

**MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

December 14, 2016

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
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez
Xavier Cortada
Sandra Curbelo
Robert Jensen
Jorge Pérez
Janá Sigars-Malina
Phyllis Simpkins
Monty Trainer
Dwayne Wynn

Members Not Present

Mitchell Bierman
Denise Gerson
Adolfo Henriques, Chairman
Susana Ibargüen
Rosa Sugrañes

Others Present

Lydia Lopez, Assistant to Senior Advisor, Office of the Mayor
Michael Gray, Reclamation Project

Staff

Michael Spring, Director
Carolina Alfonso
Kelly Allocco
Francine Andersen
Roxana Barba
Christina Beauvoir
Susan Camp
Mary Margaret Dale
Marshall Davis
Eric Fliss
Olga Gonzalez
Hanny Guedes
Theodore Harrell
Liliana Hernandez-Constanla
Regla Lee
Marialaura Leslie
Deborah Margol
David Martinez-Delgado
Gilda Mooney

Staff (continued)

Adriana Perez
Dana Pezoldt
Amanda Sanfilippo
Lisa Thompson
Pamela Valles

The meeting was chaired by Councilor Jorge M. Pérez. Mr. Pérez called the meeting to order at 12:19 p.m.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program

Ms. Beauvoir noted that 2,124 tickets have been sold for the first quarter of the 2016-2017 cultural season. To date, 145 performances have been made available through Culture Shock Miami this year. Ms. Beauvoir reported that Culture Shock Miami continues to work with cultural organization partners include the Aventura Cultural Arts Center Dance NOW! Miami, GableStage, Miami City Ballet, Miami Youth Ballet, New World School of the Arts, New World Symphony, Pinecrest Gardens Banyon Bowl, Seminole Theatre, South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, and Zoetic Stage. Culture Shock Miami has launched 12 Days of Culture, (#CultureGiving), a campaign designed to promote the arts over the holidays and encourage ticket sales for performances scheduled during the second quarter of the 2016-2017 cultural season. Councilor Pérez asked how many people use Culture Shock and Ms. Beauvoir reported that 20,000 people participated in Culture Shock Miami during FY 2015-16. Councilor Jensen asked whether the geographical location of the students participating was known. Ms. Beauvoir noted that Culture Shock tracks the geographic information of the ticket buyers through the ticketing system and conducts a zip code analysis. She also noted that Culture Shock participants reside in all areas of Miami-Dade County including Hialeah, South Miami-Dade, Goulds and Homestead.

Coconut Grove Playhouse

Mr. Spring reported that a town meeting was held on December 8, 2016, hosted by Ransom Everglades School, to present the proposed masterplan for the Coconut Grove Playhouse. In addition to Councilors Henriques and Trainer, more than 200 people attended the meeting, including Lieutenant Governor Carlos López-Cantera, City of Miami Commissioners Ken Russell and Frank Carollo, and representatives from the offices of Senator Jose Javier Rodriguez and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Xavier Suarez. Mr. Spring noted that presentations were made by historic preservation architect Jorge Hernandez; Bernardo Fort-Brescia of Arquitectonica; Joe Adler and Steven Weinger from GableStage; Dr. Joel Murray, Department Chair, Department of Theater, Florida International University; and Art Noriega with the Miami Parking Authority. Mr. Spring provided a summary of the meeting, reporting that the design team presented their recommendations for saving the most architecturally significant parts of the Playhouse, including the entire historic corner building and interior elements where possible, such as the proscenium arch and the remaining solomonic columns. Mr. Spring also reported on the proposed masterplan, presented by the design team, which maintains sensitivity to the building's architectural and cultural significance, provides an integrated solution for bringing great, artistic theater back to the site, and is achievable within the available financial resources. Mr. Spring noted that the Question and Answer session that following the presentation ended after 10 PM when all comments and questions from the public were answered.

A motion to support the County's proposed plan for the Coconut Grove Playhouse was approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Cortada; seconded by Mr. Trainer) Mr. Spring recognized the entire Cultural Affairs architectural staff team for their great work on the project and reminded everyone that all the Coconut Grove Playhouse proposed plan information and updates are available at www.miamidadearts.org.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for December 14, 2016

Requests for excused absences for Mitchell Bierman, Denise Gerson, Adolfo Henriques, Susana Ibargüen and Rosa Sagrañes were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Mr. Cortada)

Approval of the November 16, 2016 Minutes

The minutes of the November 19, 2016 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Mr. Wynn)

FY 2016-2017 Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grants Program Panel

The FY 2016-2017 Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grants Program Panel was approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Pérez; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

FY 2017-2018 Major Cultural Institutions (MCI) Grants Program - Guidelines

The FY 2017-2018 Major Cultural Institutions (MCI) Grants Program guidelines was approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Wynn; seconded by Ms. Simpkins)

2017 Sunset Review of County Boards - Cultural Affairs Council

Ms. Margol presented the 2017 Sunset Review of County Boards with updates. The 2017 Sunset Review of County Boards for the Cultural Affairs Council with a recommendation to continue the work of the board was approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

Department Facilities Updates

African Heritage Cultural Arts Council

Mr. Harrell provided an update regarding the Center's activities for October through December including an overview of the facility's much needed repairs. Mr. Harrell reported that a new phone system was installed in the music complex; electric work and lighting updates were done to the Concert Hall, tech booth, scene shop and The Wendell A. Narcisse Black Box Theater; and air conditioning was repaired in The Wendell A. Narcisse Black Box Theater and The Amadlozi Gallery. Mr. Harrell noted that a new building is on the request list for the Center.

Mr. Harrell reported that artists meetings have been occurring with Art in Public Places for the Marquee and Plaza area. Mr. Harrell also reported that the Center's 2016-2017 school year arts programs are underway. He noted that the After School Arts Academy offers homework assistance. Mr. Harrell explained that African Heritage Cultural Arts Center has a partnership with City Year and with New World School of the Arts to offer field trips to the after school students in addition to the arts training. Mr. Harrell highlighted the role of African Heritage Cultural Arts Center as a film location in the award-winning movie Moonlight, based on the play by African Heritage Cultural Arts Center alumnus Tarell Alvin McCraney. Mr. Harrell highlighted another celebrated alumnus of African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, Robert Battle, Artistic Director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Councilors Pérez and Wynn congratulated the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center on their excellent work.

Sandrell Rivers Theater

Mr. Spring reported that the resident theater company, The M Ensemble, will have their first opening production in January. Fantasy Theater Factory, the theater's operator, and The M Ensemble are now using the theater and have presented successful family activities and performances following their grand opening in November.

Art in Public Places

Ms. Sanfilippo reported that Art in Public Places (APP) is partnering with The Underline and Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department on the inaugural public art program for The Underline, a planned linear park designed to transform the underutilized land below Miami-Dade's Metrorail into an urban trail and art destination. Ms. Sanfilippo noted that the project include four commissions by Miami-based artists Bhakti Baxter, Naomi Fisher, Nicolas Lobo and Agustina Woodgate and will take place throughout a 9.7-mile corridor which includes eight Metrorail Station locations between the Brickell neighborhood and business district and Dadeland South.

Ms. Sanfilippo reported that APP issued several open calls to artists and the APP Professional Advisory Committee has recommended the following short list of artists for the below projects:

- Miami-Dade County Empowerment Center - Felecia Carlisle, Dara Friedman, Brookhart Jonquil, The TM Sisters (Monica Lopez de Victoria, Natasha Lopez de Victoria), Philip Smith, Karen Rifas, Michelle Weinberg
- Father Gerard Jean Juste Community Center at Oak Grove Park: Nice and Easy (Jeffrey Noble and Allison Matherly), Vicki Pierre, Alejandro Contreras, Jessy Nite, Philippe Dodard, Michelle Weinberg, Emmet Moore

Ms. Sanfilippo noted that the restoration of a signature piece at the Miami International Airport, Parabolic Flight (1979) by Fred Eversley, has been completed. The work was stored in 2000 due to the reconfiguration of the airport corridor and had been damaged in storage. The artist worked with APP to refabricate the piece to the specifications of the original work using current building code standards.

Art in Public Places held an artist orientation at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center with short-listed artists for the marquee and plaza project. The final selection will be announced in the spring.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring reported that the Installation Ceremony of Mayor Gimenez and reelected, and newly elected, Commissioners was held at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium on January 9, 2017. Mr. Spring noted that the Board of County Commissioners elected a new Chair and Vice Chair, Chairman Bovo and Vice Chairwoman Edmonson.
- Mr. Spring noted that the Department received a \$150,000 Knight Arts Challenge grant from the Knight Foundation for a two-year project with the Dance Theatre of Harlem at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center.
- Mr. Spring reported that at the last Board of County Commissioners meeting, the Commission allocated \$100,000 for a planning study for a proposed Museum of Contemporary Art of the African Diaspora.
- Mr. Spring reported that Frost Science Museum is proceeding with construction. Mr. Spring reported that the Museum is on budget and is 87% complete. The building is scheduled to open in the first part of 2017.
- Mr. Spring noted that the 2017 Cultural Affairs Council meeting schedule was distributed at the meeting.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported that Fairchild has membership cards for the holidays.
- Mr. Cortada reported that students from Southside Elementary sang Happy Birthday to the Reclamation Project in celebration of its 10 year anniversary.
- Mr. Trainer reported that Saturday gallery walks are underway and added Chroma to the walk.

- Mr. Wynn reported that he attended the opening of the Sandrell Rivers Theatre and congratulated staff for their work on the theater. He attended the Cuban Museum opening and congratulated the staff team for their work on the museum. He congratulated Commissioner Edmonson on her election as Vice Chairman of the County Commission. Mr. Wynn noted that Marshall Davis served on the panel Black Arts Art Basel Miami.
- Mr. Aguirre suggested that the Council invite the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners to a future Council meeting.
- Mr. Pérez suggested that the Council prepare a presentation with images that reflect the Department's good work. Mr. Pérez encouraged everyone to view the Julio Le Park exhibition at PAMM.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Leslie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized capital 'M'.

Marialaura Leslie