 – Arts Power National Touring Company presented *Harry the Dirty Dog*
- October 20, 2014 – Arts Power National Touring Company presented *Otherwise Known as Shelia the Great*
- October 22-23, 2014 – Lightwire Theatre Company presented *Dino-Light*

#### Events scheduled for November:

- 11/5/2014 - Theatreworks USA presents *Junie B. Jones*
- 11/10/2014 - Brad Simon Organization presents John Tartaglia's *Imagin Ocean*
- 11/12-11/14/14 - Fantasy Theatre Factory presents *Never Everglades*

### **Miami-Dade County Auditorium**

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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:

	<u>FY 2014-2015</u>	<u>October 2014</u>
Number of Events:	15	15
Attendance:	8,755	8,755

*Program highlights and rentals for October*

- For the third consecutive year, MDCA teamed up with Teatro En Miami to present TEMFest. An annual theatre festival dedicated to promoting and presenting local productions.
- MDCA and TigerTail presented jazz pianist Johnny O’Neal in concert. Mr. O’Neal is a well-respected musician originally from Detroit. He now spends most of his time traveling or performing in New York. He is one of the featured characters in an upcoming documentary by Spike Lee.
- Spanish singer Rosana performed in Miami for the first time in front of an enthusiastic crowd. Along with her opening act, Lena, they both delighted the audience for almost 4 hours.
- Noches Tropicales returned to MDCA for their season opening Gala.
- The Venezuelan Arts Festival inaugurated its first Miami Edition with an opening night party on our On.Stage Black Box. The festival is in its fourth edition and based in New York.
- MDCA and World Music Factory presented the legendary Dyango. The Spanish singer performed in front of an almost sold out house as part of his farewell tour.
- MDCA and Arca Images presented the World Premiere of Hurricane, a play written and directed by Pulitzer Prize Winner Nilo Cruz.

MDCA events during this month garnered wide media coverage. This included feature newspaper articles in El Nuevo Herald, The Miami Herald, Diario Las Americas, amongst others. Also, due to the international recognition enjoyed by singer Dyango, there was coverage from international press outlets.

MDCA is currently working with Matrix 2 on the development of its website.

## South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

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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	October 2014
SMDCAC Presents:	8	8
Number of rentals:	27	27
Attendance:	5617	5617

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

- November 1 – Etienne Charles (jazz)
- November 8 – Black Creek Nights featuring DakhaBrakah (world music);
- November 8 – TU Dance (contemporary dance)
- November 9 – Seraphic Fire's Vivaldi: Gloria (a cappella)
- November 14 – Allan Harris Trio (jazz)
- November 15 – Upright Citizens Brigade (improv / comedy)
- November 15 – Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenca (Flamenco)
- November 22 – The Hot Sardines (jazz).

Funding for both TU Dance and Seraphic Fire is provided by the Knight Foundation. Additional funding for Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenca is provided by South Arts and the New England Foundation for the Arts.

Education and outreach events for the month of November include FREE TU Dance classes and lecture demonstrations:

- November 5 at INKUB8 Arts Collective in Downtown Miami;
- November 6 at South Miami Senior High School;
- November 7 with Riviera Preparatory Academy and Academy of Arts and Minds High School at South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center;
- November 7 with Thomas Armour Youth Ballet at their South Miami studio; and
- November 8 community class (ages 10 and up) at South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center.

Also, FREE Noche Flamenca classes and lecture demonstrations:

- November 13 at West Kendall Baptist Hospital;
- November 14 for senior citizens at South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center;
- November 14 (Siempre Flamenco) at Miami Dade County wellness event; and

- November 15 community class at South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center.

In addition, The Hot Sardines will perform for 100 students involved in the Honey Shine mentoring program at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center on November 22.

Rentals for the month of November include:

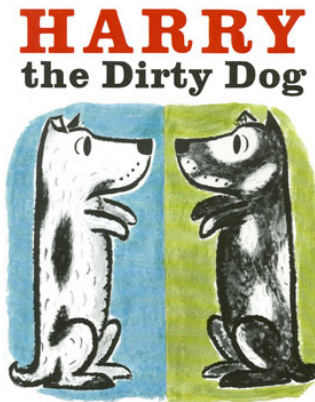
- New Theatre's production of *The Gospel According to Jerry* rehearsals and shows throughout the month;
- Thomas Armour Youth Ballet classes every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday;
- Pridelines meeting every Tuesday of the month;
- Spicewood community meeting on November 19; and
- ITD Department meeting on November 21.

Etienne Charles was interviewed on Caribbean radio and WDNA jazz radio station. *The Miami Herald* published pre-show feature articles on Etienne Charles and TU Dance, and TU Dance was featured on NBC 6.

The Center is launching its volunteer program for the 2014-2015 season and recently created a volunteer postcard and e-blast to promote new recruitment.

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

Attachment



Harry the Dirty Dog (October 15)



Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great (October 20)



Lightwire Theatre's *DiNO-Light* (October 22-23)

Johnny O'Neal during sound check prior to his performance on our On.Stage Black Box. (Oct.11-2014)



Rosana performing at MDCA during her first visit to Miami. (Oct.12-2014)







Opening night party for the first Miami edition of the Venezuelan Arts Festival. (Oct.23-2014)



The legendary Dyango! (Oct.24-2014)



Dino Light Family Show costume contest (October 25)



Volunteer recruitment postcard