

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

**February 28, 2017**

A meeting of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council was held at the Sonesta Coconut Grove, 2889  
McFarlane Rd, Miami, FL 33133.

**Members Present**

Adolfo Henriques, Chairman  
Alejandro Aguirre  
Mitchell Bierman  
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez  
Xavier Cortada  
Sandra Curbelo  
Denise Gerson  
Susana Ibarguen  
Robert Jensen  
Janá Sigars-Malina  
Phyllis Simpkins  
Monty Trainer  
Dwayne Wynn

**Staff**

Michael Spring, Director  
Kelly Allocco  
Francine Andersen  
Patricia Arbelaez  
Roxana Barba  
Christina Beauvoir  
Nikenna Benjamin  
Sue Camp  
Nicole Campbell  
Lisa D'Andrea-Thompson  
Marshall Davis  
Eric Fliss  
Olga Gonzalez  
Teddy Harrelson  
Liliana Hernandez-Constanla  
Regla Lee  
Marialaura Leslie  
Deborah Margol

**Members Not Present**

Jorge Pérez  
Rosa Sugrañes

**Others Present**

Laura Bruney, President and CEO, Arts and Business  
Council of Miami  
Lydia Lopez, Office of the Mayor  
Sheila Womble, Executive Director, Arts for Learning  
Miami

**Staff (continued)**

Gilda Mooney  
Alex Peraza  
Adriana Perez  
Dana Pezoldt  
Amanda Sanfilippo  
Pamela Valles

Mr. Spring called the meeting to order at 11:24 AM.

Absent a quorum, he recommended that the meeting proceed with Reports and Discussion Items.

## **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs**

Mr. Spring reported that the State legislature is about to enter legislative session in March. The Florida Cultural Alliance, the state arts advocacy organization, has published a Legislative Platform outlining the request to the State for grants funding.

He reported that thanks to the advocacy work by the Florida Cultural Alliance with leadership in both the House and Senate, the 2016-2017 State arts budget was \$32 million. However, Mr. Spring noted that the \$32 million was \$10 million short of what it would have taken to fully fund the recommended grants. For this year, the Division of Cultural Affairs has reviewed applications to their four 2017-2018 competitive grants programs. The recommended grants through these four grants program total more than \$52 million. The Florida Cultural Alliance is asking the Florida Legislature for \$52 million to fully fund all recommended grants. Mr. Spring also noted that Arts and Culture Day 2017 in Tallahassee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **National Endowment for the Arts**

Mr. Spring reported that there have been press reports of potential cuts and/or possible elimination of funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Mr. Spring reported that there have been no formal recommendations from the President's Office to cut federal funding for the arts. He recommended that Councilors visit Americans for the Arts' Arts Mobilization Center website to review the petition that urges the President of the United States to maintain funding for the arts and public broadcasting. Mr. Spring also recommended that Councilors visit the Arts Action Fund website for more information and to sign up for updates and action alerts. Mr. Cortada noted that the National Endowment for the Arts is vital because having an arts agency at the federal level tells everyone that culture matters and that the arts are important in our everyday life.

## **BUDGET AND PLANNING RETREAT REPORTS: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

### **Presentation: Business Plan and Budget Overview**

Mr. Spring provided an overview of the fundamentals of the department budget. He reported that the Department has submitted its internal budget for next year reflecting the instruction to assume no new revenues and working with conservative budget numbers. Mr. Spring noted that the budget development is a fluid process and shifts are anticipated.

Mr. Spring highlighted the many "good news" accomplishments of the Department including awards, grants and the increase in outreach and audience development. Specifically, he noted the following:

- A NACo Achievement Award was received for the ADA Silver Anniversary Summit, led by Francine Andersen, to promote best practices in arts accessibility.
- The Children's Trust awarded the Department an additional \$250,000, for a total grant of \$1,245,328 which funds grants programs that affect 229,510 children and families, many of whom would not have had the opportunity to participate in arts activities.
- Student participation increased by 13% in "Culture Shock Miami," managed by Christina Beauvoir and Mary-Margaret Dale this year with more than 13,600 tickets sold.
- The bilingual "Golden Ticket Arts Guide," managed by Lili Hernandez, reached more than 17,000 senior citizens with free ticket offers.
- The Department's facilities welcomed more than 210,000 people to attend performances.
- The Department opened the new Sandrell Rivers Theatre which is operated by Fantasy Theater Factory with The M Ensemble as the resident theater company.

Chairman Henriques joined the meeting at 11:52 AM.

Mr. Spring continued to provide highlights of the Department's accomplishments including:

- A \$500,000 State of Florida Cultural Facilities Grant was secured for additional improvements at Miami-Dade County Auditorium and a 2017-2018 Cultural Facilities Grant is pending for the Joseph Caleb Auditorium.
- The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center and Alumnus and Playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney played a noteworthy role in the Oscar-winning Movie "Moonlight."
- The South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts grant for its season and a Knight Arts Challenge Grant of \$150,000 for a two-year residency of the Dance Theatre of Harlem.
- Many cultural facilities milestones were achieved including the design for the Westchester Cultural Arts Center at Tropical Park, the design work for the Coconut Grove Playhouse has begun and the spring opening date for the Frost Museum of Science will be announced soon.
- Art in Public Places has completed acclaimed art works for Animal Services' New Pet Adoption and Protection Center, Zoo Miami's Expansion and restored the iconic Miami Line light sculpture over the Miami River.

Mr. Spring provided an overview of last year's Departmental budget. Mr. Spring noted that the Council's request for additional \$5 million for FY 2016-2017 to help rebuild the Department's grant budget to pre-recession levels resulted in an additional \$526,000.

Mr. Spring reported that a number of established, non-profit cultural groups went out of business due to their inability to survive financially, including Miami Contemporary Dance Company, which offered dancers paid contracts, New Theatre, a 30 year-old company that premiered Nilo Cruz's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Ana in the Tropics," and Cannonball, an innovative artists' support organization that provided grants, residencies and technical assistance.

He also emphasized that there are other groups whose future may be in jeopardy. He noted that the following performing arts groups are facing threats to their facilities including Area Stage Company, Miami Light Project and the Roxy Theatre Group. Mr. Spring reported that The Sandrell Rivers Theater requires an approximately \$400,000 a year subsidy which must be identified and incorporated in the County's annual budget. He also noted that the growth of the Department's programs and services has outpaced its administrative resources requiring a new, realistic look at staffing levels and organizational structure.

Mr. Spring reviewed The Department's mission objectives:

- 1- Strengthen non-profit arts and cultural organizations and artists in our community
- 2- Build new and improve existing cultural facilities and manage and program cultural facilities
- 3- Increase participation through education and outreach

He recognized the great work of Department partners in attendance at the meeting: Laura Bruney, President and CEO of the Arts and Business Council of Miami and Sheila Womble, Executive Director of Arts for Learning Miami.

Mr. Spring reported that the grants programs are funded at less than 2006-07 pre-recession levels and that the restoration and growth of the grants programs is a goal. He noted that there is a list of unmet capital needs for arts facilities, including organizations that need homes. He also noted that in order to manage and pro-actively program the Department's theaters and arts centers budgetary growth would be necessary. He noted that arts education is the foundation of the work of the cultural community and establishing relationships with public and private schools is critically important. He also underscored increasing audience participation and encouraging private giving as central to the future of the cultural community.

Mr. Spring reiterated the Department's aspirational vision to be a major, international cultural capital and its mission to develop cultural excellence, diversity and participation throughout Miami-Dade County by strategically creating and promoting opportunities for artists and cultural organizations, and all of our residents and visitors who are their audiences.

Mr. Spring provided an overview of the County's budget noting that there is a decline in projected "bed tax" revenues that are negatively impacting anticipated "carry-over" funds (i.e., revenues in excess of projections) and requiring more conservative future forecasting of these revenues that are resulting in lower revenue numbers for FY 2017-2018. He noted that Departmental administrative costs in the submitted budget are increasing due to growing internal service charges and the Department's continued growth in programs and services is requiring additional staff to keep up with increasing management demands and may require a Departmental organizational restructuring.

Mr. Spring reported that there is a total gap of \$3.019 million for grants, programs and facilities in the 2017-2018 Projected Budget. He explained that, as of now, the 2017-2018 budget submission includes a 20% reduction in grants programs, a gap of approximately \$2.34 million; a 23% reduction in Culture Shock, a gap of \$174,000; and \$505,000 less for Department-managed facilities. He noted that after closing the gap, an additional \$1.384 million would be needed to restore grants programs to FY 2006-2007 levels, and an additional \$655,000 would be needed to strengthen the work of the 4 Department-managed facilities, a total additional need of \$2.039 million. He noted that this would address restoration to FY 2016-17 levels for grants and facilities and then, brings grants back to the actual dollar level in FY 2006-07 and helps facilities manage pressing growth. He noted that the Council is requesting an additional \$5 million for grants and facilities to keep pace with the reality of present-day growing costs and demands for programs and services.

Mr. Spring reported on the unmet capital needs for Miami-Dade County cultural facilities as well as community cultural facilities including the Black History Museum, Bakehouse, Byron Carlyle, Children's Museum, Colony Theater, Cuban Exile History Museum, Doral cultural arts center, Gusman, History Miami, Miami Hispanic Ballet, Miami Light Project, Museum of Contemporary Art, Museum of Contemporary Art of the African Diaspora, among others.

Mr. Spring outlined the anticipated timeline for the Budget process.

- February 28 Cultural Affairs Council Planning and Budget Retreat
- March 28 Internal Department Budget Hearing
- June Mayor's Budget is Released
- July County Commission Sets Preliminary Millage Rates
- September County Commission First Budget Hearing (likely 1st Thursday)
- September County Commission Second and Final Budget Hearing (likely 3rd Thursday)

Chairman Henriques noted that the FY 2017-2018 budget as submitted is \$3.019 million short of current year. Councilor Cortada asked how much would be needed to restore the grants budget to FY 2006-2007 levels. Ms. Margol reported that the Department would need an additional \$2.039 million to restore grants to FY 2006-2007 levels and to address immediate facilities' operational needs.

Ms. Sigars-Malina suggested that the Council meet with the County's elected officials to talk about why the arts matters and the good work of the cultural community and artists like playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney, who wrote the story for the Oscar-winning movie Moonlight.

Mr. Cortada agreed and added that in celebration of the great work of the cultural community, Miami-Dade County should be known as a "Moonlight County in a Sunshine State." Mr. Cortada noted that a 20% reduction to the Department's grants funding for cultural activities is unacceptable.

Mr. Bierman offered to advise regarding talking points for the Council to discuss with Commissioners.

Mr. Aguirre asked to see a list of Council appointments by Commissioners. Ms. Bruney offered to draft budget talking points and supporting materials for Councilors to use in meetings with elected officials.

Chairman Henriques stated that the preliminary budget was not acceptable and that he would like to convene a town hall meeting with the cultural community in April.

### **Council Motion Regarding the FY 2017-2018 Budget**

A motion was made to request a total of \$10 million for the Department's FY 2017-2018 budget, \$5 million to address short-term grants and facilities needs and an additional \$5 million for grants and facilities to keep pace with the reality of present-day growing costs and demands for programs and services. The motion passed unanimously.

(Motion by Mr. Cortada; seconded by Ms. Simpkins)

### **ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION**

#### **Approval of the December 14, 2016 Minutes**

The minutes of December 14, 2016 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Mr. Wynn)

#### **FY 2017-2018 Grants Program Guidelines**

The following FY 2017-2018 Grants Program Guidelines were approved unanimously. (motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

Capital Development (CAP) Grants Program  
Cultural Advancement (ADV) Grants Program  
Cultural Development (CDG) Grants Program  
Dance Miami Choreographers' (DMC) Program  
Developing Arts in Neighborhoods (DAN) Grants Program  
Festivals and Special Events (FEST) Grants Program  
Hannibal Cox, Jr. (HCJ) Grants Program  
International Cultural Exchange (ICE) Grants Program  
Playwright Development Program (PDP)  
Youth Arts Miami (YAM) Grants Program

### **ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

#### **Requests for Excused Absences for February 28, 2017**

Requests for excused absences submitted by Jorge Pérez and Rosa Sugrañes were approved unanimously. (otion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Ms. Sigars)

#### **FY 2016-2017 Grant Program Recommendations**

#### **FY 2016-2017 Community Grant (CG) Program – Third Quarter Recommendations**

The Community Grants Program is responsive on a quarterly basis to organizations, which develop small and large-scale community-based programs, projects, events, and publications. The program is particularly sensitive to the needs of: 1) indigenous cultural neighborhood activities and projects encouraging the preservation of heritage, traditions and culture; and 2) social service organizations and cultural groups developing collaborative intervention projects.

The FY 2016-2017 Community Grants program panel chaired by Councilor Jana Sigars-Malina convened on February 23, 2017 to review 30 applications requesting \$230,000 for the Third Quarter of the program. The Panel recommended funding 30 applicants for a total of \$137,860.

The following Council members declared conflicts of interest and abstained from voting on the following:

Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez - Alyans Atizay Ayisyen, Inc. \$1,345  
Mr. Aguirre - Miami River Fund, Inc. \$6,726  
Mr. Cortada - Miami Light Project, Inc. *a/f/a* for Godoy Pradera Projects \$4,709  
Mr. Cortada - Miami Light Project, Inc. *a/f/a* for Greedy Pumpkin Head Projects \$5,045  
Mr. Cortada - Miami Light Project, Inc. *a/f/a* for Participatory Art Projects \$5,045

The Panel's recommendations to fund the remaining organizations were approved unanimously. (motion by Mr. Wynn; seconded by Ms. Simpkins)

A Greener Miami, Inc. \$5,045  
Academia de las Luminarias de las Bellas Artes, Inc. \$2,522  
Anchor Arts Management, Inc. *a/f/a* for Alma Dance Theater \$4,372  
Artefactus Cultural Project, Inc. *a/f/a* for La Casa del Teatro, Inc. \$5,045  
Atma Yoga Dance Company, Inc. \$5,045  
Centro Cultural Boliviano Masis Corp \$6,726  
Earth Learning, Inc. \$2,691  
FUNdarte, Inc. *a/f/a* for Siren Arts \$3,700  
Greater Miami Billfish Tournament, Inc. \$5,045  
Holocaust Memorial Committee, Inc. \$5,045  
LIFE IS ART, Inc. \$3,363  
Little Revolt, Inc. \$5,045  
Master Chorale of South Florida, Inc. \$5,045  
MDGLCC Foundation, Inc. *a/f/a* for Miami Beach - Miami LGBT Sports and Cultural League \$5,045  
Miami International Jazz Fest, Inc. \$5,045  
National Art Exhibitions of the Mentally Ill, Inc. \$5,045  
Save Our Sisters DBT, Inc. \$4,372  
South Florida Composers Alliance, Inc. *a/f/a* for Inlets Foundation for Experimental Practices \$5,045  
The G2G Foundation Inc. \$2,018  
The Miami Foundation, Inc. *a/f/a* for Miami Beach Gay Pride \$6,726  
The Miami Oratorio Society, Inc. \$4,843  
The Multicultural Educational Center, Inc. \$3,027  
Tradisyon Lakou Lakay, Inc. \$5,045  
Tradisyon Lakou Lakay, Inc. *a/f/a* for Criança de Ouro \$5,045  
What if Works, Inc. \$5,045

The Panel's recommendations to fund the remaining organizations, for which there were the above-noted Councilors' conflicts of interest and abstentions, were voted on and passed unanimously as follows:

Alyans Atizay Ayisyen, Inc. \$1,345  
(motion by Mr. Wynn; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

Miami River Fund, Inc. \$6,726  
(motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Mr. Wynn)

Miami Light Project, Inc. a/f/a for Godoy Pradera Projects \$4,709  
Miami Light Project, Inc. a/f/a for Greedy Pumpkin Head Projects \$5,045  
Miami Light Project, Inc. a/f/a for Participatory Art Projects \$5,045  
(motion by Mr. Wynn; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

### **FY 2016-2017 Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grants Program – Recommendations**

The Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids Grants Program was created as a joint initiative of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and The Children's Trust. The objective of the SAS-C Program is to grant funding to non-profit organizations that will provide underserved children in Miami-Dade County with opportunities to attend high quality cultural arts or science summer camp programs at little or no cost. Funding through the SAS-C Grants Program is intended to augment existing programs, providing more children with the opportunity to participate in cultural arts and science summer camps.

The FY 2016-2017 Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids Grants Panel, chaired by Councilor Monty Trainer, convened on January 31, 2017 to review 37 applications requesting a total of \$1,360,125. The Panel recommended funding 34 applications for a total of \$675,000.

The following Council members declared conflicts of interest and abstained from voting on the following:

Mr. Aguirre – Barry University, Inc. \$22,605  
Mr. Bierman, Mr. Cortada, Chairman Henriques - Florida International University Board of Trustees for the benefit of the College of Engineering \$22,448  
Mr. Cortada - Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, Inc. \$33,672  
Ms. Sigars-Malina - Miami Theater Center Inc. \$15,714  
Chairman Henriques - The Miami Children's Museum, Inc. \$22,448

The Panel's recommendations to fund the remaining organizations were approved unanimously.  
(motion by Mr. Wynn; seconded by Ms. Iburguen)

Area Performance Gallery, Inc. d/b/a Area Stage Company \$15,714  
Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, Inc \$13,968  
ArtSouth, A Not-For-Profit Corporation \$22,448  
Breakthrough Miami Inc. \$14,212  
Diva Arts & Entertainment, Inc. \$10,476  
enFAMILIA, Inc. \$33,672  
Florida Film Institute, Inc. \$8,979  
Friends of the Bass Museum, Inc. \$33,672  
Greater Miami Youth Symphony of Dade County, Florida, Inc. \$22,448  
Guitars Over Guns Organization, Inc. \$5,750  
Locust Projects, Inc. \$5,986  
Mahogany Youth Corporation \$15,714  
Miami City Ballet, Inc. \$22,448  
Miami Dance Project, Inc. \$33,672  
Miami Music Project, Inc. \$33,672  
Miami Youth for Chamber Music, Inc. \$15,714

Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department \$21,864  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Inc. \$32,385  
Musical, Inc. \$22,448  
PATH: Preserving, Archiving & Teaching Hiphop, Inc. \$15,065  
Performing Arts Center Trust, Inc. dba Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County \$22,448  
South Florida Youth Symphony, Inc. \$22,101  
The Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center, Inc. \$15,508  
The Opera Atelier, Inc. \$9,708  
The South Florida Boys Choir, Incorporated \$7,071  
The Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, Inc. \$33,672  
Theodore Roosevelt Gibson Memorial Fund, Incorporated \$9,977  
Urgent, Inc. \$14,873  
Zoo Miami Foundation, Inc. \$22,448

The Panel's recommendations to fund the remaining organizations, for which there were the above-noted Councilors' conflicts of interest and abstentions, were voted on and passed unanimously as follows:

Barry University, Inc. \$22,605  
(motion by Mr. Wynn; seconded by Ms. Simpkins)

Florida International University Board of Trustees for the benefit of the College of Engineering \$22,448  
(motion by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez; seconded by Ms. Simpkins)

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, Inc. \$33,672  
(motion by Mr. Wynn; seconded by Ms. Ibarguen)

Miami Theater Center Inc. \$15,714  
(motion by Mr. Wynn; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

The Miami Children's Museum, Inc. \$22,448  
(motion by Mr. Wynn; seconded by Ms. Simpkins)

## **UPDATED COUNCILOR ASSIGNMENTS FOR FY 2017-2018**

Mr. Spring directed the Council's attention to the proposed Councilors' assignments. Councilors will either serve as grants panel chair or as a panelist. He noted that should anyone express interest in particular areas, adjustments can easily be made.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

- Mr. Spring reported the loss of longtime arts champion Betsy Kaplan.

## **COUNCILOR REPORTS**

- Mr. Trainer reported that the New World School of the Arts Gala will be March 31<sup>st</sup>. He reported that the Coconut Grove Arts Festival had another successful year and thanked the Cultural Affairs staff for their hard work.
- Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez echoed Mr. Trainer's kudos to the staff. She encouraged the Council to visit PAMM for the Julio Le Parc exhibition.



- Mr. Jensen noted that there is a major cultural crisis in arts leadership and suggested that cultivation of young leaders be addressed.
- Chairman Henriques thanked Mr. Spring, Ms. Margol and the entire staff for their hard work.
- Mr. Mr. Wynn congratulated African Heritage Cultural Arts Center on their wide variety of activities celebrating Black History Month including performances and exhibitions.
- Mr. Aguirre noted the passing of Betsy Kaplan and praised her work as a tireless leader in arts advocacy through her work on the School Board. He reported that the Fairchild Orchid Project was underway. He also thanked the staff for their work on the budget.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported that Fairchild's Mars Project and the NASA collaboration is underway and that the 15th Annual International Orchid Festival will be at Fairchild from March 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. She also thanked the staff for their excellent work.
- Ms. Simpkins noted that she recently visited the Lincoln Memorial Cemetery, a predominantly African-American graveyard in Brownsville.
- Mr. Wynn congratulated the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center for their involvement in the Oscar-Winning movie, Moonlight. He noted that February is Black History Month. He commended the PAMM for an excellent African Art event. He thanked Chairman Henriques for his leadership. He congratulated Mr. Spring for being inducted in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Hall of Fame.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:01 P.M.

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