

Memorandum



Date: March 15, 2016

To: Members, Cultural Affairs Council

From: Michael Spring, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Spring", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Subject: Facilities Updates: African Heritage Cultural Arts Center
Joseph Caleb Auditorium
Miami-Dade County Auditorium
South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

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 has 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 their 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.

The competitive selection process concluded in the hiring of Rodriguez and Quiroga Architects Chartered, who have now completed 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 prioritized the list of work. Life safety issues and major building systems such as HVAC, roofing, and electrical systems are being prioritized. The scope of work is being further refined to align with current facility needs, budget limitations, and potential grant opportunities. The A/E team is in the process of developing the construction documents, while the Department provides interim reviews.

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 + \$500,000 State Cultural Facilities Grant
- Joseph Caleb Auditorium: \$1.4 million (balance remaining)
- Miami-Dade County Auditorium: \$4.0 million + \$500,000 State Cultural Facilities Grant

The Department has actively pursued and continues to apply for additional funding from the State Cultural Facilities Grant Program through the following applications:

- FY 15-16 \$500,000 for the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center (awarded);
- FY 16-17 \$500,000 for Miami-Dade County Auditorium (awarded);
- FY 17-18 \$500,000 for Caleb Auditorium (application submitted on June 6, 2016; review panel met on October 26th and ranked the application number 14 of the 44 applications recommended for funding; funding pending approval by State legislature). The list of ranked applications is available at: <http://dos.florida-arts.org/grants/ranked-lists/createlist.cfm?program=cf&fy=2018&purpose=post>

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:

	FY 2016-2017	Jan-Feb 2017
Total number of students registered:	173	29
Number of arts production rentals:	82	15
Number of community rentals:	108	50
Number of arts groups using the Center:	38	38
Number of times arts groups use the Center:	433	188
Number of civic meetings:	138	40
Number of tours and outreach:	128	36

Program highlights for January - February 2017 included:

- The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center is currently in Session IV of the After School Arts Program. The multi-arts After School Arts Program provides fundamental instruction in the performing and visual arts. Each day students ages 5 through 16 are engaged in a series of artistic learning experiences that not only benefit them artistically but also give them practical and academic experiences.
- The Saturday Arts Workshop provides classes from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The students take three classes per day. Periodic showcases are to demonstrate the students' development to parents and the community. AHCAC Apprenticeship Arts Programs occur on Saturdays for advanced students with additional rehearsals in preparation for touring performances, mainstage productions and youth art exhibitions. Those apprenticeship groups are: the Voices of Heritage, African Heritage Youth Theatre (AHYT), the Winds of Heritage Dance Company, the Hands of Vision Collective and the Heritage Stage & Jazz Band.

- The Center is currently making preparations for the 2017 Spring Arts Workshop which will be held Monday, April 10th through Friday, April 14th, from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Students participating in this program will take six classes per day. The classes offered are inclusive of the performing and visual arts. The in-take period is from 7:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. and the instructional services are provided from 8:30 a.m. through 5 p.m. The dismissal period is from 5 p.m. through 6 p.m.
- The stage production of Venus written by Suzan-Lori Parks opened in the Wendell A. Narcisse Performing Arts Theater on January 11 and closed on February 5, 2017. The production employed 17 South Florida artists which included actors, a director and technical crew members. The production attracted 400 patrons to the show.
- The Amadlozi Gallery opened its “Resurrecting Venus” exhibition curated by artist Niki Lopez on January 11, 2017 with stunning works which addressed the oppression and exploitation of women throughout history and in modern times. The exhibition closed on February 11, 2017.
- The AHCAC Marketing and Communications Manager continues to make announcements on 99 JAMZ, a Cox Media Group Miami radio station, twice monthly on Sunday mornings, to spotlight the plethora of events that are taking place at the Center.
- The recent Academy Award winning movie ‘Moonlight’ has brought immeasurable media exposure to the AHCAC as highlighted by the sampling of stories attached to this report.

For more information on the Center’s events and offerings, please visit the Center’s website at www.ahcacmiami.org

Joseph Caleb Auditorium

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. The parking lot serving the Auditorium and the adjoining Caleb Center office complex is closed 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 loss of parking resulting from the ongoing construction of the parking garage for the Caleb Center, 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.

Joseph Caleb Auditorium attendance for fiscal year 2016-2017 is 28,594 to date.

Events for the months of December, January and February:

- December 6, 2016 – *Brazilian Voices School Performance*
- December 9, 2016 – *Hispanic Flamenco*
- December 17, 2016 – *AKI YAP Fall 2016 Culminating Event*
- December 17, 2016 – *Commissioner Audrey Edmonson Toy Giveaway*
- January 24, 2017 – *Kids Entertainment Lightwire Theatre presents Ugly Duckling*
- January 25, 2017 – *Kids Entertainment Lightwire Theatre presents Ugly Duckling*
- January 31, 2017 – *Arts Power Touring Company presents Biscuit*
- February 16, 2017 – *Fantasy Theatre Factory presents Whales Magic & Cheese*

- February 17, 2017 – *Fantasy Theatre Factory presents Whales Magic & Cheese*
- February 7, 2017 – *Page Turner Adventures presents Dr. Loboto’s Steam Lab*
- February 23, 2017 – *Gable Stage presents The Taming of the Shrew*
- March 2, 2017 – *Brazz Dance presents Dance performance*

Upcoming events:

- March 25, 2017 – African Heritage Cultural Arts Center Musical Recital
- April 22, 2017 – African Heritage Cultural Arts Center Recital
- April 27, 2017 – Arts Power Touring Company presents *Anne of Green Gables*
- May 9, 2017 – New World Symphony in the Community

Miami-Dade County Auditorium

Miami-Dade County Auditorium (MDCA) offers three dynamic presentation styles:

1. A 2,372-seat Main Stage theatre for major dance, theatre and music performances;
2. A “Mid-Stage” 450-seat theatre, utilized 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 the audience and performers share the stage of the Auditorium in an innovative studio theatre for more intimate and often, cutting edge shows.

MDCA welcomes more than 100,000 guests a year. Since the theatre opened its doors in 1951, MDCA 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. Programs are presented in English, Spanish and sometimes both. In order to best serve Miami’s diverse, multilingual audiences and persons with disabilities, simultaneous translation from English to Spanish and Spanish to English is made available through supertitles and live translation.

MDCA partners with outstanding non-profit cultural organizations and artists such as Centro Cultural Español, Guggenheim Fellowship winner Alexey Taran, and Pulitzer Prize-winning Cuban American playwright Nilo Cruz, to present high quality performances in the Main Stage, Mid-Stage and On.Stage Black Box configurations. With the objective of cultivating the work of outstanding, diverse arts groups and artists, MDCA co-presents with artistically excellent cultural organizations including Fundarte, Tigertail Productions, MDC Live (Miami Dade College’s performing arts series) and Teatro Avante. These partnerships have been instrumental in reasserting MDCA’s role as a significant hub of cultural exchange and an incubator for supporting and developing the work of Miami-Dade County’s premiere arts groups and artists.

The following is a summary of activity at MDCA:

	FY 2016-2017	Dec/Jan/Feb
Number of Events:	66	33
Attendance:	52,390	36,160

Program highlights and rentals for December/January/February include:

- Our holiday season got off to a great start with traditional staple, *The Nutcracker*, presented by TAYB. Over 2,000 guests came out to see the Saturday performance. But, most importantly, over 6,000 school children were able to enjoy weekday shows including, for the third year in a row, special Sensory Friendly presentations.

- MDCA and Florida Chamber Orchestra presented, for the second years in a row, a Big Band Christmas. This is part of A Musical Holiday Season Series.
- Puerto Rican and Grammy Award Winning singer Kany Garcia made a splashing Miami debut on the MDCA stage. The talented artist is currently promoting her new album titled Limonada.
- MDCA and Latin Grammy-nominated Jose Negroni once again teamed up to present Ready 4 Christmas 2. This is part of A Musical Holiday Season Series.
- MDCA / All Kids Included / Miami-Dade County Public Schools Cultural Passport program and Miami City Ballet (MCB) came together to present a very special Sensory Friendly performance of Carnival of the Animals. Beautifully staged and performed by MCB school dancers, it was an absolute treat for over 1,000 children.
- MDCA hosted a free community concert by the acclaimed Cleveland Orchestra. The performance featured conductor Roderick Cox and violinist Elena Urioste.
- Spanish legend Paloma San Basilio and Argentinian pianist Raul di Blasio came together for the first time to present 2 sold-out concerts celebrating Valentine's Day. Close to 5,000 guests attended. The performance marked the start of a planned 8 city U.S. tour.
- MDCA in collaboration with our local PBS station presented guitar virtuoso Benise for the second year in a row. The Emmy-nominated artist, once again, delighted audience members with his mastery of the Spanish guitar.

For more information on MDCA's events and offerings, please visit the website at: www.MiamiDadeCountyAuditorium.org

South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

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 2016-2017	February 2017
SMDCAC Presents	63	13
Number of Events:	130	19
Attendance:	29,385	2,456

SMDCAC presented the following events in December, January and February:

- Every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday: SMDCAC Dance Classes
- Every Tuesday: Pridelines meeting

- December 2-3: Miami Youth Ballet's production of The Nutcracker
- December 9: Winter Holiday Celebration Presented in Partnership with the Town of Cutler Bay and Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava
- December 10: Elephant and Piggie's We Are In A Play
- December 10: The Hot Sardines, A Sardine Christmas
- December 16: Seraphic Fire's On Winter's Night Holiday Concert
- January 7: Florida Grand Opera FREE Family Day
- January 9-13: Jump Start Your Resolution FREE classes for residents
- January 14: Marcia Ball
- January 15: Occidental Gypsy
- January 21: Adam Trent
- January 27: Allan Harris
- January 27: Indie Flicks, Donald Cried
- January 28: Aspen Santa Fe Ballet
 - January 26-27: Aspen Santa Fe classes at Miami Dade College Kendall Campus, Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, African Heritage Cultural Center, Miami Arts Charter, Xpress It and Miami Youth Ballet
 - January 28: Aspen Santa Fe School Show
- February 3: Vocalosity
- February 11: The Wet Spots
- February 17: The Mayhem Poets school show and evening performance
- February 17: Indie Flicks, Shake 'Em On Down
- February 18: Upright Citizens Brigade
- February 24: FREE Drumline Drum Off Food Truck event
- February 25: Peking Acrobats
- February 25 & 26: Rumba Tap

Rentals for the month of December, January and February included:

- December 11: CACEC Holiday Celebration
- December 11: Feliz Cumpleanos Senior Jesucristo
- December 12: High Point Christmas Show
- December 13 and 14: Celebration at the North Pole
- December 20: Rockin' Holidays
- December 22: Fourth Annual Holiday Show
- December 28: Swan Lake
- January 18: State of the County
- January 25: Spicewood Meeting
- January 30: Boston Pops
- January 31: New World Symphony, Project 305 Meeting
- February 7: Superintendent's Dance Show
- February 10-12: City Theatre Shorts
- February 26: Actors' Playhouse, Young Talent Big Dreams

Upcoming March performances include:

- March 4: Best of Second City
- March 4 and 5: *An Intimate Evening of Ballet* with Dimensions Dance Theatre
- March 4: Classical Spanish Guitarist, Pablo Villegas
- March 5: Taj Express: The Bollywood Musical Revue

- March 9-12: Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus
- March 18-19: MOMIX: *Opus Cactus*
- March 25: BAM, Beer and Music Festival featuring The Dirty Dozen Brass Band and funkyMeters
- March 31: Indie Flicks, *Some Beasts*

For a complete listing of upcoming shows and events, please visit the Center's website, www.smdcac.org.



Resurrecting Venus art exhibit opening (January 11, 2017)



Venus Stage Play—opening night (January 11, 2017)



Oscar Watch Party and Borscht Film Festival (February 26)

MEDIA STORIES—*Moonlight*

NBC6intheMix

"Moonlight" Makes Miami Proud at Golden Globes

Published at 5:18 PM EST on Jan 6, 2017

http://www.nbcmiami.com/on-air/as-seen-on/_Moonlight_-Makes-Miami-Proud-at-Golden-Globes_Miami-409929285.html

Host Roxanne Vargas talks to Marshall Davis, Executive Director of African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, about his work with Tarell McCraney, the writer for the film "Moonlight"

CBS4 MIAMI

January 8, 2017 10:48 PM

Hometown Hit 'Moonlight' Wins Best Drama At Golden Globes

<http://miami.cbslocal.com/2017/01/08/miami-rooting-for-hometown-hit-moonlight-at-golden-globes/>

The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center in Miami hosted a watch party at 6161 N.W. 22nd Avenue to celebrate the success of the film and one its distinguished alumni, Tarell Alvin McCraney. McCraney wrote "In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue," the semi-autobiographical play which inspired director Barry Jenkins, also from Liberty City, to write the screenplay for the film. Some scenes were shot in the art center's dance studio, music hall entrance and classroom. Auditions were held in the theater and some of the actors affiliated with the center were selected, as well.

PITCHFORK

Jan 11, 2017

by Evan Minsker

Barry Jenkins (Moonlight) Judging Elton John Music Video Competition

<http://pitchfork.com/news/70818-barry-jenkins-moonlight-judging-elton-john-music-video-competition/>

YouTube has announced "Elton John: The Cut"—a global competition to create the official music videos for Elton John's iconic songs "Bennie and the Jets," "Rocket Man," and "Tiny Dancer." In addition to Elton and his writing partner Bernie Taupin, one of the judges for the competition is Barry Jenkins, the writer and director of Moonlight (which just had a good night at the Golden Globes). In honor of his participation in the program, a donation of \$20,000 will be made to Jenkins' selected charity, the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center.

MIAMI TIMES

Miami Times staff report

Jan 11, 2017

'Moonlight's' Tarell McCraney watches Golden Globes in Liberty City

The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center celebrates film's Drama win a Motion Picture win

http://www.miamitimesonline.com/lifestyles/moonlight-s-tarell-mccraney-watches-golden-globes-in-liberty-city/article_7d7f80ec-d811-11e6-80a2-0b9f29c0929b.html

"He walked into the room and everyone looked as though they couldn't believe what they were seeing. Then suddenly everyone stood to their feet and started to applaud and cheer," Cheryl Mizell, the center's marketing and communications manager. "Tarell walked to the front of the room and spoke of the role the center played in his life and the commitment that he and Barry Jenkins' share in making sure that the world knows about the talent here in their hometown of Liberty City. Tarell left the platform offering a quote from his minister, 'If you explain your struggle, your moment of weakness can be someone's strength.'"

MEDIA STORIES—*Moonlight*

CBS SUNDAY MORNING

The glow of “Moonlight”

January 29, 2017, 10:03 AM

Nancy Giles, Jay Kernis

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-glow-of-moonlight/>

McCraney wrote the original script upon which Barry Jenkins based “Moonlight.” They lived a few blocks away from each other in Liberty City, but didn’t actually meet until they started working on the movie. While McCraney is gay and Jenkins is straight, they say they put a lot of themselves into the story, such as a fight scene involving the central character. “It happened in that space,” McCraney said. “And it was probably one of the most terrifying moments for me, ‘cause it was always -- you just never knew what was gonna happen.” “So lunch time could be a really terrifying time for you?” Giles asked. “Yeah, lunch time was never a time for eating.” McCraney, a Macarthur “Genius grant” recipient, and Jenkins share a terrible coincidence: both of their mothers were crack users, and both became HIV positive as a result. “I do know that there was a deep pain that she was trying to hide, that she was trying to alleviate,” McCraney said.

THE OBSERVER (London)

Sunday 5 February 2017 03.00 EST

By Tim Adams

Moonlight’s writer Tarell Alvin McCraney: ‘the story needed to be out there’

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2017/feb/05/moonlight-writer-tarell-alvin-mccraney-observer-interview>

We are sitting at a schoolyard bench in the Miami sun a few blocks and three decades away from that childhood memory. The bench is in the grounds of Liberty City’s African Heritage arts centre, a prominent neighbourhood landmark, built with all the civil rights optimism of 1975. As a boy, McCraney came here every day in the summer holidays, and often after school to avoid the harassment and beatings he got if he walked his usual route home through Liberty Square. He took classes here in dance, visual art, music, acting and writing. “You couldn’t sign up to one thing, you had to sign up to everything,” he says, with his easy laugh. These days he comes back to teach on some of those courses himself (he is also, in his more visible public life, newly installed chair of the playwriting programme at Yale University). It was here that he started writing about the chaos of his life in order to begin to make some dramatic sense of it. And it was here, in that sense, that he began his journey to Moonlight, the extraordinary autobiographical film that a couple of days before we meet has been deservedly nominated for eight Oscars, including best picture.

FUSION TV

February 20 at 8:30pm

Kim Brooks

https://www.facebook.com/fusiontv/videos/718888561605942/?hc_ref=PAGES_TIMELINE

Actors Alex Hibbert and Jaden Piner, and the team behind Moonlight, are hoping their film will shed light on a part of Miami that often gets overlooked. Watch their interview with FUSION TV's Kim Brooks.

MEDIA STORIES—*Moonlight*

WIOD-AM

Sean Hannity Show

'Moonlight' Celebrated In South Florida

Posted Sunday, February 26th 2017 @ 8am by Alicia Gentile

"Moonlight," a movie based on a young black man growing up in Miami, is up for several Oscars Sunday night.

<http://www.hannity.com/articles/wiodam-local-news-122821/moonlight-celebrated-in-south-florida-15592992/>

The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center is honoring the film with a day of celebration. Starting at 1:00 p.m. you can watch silent films starring black actors and screen "Moonlight." Cheryl Mizell with the Arts Center says the movie has a local tie. "Tarell Alvin McCraney, an alumnus of the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, wrote the story that "Moonlight" is based on," said Mizell. The free event culminates with the Oscars broadcast.

MIAMI HERALD

By Rene Rodriguez

February 26, 2017 7:00 Am

'Moonlight' casts a glow on Liberty City that will shine long after Oscars

<http://www.miamiherald.com/entertainment/movies-news-reviews/article134905139.html>

"Marshall Davis, who has served as managing director of the Arts Center for 33 years, says the money will go toward the creation of a cinematic department to go along with its existing programs of dance, theater, music and visual arts."

LOCAL 10 NEWS

WPLG-TV Channel 10

February 26, 2017

By Shyann Malone - Anchor/Reporter; Posted: 6:24 PM, February 26, 2017

Crowds cheer as Miami-made 'Moonlight' wins Oscar for best picture

African Heritage Cultural Arts Center hosts watch party

<http://www.local10.com/entertainment/crowds-cheer-as-miami-made-moonlight-wins-the-oscar-for-best-picture>

"MIAMI - The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center held a watch party Sunday for the Oscars. "Moonlight" was a favorite for those who attended the party, partly because several scenes were shot inside the center. "It's really amazing to see, you know, my kids go to the movies and be able to see my own kids in the movie," Tangie Sands said. Sands' three children played extras in "Moonlight."

UNIVISION

Publicado: feb 27, 2017 | 02:02 AM EST

Por: Lorena Arroyo

Liberty City, el barrio de Miami donde más se celebró la confusión de los Oscar

<http://www.univision.com/miami/wltv/noticias/trending/liberty-city-el-barrio-de-miami-donde-mas-se-celebro-la-confusion-de-los-oscar>

"Esto es enorme", afirmaba Mizell aún emocionada. "Ojalá que la gente entienda el poder de esto y lo que podemos hacer con el ejemplo de Barry Jenkins y Tarell McCraney, que escribió la historia que es casi autobiográfica sobre su vida".

Translation: "This is huge," said Mizell still excited. "Hopefully people will understand the power of this and what we can do with the example of Barry Jenkins and Tarell McCraney, who wrote the story that is almost autobiographical about his life."

MEDIA STORIES—*Moonlight*

MIAMI HERALD

February 27, 2017 3:59 PM

By David J. Neal

The diner was buzzing, the arts center celebrated. 'Moonlight' makes a hometown proud.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article135279209.html>

"It was a good week at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center. With the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater performing at the Arsht Center Thursday through Sunday, artistic director Robert Battle did a Tuesday signing of an autobiographical kids book at the center, where he is an alumnus. Battle referred to "Moonlight" from both the show stage and the after-party stage Thursday, declaring "I had nothing to do with it, but I'm claiming it" out of 305 pride. Then, came Sunday and a very good night. Davis answered one Monday phone call with a summation felt by many: 'We won!'"

NOTICIAS TELEMUNDO

José Díaz-Balart

Liberty City de fiesta tras premio a Moonlight

<http://www.telemundo.com/noticias/2017/02/27/liberty-city-de-fiesta-tras-premio-moonlight>

En este barrio desfavorecido de Miami se filmaron varias escenas del galardonado filme sobre el espíritu de superación del ser humano

Translation: In this neighborhood of Miami were filmed several scenes of the award-winning film about the spirit of overcoming of the human being

MIAMI NEW TIMES

Monday, February 27, 2017 AT 10:27 A.M.

By Hans Morgenstern

Miami's Moonlight Block Party Suffered Tech Issues but Celebrated Anyway

<http://www.miaminewtimes.com/arts/miamis-moonlight-block-party-suffered-tech-issues-but-celebrated-anyway-9170566>

"In between the awards, during commercials, the African Heritage Cultural Center arranged for local performers to sing, rap, or dance. This was the place where McCraney, who is now chair of the drama school at Yale, once taught, after all. It was also later announced in the evening that both McCraney and Jenkins had donated a combined \$30,000 for plans to develop a new cinematic arts program at the center."

DIARIO LAS AMÉRICAS

27 de febrero de 2017 - 10:02

Por: Lorena Arroyo

Liberty City, el barrio de Miami que celebró tras la locura de los Oscar

<http://www.diariolasamericas.com/florida/liberty-city-el-barrio-miami-que-celebro-la-locura-los-oscar-n4115877>

Cuando todo se confirmó, Mizell recordó emocionada cómo el verano pasado, el escritor de la historia en la que se basa "Moonlight", Tarrell Alvin McCraney, estuvo dando unas clases en su centro cultural, situado en el corazón de uno de los barrios más pobres y tradicionalmente conflictivos de Miami.

Translation: When all was confirmed, Mizell recalled with excitement how last summer, the storyteller on which "Moonlight" is based, Tarrell Alvin McCraney, was giving classes at his cultural center, located in the heart of one of the most Poor and traditionally troubled Miami.

MEDIA STORIES—*Moonlight*

CBS4 MIAMI

WFOR-TV

February 27, 2017 11:35 PM By Oralia Ortega

Young 'Moonlight' Star Talks Oscars: 'It Was An Amazing Experience!'

<http://miami.cbslocal.com/2017/02/27/young-moonlight-star-talks-oscars-it-was-an-amazing-experience/>

Marshall Davis, the managing director of the “African Heritage Cultural Arts Center” in Liberty City, says he couldn’t be more proud of McCraney, who attended after-school classes at the location. “He has always been a compassionate person,” said Davis. “Tarrell, when he first came, was a very quiet young man and the film kind of really lets you know what was his struggle and why he was so quiet. But after a while, you saw Terrell smile and really get engaged and really feel warm and just happy to be here.” Staff members at the center say McCraney has kept in touch throughout the years and even came back there to make it a part of his Oscar-winning film. “Actors were auditioned here and some of the actors that were auditioned here were actually cast in the movie,” said Cheryl Mizell. “I was thrilled to find out that we had scenes in the movie and to also learn that the cultural arts center has credit at the end of the movie and Mr. Davis is also given credits in the movie.” The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center says it plans to hold a celebration to mark the picture’s big win.

7 NEWS

WSVN-TV Channel 7

February 27, 2017

Chris Van Vliet

Local cast, community celebrate made-in-Miami 'Moonlight' Oscar win

<http://wsvn.com/entertainment/local-cast-community-celebrate-made-in-miami-moonlight-oscar-win/>

At the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center in Liberty City, residents attended a watch party and celebrated the film’s success. Tangie Sands: “You go to the movies all the time, you pay all this money to see other people in the movies. To see your own kids, oh, man. It’s just absolutely fabulous.”

MIAMI HERALD

By Connie Ogle and Rene Rodriguez

FEBRUARY 27, 2017 8:56 PM

'Moonlight' Oscar madness at midnight — what went down with 'La La Land' snafu

<http://www.miamiherald.com/entertainment/article135359749.html>

Many at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center in Liberty City, which held a Moonlit Oscars block party, had the same reaction. “Some people, every time they heard ‘La La Land,’ they booed. Every time, they heard ‘Moonlight,’ they cheered,” Marshall Davis Sr., the center’s director, told the Miami Herald. “So, some people, when they heard ‘La La Land’ as the Academy Award winner for Best Picture, you saw a lot of people get up, ‘boo,’ and start walking away.” When they learned the truth, he said, “The place was ecstatic. You’d think it was a Pentecostal church. People were just overjoyed, having a wonderful time celebrating the success of a movie and the impact that it has for Miami.”

MEDIA STORIES—*Moonlight*

MIAMI HERALD

David J. Neal

Feb 27, 2017

"Moonlight" and the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

<http://www.miamiherald.com/latest-news/article135317244.html>

"Moonlight" writer Tarell Alvin McCraney's artistic roots go back to the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center in Liberty City. Center director Marshall Davis, Sr. talks about McCraney and the center, which has produced some notable talent over the years.

SUN SENTINEL

Marcia Heroux Pounds

February 27, 2017

2017 African-American Achievers named by JM Family

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/business/fl-bz-african-american-achievers-2017-story.html>

Tarell Alvin McCraney, actor, playwright and professor, wrote a script from his work with Liberty City youth that became the basis of "Moonlight." McCraney, who won in the arts and culture category, uses play writing and a performing arts curriculum at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, as well as a youth summer arts program he designed to help empower young female artists.

MIAMI TIMES

Mar 1, 2017

By Gigi Tinsley, Carolyn Guniss

Moonlight shines on Liberty City

http://www.miamitimesonline.com/news/florida/moonlight-shines-on-liberty-city/article_107c26a8-fe95-11e6-8ba1-6bbd5b290bd8.html

Marshall Davis, the general manager and director for the last 33 years, said the watch party was "another great benchmark for the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center." "It highly demonstrated the daily significant work of the center and the value of its services. Last night [Sunday] will stand as a lasting light for many of our youth and members of the artistic community to realize that they can attain greatness through dedicated efforts. Hopefully, many will also come to realize that right in the corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard and 22nd Avenue dreams can come true. You know, art is the fulfillment of a dream. I salute two compassionate artists who in being lifted up enabled others to rise with them. This is quite an achievement for Miami-Dade County, especially all those who were engaged in what is now an immortal film."



Thomas Armour Youth Ballet's *The Nutcracker* (December 3, 2016)



Cleveland Orchestra's Free Community Concert featuring conductor Roderick Cox
(January 29, 2017)



Spanish legend Paloma San Basilio and Argentinian pianist Raul di Blasio: U.S. tour launch
(February 11-12, 2017)



Florida Grand Opera—Family Day
(January 7)



Marcia Ball
(January 14)



Indie Flicks—Donald Cried
(January 27)



Aspen Santa Fe Ballet
(January 28)



The Mayhem Poets
(February 17)



Upright Citizens Brigade
(February 18)



Peking Acrobats
(February 25)



Rumba Tap
(January 25)



Drumline Drum-off (February 24)