

MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

October 19, 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

Rosa Sagrañes, Chairman
Mitchell Bierman
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez
Xavier Cortada
Sandra Curbelo
Denise Gerson
Susana Ibarguen
Robert Jensen
Janá Sigars-Malina
Monty Trainer
Dwayne Wynn

Members Not Present

Adolfo Henriques, Chairman
Alejandro Aguirre
Jorge Pérez
Phyllis Simpkins

Others Present

Lydia Lopez, Assistant to Senior Advisor, Office of the Mayor

Staff

Michael Spring, Director
Kelly Allocco
Roxana Barba
Christina Beauvoir
Sue Camp
Mary Margaret Dale
Marshall Davis
Eric Fliss
Olga Gonzalez
Hanny Guedes
Theodore Harrell
Liliana Hernandez-Constanla
Regla Lee
Marialaura Leslie
Deborah Margol
Vincent Miles
Gilda Mooney

Staff (continued)

Alex Peraza
Adriana Perez
Dana Pezoldt
Amanda Sanfilippo
Pamela Valles

The meeting was chaired by Councilor Rosa Sagrañes. Ms. Sagrañes called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for October 19, 2016

Requests for excused absences for Alejandro Aguirre, Aldolfo Henriques, Jorge Pérez and Phyllis Simpkins were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

Approval of the September 21, 2016 Minutes

The minutes of the September 21, 2016 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

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

The program guidelines for Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grants Program were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on the Department of Cultural Affairs' FY 2016-2017 Budget

Mr. Spring reported that at the Second Budget Hearing on Thursday, September 22, 2016, the Board of County Commissioners approved the FY 2016-17 Budget for the Department of Cultural Affairs as recommended by Mayor Carlos Gimenez.

Mr. Spring noted that the 2016-2017 grants recommendations were approved with the enhancements proposed by the Cultural Affairs Council. This included the \$526,000 of additional funds recommended by the Mayor to start rebuilding the department's grants budget.

Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program

Ms. Beauvoir reported that Culture Shock Miami closed out its 2015-2016 season with an increase of 73% in total reach, from 12,060 in 2014-2015 to 20,898 in 2015-2016. Ms. Beauvoir noted that, now in its 12th season, Culture Shock Miami is increasing its programming from 10 performances in 2015-2016, to 12 special performances, spanning different arts disciplines. Culture Shock Miami is also increasing its partnerships, collaborating with the Department's All Kids Included initiative, and co-presenting with Miami-Dade County Auditorium (MDCA), South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC) and a local, multidisciplinary organization, FUNDarte, to increase its programming and broaden its audience reach. As of October 1st, more than 44 new performances have been made available to the program's target audience for the first three months of the 2016-2017 season.

2016-2017 Golden Ticket Arts Guide – Free Tickets for Senior Citizens

Mr. Spring reported that the 2016-2017 Golden Tickets Arts Guide has been published with a total of 17,000 guides printed for distribution. The Golden Ticket Arts Guide provides free admission to cultural venues and performances to seniors who are 62 years of age. The guide is dual language, printed in both English and Spanish. More than 8,000 guides are being mailed directly to individual seniors and thousands of the guides are made available to senior centers and senior activity groups. The 2016-17 guide includes events from October 2016 - October 2017 and features on-going offers that are year-round, as well as festivals and date specific performances. The guides are available for pick-up at a variety of distribution points including Miami-Dade County Mayor's office and Commission district offices, Miami-Dade Public Library System, Miami-Dade Parks, Department of Human Services – Elderly Services, and the Miami-

Dade Transit's Golden Passport office. Mr. Spring congratulated staff member Liliana Hernandez and thanked her for her hard work in coordinating the publication and its distribution.

Department Facilities Updates

African Heritage Cultural Arts Council

Mr. Davis reported that Theodore "Teddy" Harrell, Jr. was named as Assistant Center Director of the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, replacing longtime staff member Sandra Hill, who retired on September 24, 2016 after more than forty-three years of distinguished service to Miami-Dade County. Mr. Harrell provided an update regarding the Center's activities including that enrollment for the Center's 2016-2017 school year arts programs was underway; the 2016/2017 Resident Artist/Community Civic Resident program launched on September 1, 2016; and through AHCAC's partnership with the Department's All Kids Included Initiative, the Youth Arts in the Parks program kicked-off the fall 2016 schedule on September 10, 2016 at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center by offering theater/improvisational classes on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Youth Arts in the Parks is a fun and educational program that gives children ages 6-17, with and without disabilities (youth with disabilities are welcome up to age 22), an opportunity for creative expression in a social setting.

Sandrell Rivers Theater

Mr. Spring reported that Fantasy Theater Factory, the theater operator, and the resident company, The M Ensemble, are now in the building. Fantasy Theater Factory and The M Ensemble have held a series of small events as a soft opening for the new theater. The official opening day is Saturday, November 19th from 12 PM – 4 PM. Mr. Spring noted that it is anticipated that an updated budget for the Sandrell Rivers Theatre will be provided to the Council this year. He further noted that as the project evolves there are adjustments being made to expenses to account for items like office furniture now that the Theatre is operational.

Art in Public Places

Ms. Sanfilippo reported that Art in Public Places (APP) continues to work on various projects including the Westchester Cultural Arts Center. There are two open calls open now for the Royal Caribbean / Port of Miami project.

Ms. Sanfilippo noted that the restoration of The Miami Line is complete. Mr. Spring congratulated staff member Ms. Romeu for her hard project on the project. Council Sagrañes inquired about the ongoing maintenance of the work and Mr. Spring explained that the conversion to LED lights from the original neon would help enormously and that APP is working in partnership with Transit to access the Metro Rail as needed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring reported the Florida Grand Opera recently announced that it received an anonymous major gift.
- Ms. Perez reported that the Department is partnering with VSA Florida for *A New Definition of Dance* to offer FREE inclusion dance workshops for professional dancers, choreographers, educators and students, featuring internationally renowned dancers of exceptional merit, who also have disabilities on October 25-26, 2016.
- Ms. Pezoldt noted that the Department will present *Arts for Wellness Day* for children and families with and without disabilities at Pinecrest Gardens on November 5, 2016.
- Mr. Spring noted that Deputy Director Deborah Margol is sharing the Department's Hurricane Assessment Tool Kit with communities affected by the recent hurricane. Ms. Margol has shared this information with statewide colleagues and has been asked to present the information nationally.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez noted the impact of the hurricane in Haiti has been devastating.
- Ms. Gerson noted the passing of Dina Knapp, a beloved arts leader.
- Mr. Cortada reported that he would be in residency in Oregon.
- Mr. Wynn invited Councilors to attend the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center Banquet on October 21, 2016.
- Mr. Trainer reported that first Saturday gallery walks are underway.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported that the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is hosting a dog-friendly Halloween event on October 31, 2016.
- Ms. Sugañes attended an outstanding performance in the On.Stage Black.Box at Miami-Dade County Auditorium and recommends the experience to Councilors.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Leslie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marialaura Leslie