

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

March 15, 2017

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

Adolfo Henriques, Chairman
Mitchell Bierman
Denise Gerson
Susana Ibargüen
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez
Sandra Curbelo
Robert Jensen
Jorge Pérez
Rosa Sugrañes
Monty Trainer
Dwayne Wynn

Members Not Present

Alejandro Aguirre
Xavier Cortada
Janá Sigars-Malina
Phyllis Simpkins

Others Present

Lydia Lopez, Assistant to Senior Advisor, Office of the Mayor
Laura Bruney, CEO, Arts and Business Council of Miami

Staff

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

Staff (continued)

Alex Peraza
Adriana Perez
Dana Pezoldt
Amanda Sanfilippo
Javier Siut

The meeting was chaired by Chairman Adolfo Henriques. Mr. Henriques called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for March 15, 2017

Requests for excused absences for Alejandro Aguirre, Xavier Cortada and Janá Sigars-Malina were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

Approval of the February 28, 2017 Minutes

The minutes of the February 28, 2017 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

FY 2017-2018 Grants Program Panels

The FY 2017-2018 Grants Program Panels for then Cultural Development (CDG) Grants Program, Hannibal Cox, Jr. (HCJ) Cultural Grants Program, Major Cultural Institutions (MCI) Grants Program, and Youth Arts Miami (YAM) Grants Program were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

FY 2017-2018 Youth Arts Enrichment (YEP) Grants Program - Guidelines

The FY 2017-2018 Youth Arts Enrichment (YEP) Grants Program guidelines were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on FY 2017-2018 County Budget

Mr. Spring noted that the Council reviewed the Department's budget submission at the Council's Annual Planning and Budget Retreat in February and provided a brief recap of the meeting. Mr. Spring reported that, as previously discussed at the February Budget Retreat, the County's budget is being affected by a downturn in revenues and increase in costs which translates into a \$3 million shortfall in a status quo budget for the Department. Mr. Spring noted that the Council's intention to return grants programs to the funding levels of 10 years ago and to keep up with the increasing cost of managing facilities would require \$2 million for a total of \$5 million gap in the Department's budget just to get back to even.

Mr. Spring also noted that at the Budget Retreat, the Council discussed requesting an additional \$5 million to start grants programs and facilities back on a growth pattern again, giving grantees the ability to keep up with the rising costs of doing business.

Mr. Spring noted that, at the Budget Retreat, the Council suggested that they would meet with County Commissioners during May and June to discuss the cultural budget as a next step and that the Arts and Business Council is coordinating the meetings and has distributed materials to the Council members. Ms. Sugrañes inquired about the time line for the meetings and Mr. Henriques noted that meetings should occur as soon as possible. Mr. Bierman suggested that in their meetings with Commissioners the Council speak with them about the role of the arts in enhancing the business community, providing exceptional arts education for kids and nurturing professional artists who go on to very successful careers, such as Barry Jenkins and Tarell Alvin McCraney, creators of the Academy Award-winning film, Moonlight. Ms. Ibargüen and Mr. Bierman suggested that the Council could provide Commissioners with examples of cultural activities that are occurring in their districts. Ms. Gerson noted that many Commissioners are supportive of the arts.

Ms. Sagrañes noted that supportive Commissioners should be thanked and asked to champion the arts. Mr. Henriques thanked Ms. Bruney and the Arts and Business Council of Miami for their assistance.

Mr. Spring stated, in following up on the Council's request to host a town meeting, that the most likely date would be Wednesday, April 19th. Mr. Henriques noted that the Department has added new facilities in the past few years and is currently operating with \$6 million less than seven years ago and the cost of living has increased. Mr. Henriques noted that additional programmatic support is needed for these facilities. Mr. Henriques expressed concern for the cultural organizations and arts programs that are going out of business or are cutting back because they cannot cope with the financial realities of today. Mr. Henriques noted that there are organizations that are curtailing programs that serve the public and that makes it difficult to get the maximum mileage out of the investments the County has made in the arts. Mr. Henriques stated that there are groups that are being lost or may be lost if the Department's grants cannot keep up with the growth of the cultural community.

Mr. Bierman and Ms. Sagrañes spoke about the importance of arts education in saving the lives of kids in Miami-Dade County. Mr. Pérez suggested that the Council produce a video that captures the impact of the arts in Miami-Dade County. Mr. Henriques, Ms. Sagrañes and Mr. Bierman agreed that a video may have a positive impact.

Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program

Ms. Beauvoir noted that 7,524 tickets have been sold for the first half of the 2016-2017 cultural season. To date, more than 300 performances have been made available through Culture Shock Miami this year. Ms. Beauvoir reported that 3,565 students and teachers have been reached through free outreach performances and workshops in collaboration with Miami Arts Studio 6-12 Magnet School at Zelda Glazer, Caleb Auditorium, FundArte, Miami-Dade Public School System's Cultural Passport Program, and the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC), bringing the program's total reach to date to 11,089. Mr. Pérez asked about opportunities for senior citizens to attend cultural events and Ms. Beauvoir spoke about the Department's Golden Ticket Arts Guide which provides free tickets for seniors age 62 and older to attend performances and exhibitions free of cost. Ms. Beauvoir noted that Ms. Dale continues to work with cultural organizations to renew and recruit ticket donations including from the Aventura Cultural Arts Center and Broward Center for the Performing Arts.

Department Facilities Updates

African Heritage Cultural Arts Center (AHCAC)

Ms. David asked AHCAC Marketing and Communications Manager Ms. Mizell to provide the report for the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center. Ms. Mizell provided an update regarding the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center's activities for January and March including an overview of the facility's much needed repairs. Ms. Mizell reported that the Center's 2016-2017 school year arts programs are underway. She noted that the KUMBA winter arts workshop culminated successfully on January 6th and included the participation of 30-35 youth through a partnership with the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department. She noted that the After School Arts Academy and the Saturday Arts Workshop continue to serve children every week. Ms. Mizell reported that the Voices of Heritage and the Winds of Heritage were preparing for their performances next month. Ms. Mizell noted the successful stage production of Venus written by Suzan-Lori Parks in the Wendell A. Narcisse Performing Arts Theater which ran from January 11th to February 5 and the accompanying visual art exhibition in the Amadlozi Gallery, "Resurrecting Venus," curated by artist Niki Lopez. Ms. Mizell highlighted the visit of celebrated alumnus of African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, Robert Battle, Artistic Director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater on February 26th, where the Center's dance students performed for him. Ms. Mizell reported that another distinguished African Heritage Cultural Arts Center alumnus and co-creator of the movie Moonlight, Tarell Alvin McCraney, is slated to receive the 2017 African-American

Achievers Award, nominated by Ms. Mizell. Ms. Mizell announced that Mr. McCraney would be donating his award monies in support of a cinematic program at the AHCAC. Ms. Mizell pledged her \$500 gift to the Center as well. She provided an update on the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center's strategies to raise the visibility of the Center and its programs through leveraging media opportunities that became available with the success of Moonlight. Ms. Mizell reported that the Center held a Golden Globes viewing party and once the film won the Golden Globe for Best Picture, the Center, represented by Mr. Davis, began to appear on popular TV shows such as NBC 6 with Roxanne Vargas, Univision's Fusion TV and CBS Sunday Morning. Commissioner Edmonson attended the CBS taping at the Center. Ms. Mizell thanked Ms. Margol for attending as well. The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center hosted an "Oscar Block Party!" on Sunday, February 26th along with Borsht Film Festival. Ms. Mizell noted the Mr. Davis spoke to the School Board of Miami-Dade Public Schools about the alumni of the Center. The Center has attracted media nationally and internationally including the London Observer. Ms. Sugrañes suggested that the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center host another event to give Barry Jenkins the opportunity to give his acceptance speech. Chairman Henriques and Mr. Wynn congratulated Mr. Davis and the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center on their excellent work in making a difference in people's lives.

South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Fliss reported that the Center is partnering with the Town of Cutler Bay and the Office of Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava on a holiday film night held at the Center on the concert lawn. Mr. Fliss highlighted recent performances and events including the launch of an independent film series, a Drumline Drum Off event on February 24th in partnership with Culture Shock Miami, and the Peking Acrobats, presented by Culture Shock Miami, on February 25th. Mr. Fliss noted an increase in artistic rentals including the State Ballet of Russia and the Boston Pops. He noted the Center is offering dance classes for approximately 75 young people in ballet, hip hop, modern and jazz. He reported the Aspen Santa Fe performances, a co-production with Culture Shock Miami, was supported by grants from SouthArts, Mellon Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts and the New England Foundation for the Arts. He noted that the Dance Theatre of Harlem will be performing as part of next season, funded by a \$150,000 grant from the Knight Foundation's Knight Arts Challenge.

Sandrell Rivers Theater

Mr. Spring reported that Fantasy Theater Factory, the theater's operator, and the resident theater company, The M Ensemble, have been successfully activating the black box and community space at the Sandrell Rivers Theater at the Audrey M. Edmonson Transit Village, 6101 NW 7th Avenue, since they opened in November 2016. Mr. Spring reported that there is a \$238,000 shortfall in operating funds for this current season and the Department is in contact with the County's Budget Office to address it. The M Ensemble currently has the production of "Brothers of the Dust" on stage through March 26th. Mr. Spring invited Councilors to let him know if they wish to attend an upcoming performance.

Coconut Grove Playhouse

Mr. Spring reported that the Department made a presentation before the Coconut Grove Business Improvement District on March 2nd on the plan for the Coconut Grove Playhouse and it was received positively. Mr. Spring reported that a presentation before the City of Miami Historic and Environmental Preservation Board (HEPB) of the Coconut Grove Playhouse plans is scheduled for April 4th to request that the HEPB issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the project's masterplan. Mr. Spring also reported that the Department has given the Design Team instruction to proceed through schematic design for a 300-seat theater at the site of the Coconut Grove Playhouse for GableStage and it is anticipated to go to construction bid in early 2018.

Art in Public Places

Ms. Sanfilippo provided highlights of recent Art in Public Places projects and events including Audrey M. Edmonson Transit Village, African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, Adrienne Arsht Center, and Terminal A at Port Miami for Royal Caribbean. Ms. Sanfilippo noted that two professional advisory committee meetings have been held and after reviewing many proposals from around the world, the Committee made two recommendations that Royal Caribbean was happy to receive. Art in Public Places is now working with two artists on concepts to develop proposals. She also noted that Art in Public Places was managing temporary public art works done as a Sea Level Rise initiative through a partnership with the University of Miami. Ms. Sanfilippo thanked the staff for their hard work on recent projects, especially Ms. Romeu, Ms. Alfonso and Mr. Martinez-Delgado.

Update on Federal Arts Budget

Mr. Spring provide an update on the status of advocacy efforts at the national level including the upcoming National Arts Advocacy Day in Washington, DC and the online petition in support of the National Endowment for the Arts led by the federal arts advocacy organization, the Americans for the Arts Action Fund. Mr. Spring noted that no formal recommendations have been made yet for the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Update on State Arts Budget

Mr. Spring reported that the Florida legislative session has begun and that Arts and Culture Day in Tallahassee will be on Wednesday, March 22nd. Mr. Spring noted that the Florida Cultural Alliance is advocating for the \$52 million of arts funding recommended through the State's competitive grants programs.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring reported that Frost Science Museum is scheduled to open on May 8, 2017.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Ms. Gerson reported that she is a member of the Funding Arts Network and that the Funding Arts Network will be awarding \$250,000 in cultural grants this year.
- Mr. Wynn asked about the status of the construction of the adjacent parking garage near the Joseph Caleb Auditorium. Mr. Spring reported that the garage is still under construction and that the Department will be launching renovations to the Auditorium soon. Mr. Wynn congratulated the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center for their wonderful work. He congratulated Mr. Trainer on the Coconut Grove Art Festival. Mr. Wynn noted that the Pérez Art Museum Miami is doing an exceptional job with the PAMM Fund for African American Art.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Marialaura Leslie