

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

November 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
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez
Xavier Cortada
Sandra Curbelo
Robert Jensen
Janá Sigars-Malina
Rosa Sugrañes
Monty Trainer

Members Not Present

Alejandro Aguirre
Denise Gerson
Susana Ibarguen
Jorge Pérez
Phyllis Simpkins

Others Present

Larry Fields, Fantasy Theatre Factory
Lydia Lopez, Assistant to Senior Advisor, Office of the Mayor
Shirley Richardson, The M Ensemble
Patricia Williams, The M Ensemble

Staff

Michael Spring, Director
Kelly Allocco
Carolina Alfonso
Francine Andersen
Roxana Barba
Christina Beauvoir
Nikenna Benjamin
Sue Camp
Mary Margaret Dale
Marshall Davis
Eric Fliss
Olga Gonzalez
Theodore Harell
Liliana Hernandez
Regla Lee
Marialaura Leslie
Deborah Margol
Gilda Mooney

Staff (continued)

Alex Peraza
Adriana Perez
Amanda Sanfilippo
Pamela Valles

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

PRESENTATION

Larry Fields, Executive Artistic Director for Fantasy Theatre Factory and Patricia Williams, General Manager, and Shirley Richardson, Executive Director with The M Ensemble presented an update on the Sandrell Rivers Theatre in Liberty City. Mr. Fields noted that since opening its doors on November 19, 2016, the Sandrell Rivers Theatre has welcomed more than 6,500 visitors. Ms. Richardson noted that both organizations are seeing new and diverse audiences develop as a result of operating and performing in the new theater during the past year. Mr. Spring noted that Fantasy Theatre Factory manages and operates the theater and The M Ensemble serves as the resident theater company.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for November 15, 2017

Requests for excused absences for Alejandro Aguirre, Denise Gerson, Susana Ibarguen and Jorge Pérez were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

FY 2017-2018 Community Grants (CG) Grants Program – 2nd Quarter Recommendations

The FY 2017-2018 Community Grants Program (CG) Panel, chaired by Councilor Janá Sigars-Malina, convened on November 9, 2017 to review 42 applications requesting \$327,596 for the Second Quarter of the program. 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. Ms. Barba reported that the Panel recommended funding 42 applicants for a total of \$190,000.

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

Mr. Bierman – Florida International University, Village of Pinecrest - Pinecrest Gardens
Mr. Cortada - Florida International University, Village of Pinecrest - Pinecrest Gardens
Mr. Henriques - Florida International University
Mr. Trainer – Rotary Foundation of South Miami, Inc.

The Panel's recommendations to fund the remaining organizations were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

Amplifyme, Inc.	\$4,554
Anchor Arts Management, Inc. a/f/a for Alma Dance Theater	\$4,554
Anchor Arts Management, Inc. a/f/a for Nu Flamenco Collaborative, Inc.	\$4,554
Art Creates US, Inc. d/b/a ProjectArt	\$4,554
ArtSouth	\$4,554
Barry University, Inc.	\$4,554
Big Blue & You, Inc.	\$6,071
Branches, Inc.	\$3,582
Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education, Inc.	\$9,105
Children's Hope Chest of Dreams, Inc.	\$4,554
Dade Heritage Trust, Inc.	\$4,554
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Parade & Festivities Committee, Inc.	\$6,071

Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival Organization, Inc.	\$6,071
FL Opera Prima, Inc. a/f/a for Voices of Miami, Inc.	\$4,554
France-FL Foundation for the Arts, Inc.	\$4,554
Friends of South FL Music, Inc.	\$4,554
Global Arts Project, Inc.	\$3,035
Haitian American Youth Organization, Inc. (HAYO)	\$4,554
Hispanic-American Lyric Theatre, Inc. a/f/a for Kaleidoscope MusArt, Inc.	\$4,554
Inlets Foundation for Experimental Practices, Inc.	\$4,554
Living Arts Trust, Inc. d/b/a/ O Cinema a/f/a for BISTOURY, INC.	\$4,554
Miami Beach Arts Trust, Inc.	\$4,554
Miami International Science Fiction Film Festival, Inc.	\$4,554
Music in Miami, Inc.	\$4,249
Nigerian-American Foundation, Inc.	\$3,946
Pantastik Musical Academy, Inc.	\$3,946
Power Access, Inc.	\$4,554
Power2Voice, Corp.	\$1,517
Shakespeare in the Park Miami, Inc.	\$4,554
South FL National Parks Trust, Inc.	\$4,554
St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc.	\$3,946
The Miami Foundation, Inc. a/f/a for 4Ward Miami, Inc.	\$6,071
The Miami Foundation, Inc. a/f/a for Obsolete Media Miami (O.M.M.)	\$4,554
The Miami Foundation, Inc. a/f/a for Public Hives	\$4,554
The Miami Foundation, Inc. a/f/a for The Unvoiced Community	\$1,517
The Opera Atelier, Inc. a/f/a for Miami International Ballet Competition	\$3,642
Tradisyon Lakou Lakay, Inc.	\$4,277
United Jewish Generations, Inc.	\$3,642
World Literacy Crusade of FL, Inc.	\$4,554

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:

Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of School of Music \$2,428
(Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

Rotary Foundation of South Miami, Inc. \$6,071
(Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

Village of Pinecrest - Pinecrest Gardens \$6,071
(Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program

Ms. Beauvoir reported that for the month of October, Culture Shock Miami sold 1,139 tickets representing a 54% increase from October 2016 (742). Ms. Beauvoir noted that there are 881 tickets sold to date for November and that Culture Shock Miami now has 13,779 newsletter subscribers, 12,542 unique website users and 11,454 new visitors to CultureShockMiami.com. She reported that 13th Season of Culture Shock Miami Presents, which launched in September, includes 10 artists and 22 performances. She noted that Culture Shock Miami partners for this year's presenting series include Miami-Dade County Auditorium (MDCA) and South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC).

Department Facilities Updates

African Heritage Cultural Arts Council

Mr. Harell reported that 284 students ages 5 – 18 participated in the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center's 34th Annual Summer Arts Conservatory, which offered classes in dramatic arts, dance, visual and fashion arts, literary arts, film, music and musical theater, culminating in a closing performance at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium. He noted that an additional one hundred students, ages 5 – 16, are participating in the After School Arts and the Saturday Arts Workshops. Mr. Harell reported that the AHCAC's production of "The Mighty Gents" has been recommended for a Carbonell Award. He gave an update on Center alumni Isaac Badley, who was cast in his first professional production, the Carbonell Recommended "Our Town" at the Colony Theater as well as Tarell Alvin McCraney, playwright and Executive Producer for the film "Moonlight", premiered his latest play in Los Angeles, Head of Passes starring Felisha Raschad, to rave reviews.

Westchester Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Spring reported that the Westchester Cultural Arts Center (WCAC) design work has largely been completed and is in review by the Building Department. He noted that the WCAC is anticipated to go out to bid in early 2018. Mr. Spring also noted that the WCAC will be located in Tropical Park, near the Bird Road entrance and will include a studio theater, a lobby space suitable to showcase visual art exhibitions and other support spaces. He noted that a separate complimentary building, currently unfunded, has been designed with dance studio and class room spaces.

Coconut Grove Playhouse

Mr. Spring presented a 3-minute video that summarizes the goals of the project: to do a thoughtful and thorough look at the historic nature of the property, to create a 300-set regional theater managed by GableStage so that the Playhouse can become a hub for Miami theater to nurture local artists, and to stay on budget. Mr. Spring reported that the Department held a town meeting on October 19, 2017 at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium to share the completed design work. He reported that drawings have been filed with the City of Miami Building Department. Mr. Spring noted that Commission Xavier Suarez has called a town meeting at the City of Miami on November 30, 2017. He reported that an appeal to the City of Miami Historic and Environmental Preservation Board's decision to approve the project concept is scheduled to be heard at the City of Miami Commission meeting on December 14, 2017. Mr. Cortada made a motion to resolve that the Cultural Affairs Council fully support the County's plan for the Coconut Grove Playhouse. Mr. Cortada's recommendation was approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Cortada; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

Art in Public Places

Ms. Sanfilippo reported on the Sea Level Rise temporary public arts projects: Misael Soto's *Flood Relief*, an installation employing multiple industrial gas-powered water pumps in a week-long display intended to push forward and broaden the scope of local and national conversations on our rising seas and oceans and Tom Sciculuna's *Climate Sync* on view now at ArtCenter/South Florida on Miami's Lincoln Road. Ms. Sanfilippo announced a major Call to Artists to commission permanent public artworks by contemporary visual artists across four facilities of the Jackson Health System.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring invited Councilors to attend the Arts for Wellness Day on Saturday, November 18, 2017 from 11am - 3pm at Pinecrest Gardens.
- Mr. Spring reported that the 2018 Golden Ticket Arts Guide has been published and recognized Lili Hernandez for her hard work on the project.
- He noted that the Secretary of State of Florida is scheduled to visit Miami during Miami Art Week / Art Basel Miami Beach.
- Mr. Spring noted that the late Parker Thomson was the founding chair of the Cultural Affairs Council (then, the Council of Arts and Sciences), responsible for helping to establish the Miami-Dade County Art in Public Places program, founding chair of the Performing Arts Center Trust and the driving force for the creation of the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts. He noted that there was a celebration of his life held on November 11th at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts. Councilors Chancy-Gonzalez and Sigars-Malina both attended the event.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez reported on the celebration event of Parker Thompson's life.
- Ms. Curbelo reported that she attended the Danny Lewis Dance Sampler.
- Mr. Cortada reported that the Secretary of State is attending his opening at Pinecrest Gardens on December 7th.
- Mr. Bierman recommended the Dara Friedman exhibition at PAMM.
- Mr. Trainer reported that the Saturday gallery walks continue in Coconut Grove and the Watercolor Society exhibition was very successful.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported that she attended *Evita* at Actor's Playhouse and accepted an award on behalf of the Cultural Affairs Council.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Marialaura Leslie