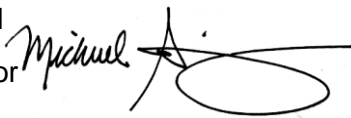


Date: June 21, 2017

To: Members,
Cultural Affairs Council

From: Michael Spring, Director 

Subject: FY 2017-2018 Cultural Advancement Grants Program Panel Recommendations

The FY 2017-2018 award recommendations for the Cultural Advancement Grants Program will be computed using the established funding formula for this program. The program's FY 2017-2018 total allocation and the recommended grant award amounts per Grantee will be presented to the Council for final review later this summer, after all of the "Spring Cycle" grants program panels have convened. Final grant awards are contingent upon the availability of funds in the Department's FY 2017-2018 budget, which is subject to the County's Budget as adopted in September 2017.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Cultural Affairs Council approve the funding of nineteen (19) grants for the FY 2017-2018 Cultural Advancement Grants Program.

BACKGROUND

The FY 2017-18 Cultural Advancement Grants Program Panel, chaired by Susana Ibarguen, convened on June 7, 2017 to review nineteen (19) applications requesting a total of \$1,900,000. FY 2017-2018 represents the second of a three-year funding cycle for this program and the panel reviewed interim applications from current, Cultural Advancement Program designated organizations. The Cultural Advancement Grants Program is designed to provide significant grants and technical assistance to a distinct group of Miami-Dade County's highest quality, mid- to large-size, culturally diverse performing, visual, literary and presenting arts organizations that have a history of distinguished artistic programming.

All 18 currently designated Cultural Advancement grantee organizations that re-applied to the program were recommended for funding. The panel conducted a comprehensive review for one (1) first-time applicant to the Cultural Advancement Program, **Miami Theater Hub dba Miami New Drama, Inc.**, and recommended Cultural Advancement designation and, contingent upon the availability of funding, grant support through this program.

The Cultural Advancement Grants Program operates on a three-year review cycle. For the first year of the cycle (FY 2016-2017), a pre-application qualification/invitation to apply was issued, comprehensive applications were submitted, and a full panel review conducted. For the subsequent two years of the cycle (FY 2017-2018 and FY 2018-2019), a more streamlined application form and review process is being employed. Grants awarded in the FY 2016-2017 cycle of the program defined grant award levels for the remainder of the cycle, subject to annual adjustments to award level based on audited organizational budget information and contingent upon the availability of funding and upon a satisfactory review and recommendation of the interim applications by the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Advancement Panel interim year review committee and the Cultural Affairs Council.

Grantees must satisfy all program criteria adequately, as well as comply with the prior year reporting requirements to be eligible for renewed funding consideration.

The Cultural Advancement Grants Program also features a travel/consultant financial assistance component. Cultural Advancement and designated Emerging Major Cultural Institutions grantees may submit requests in advance to the Department's professional staff for consideration and authorization for subsidies to cover eligible travel related costs and/or consultant/capacity building services and opportunities. Fantasy Theatre Factory, Inc. serves as fiscal agent in the administration of these funds. The Department continues to accept and evaluate requests from eligible grantees and to monitor unexpended carryover travel/consultant financial assistance funds that may be available from prior years to address approved requests. Any additional funds that may be identified as available for the program's technical assistance component will be factored in accordingly, and may enable amended grant allocations.

A complete list of recommendations for FY 2017-2018 is attached.

**Recommended
FY 2017-2018
Grant Award**

**Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs
FY 2017-2018 Cultural Advancement Grants Program
Organization / Summary of Mission**

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, Inc. - Founded in 1997 by Russian-born Ballet Master and Choreographer Vladimir Issaev, Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida provides accessibility, community involvement, education, and training for professional and pre-professional ballet dancers. Based on the Vaganova technique of the St. Petersburg Imperial Theatre School (now the Vaganova Ballet Academy) in Russia, the company's repertoire includes works by Classical Ballet Masters as such Petipa, Fokine, Lavrosky and Bournonville, works by Artistic Director Vladimir Issaev and contemporary guest choreographers.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Bakehouse Art Complex, Inc. – Chartered in 1980, this visual arts organization is dedicated to providing artists and visual arts organizations in Miami-Dade County with a permanent facility containing affordable working and exhibition space. Key to its mission are: hands-on arts workshops for neighborhood and Miami-Dade at-risk youth; and encouraging the growth of a “working arts district” as part of an economic/community development project in Wynwood.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Bascomb Memorial Broadcasting Foundation, Inc. (WDNA-FM 88.9) - Incorporated in 1971, licensed by the FCC in 1980, WDNA broadcasts cultural, educational and informational programs in five languages, 24-hours a day. WDNA's mission is to provide quality, culturally diverse public broadcasting services to the residents of South Florida, and to provide training for individuals to create these programs.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Centro Cultural Español de Cooperacion Iberoamericana, Inc. – Founded in 1996, the Centro Cultural Español aims to make tangible the cultural presence of Spain and Latin American countries in Florida, to enhance their historical traditions and cultural expressions by promoting and fostering cultural cooperation, local creativity and the creation of a space for dialogue and exchange through relevant annual programs. CCE encourages the study and enjoyment of both Spanish language and in-Spanish cultural programming.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

City Theater, Inc. - City Theater, founded in 1996, is dedicated to the discovery and presentation of original short plays and promising artists from Florida and throughout the nation. In addition to producing original plays in its annual, award-winning "Summer Shorts" festival, the organization brings the nation's finest playwrights and noted theater professionals to South Florida for rare artistic exchanges and collaborations.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Coral Gables Cinematéque, Inc. - Founded in 2007, Coral Gables Cinematéque presents and supports media arts in South Florida, with the specific purpose of developing and running the Coral Gables Art Cinema as a venue for alternative films. The 141-seat theater operates seven days a week and presents high-quality and culturally-diverse American independent, foreign and classic programs not generally available at other venues in South Florida.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

GableStage, Inc. - GableStage provides the South Florida community with classical, contemporary and new theatrical productions of artistic excellence. GableStage strives to challenge a multicultural audience with innovative productions that entertain as well as confront today's issues and ideas.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Living Arts Trust, Inc. / O’Cinema - O Cinema offers screenings of first-run, independent, foreign, family, special screenings of classic works and cult film fare, as well as community outreach events and initiatives. Founded in 2009, O Cinema seeks to provide intriguing, entertaining, and quality films at affordable prices and accessible for the broadest possible audiences that might otherwise not be seen in Miami-Dade County. O Cinema movie houses are located in the Wynwood Arts District, Miami Shores (in partnership with Miami Theater Center) and in Miami Beach.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Locust Projects, Inc. - Founded in 1998, Locust Projects’ mission is to facilitate the development of visual art by providing exhibition space and public exposure for contemporary artists while supporting diversity and experimentation in the field. Artists are selected from a global pool on the strength of their proposals and are encouraged to create site-specific installations as an extension of their representative work. Locust Projects serves the community through professional development seminars for artists, educational programming for youth, internships in arts administration, and a public commissions program, all free and open to the public.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Miami Dade College - Cultural Affairs Department (MDC Live) - MDC Live Performance Series presents the newest, most-challenging performing arts being created today with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. Annual programming represents a complex mix of high quality performances and educational activities designed to make contemporary and culturally specific work accessible to the entire community.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Miami Dade College - Miami Book Fair Year Round - Established in 2001 by Miami Dade College as the Florida Center for the Literary Arts and recently re-branded, Miami Book Fair Year Round is a college-wide academic and cultural initiative that promotes the appreciation of literature in all forms and engages South Florida's diverse community in an exchange of ideas. The creation of the Center is a reflection of Miami Dade College's commitment to inspire students, as well as to serve the community by promoting the craft and power of the written word.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Miami Design Preservation League, Inc. - Miami Design Preservation League (MDPL) is dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting the cultural, social, economic, environmental and architectural integrity of the Miami Beach Architectural Historic District and all other areas of the City of Miami Beach where historic preservation is a concern. It provides a clearinghouse for information and materials pertaining to the City of Miami Beach; sponsors year-round educational and recreational activities for the community-at-large; and designs, advocates, and endorses programs that enhance the Art Deco Architectural Historic District, local historic districts, and potential historic districts and sites.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Miami Light Project, Inc. - Founded in 1989, Miami Light Project presents today's most innovative performing artists on the local, national and international arts scene, creating vital connections between artists and the community. Miami Light is committed to presenting dance, music and theater of the highest caliber, building new audiences, and commissioning new work.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Miami Theater Hub d/b/a Miami New Drama - Founded in 2014, Miami New Drama is a producing and presenting theater organization whose work is designed for, and celebrates Miami’s unique multicultural audience. The organization is dedicated to placing Miami at the helm of the national theater conversation through exceptional works by American, Latin American, and international artists.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Seraphic Fire, Inc. – Seraphic Fire was founded in 2002 to present high quality performances of under-performed music with cultural significance to audiences in South Florida, while simultaneously encouraging the occupational advancement of musicians by providing a forum for the development and presentation of their talents.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

Teatro Avante, Inc. - Teatro Avante, formed in 1979, commissions, produces and presents world renowned Hispanic plays in English and Spanish.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

The Coral Gables Museum Corp. - Coral Gables Museum's mission is to celebrate, investigate and explore the civic arts of architecture and urban and environmental design, including fostering an appreciation for the history, vision, and cultural landscape of Coral Gables. The museum also promotes beauty and planning as well as historic and environmental preservation for a broad audience, including children, families, and community members, as well as local, regional, national and international visitors. Exhibitions, collections, educational offerings, lectures, tours, publications and special events take place at the museum, located at the City's restored and renovated Police and Fire Station, originally built in 1939.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

The Deering Estate Foundation, Inc. - The Deering Estate Foundation, Inc. - Established in 1989, the Deering Estate Foundation was created to increase outreach, understanding and the enjoyment of the Deering Estate at Cutler. The Foundation is fully dedicated to advancing cultural programs and projects to preserve and protect the natural, archaeological, architectural and historic legacy of the Estate through the “Artist Village”, “Living Artist Concert Series”, Visual and Literary Artists in Residence programs, Saturday Camps for Kids and a variety of workshops, demonstrations and exhibits – all designed to educate and enhance the public appreciation of the unique characteristics of the Estate.

Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation

The Rhythm Foundation, Inc. - The Rhythm Foundation was established in 1988 to promote multicultural exchange through the presentation of live music. The Foundation focuses on Caribbean, Latin American, Brazilian and African music - cultures which are of particular interest to South Florida residents, allowing greater depth of understanding between communities. Rhythm Foundation features internationally acclaimed artists performing in concert venues and festivals.

TOTAL: CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT GRANTS PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS - 19 ORGANIZATIONS, plus one grant for the Travel/Consultant Assistance component of the Program to Fantasy Theatre Factory, Inc. as fiscal agent for this organizational capacity building feature of the Cultural Advancement Grants Program.