

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

February 28, 2018

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
Monty Trainer

Members Not Present

Janá Sigars-Malina
Phyllis Simpkins
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
Anita Gibboney, Office of Management and Budget
Lilia Garcia, Coconut Grove Arts Festival

Staff

Michael Spring, Director
Carolina Alfonso
Kelly Allocco
Francine Andersen
Patricia Arbelaez
Christina Beauvoir
Nikenna Benjamin
Sue Camp
Nicole Campbell
Lisa D'Andrea-Thompson
Marshall Davis
Marie Denis
Alex Fernandez
Joyce Fleming
Eric Fliss
Olga Gonzalez
Teddy Harrel
Liliana Hernandez-Constanla
Regla Lee
Marialaura Leslie

Staff (continued)

David Martinez-Delgado
Alex Peraza
Adriana Perez
Dana Pezoldt
Amanda Sanfilippo
Javier Siut
Pamela Valles

Chairman Henriques called the meeting to order at 11:18 AM.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Lilia Garcia, Chair of the Coconut Grove Arts Festival, presented the Festival's 2018 Outstanding Leadership in Arts Support Award to Michael Spring.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for February 28, 2018

Requests for excused absences submitted by Janá Sigars-Malina and Rosa Sugrañes were approved unanimously. (motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

Approval of the January 17, 2018 Minutes

The minutes of January 17, 2018 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

FY 2017-2018 Summer Arts and Science Camps (SAS-C) Grants Program Panel

The FY 2017-2018 Summer Arts and Science Camps (SAS-C) Grants Program Guidelines were approved unanimously. (motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Spring announced that Marialaura Leslie has been appointed as Deputy Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs, following the departure of Deborah Margol, who retired after more than thirty years of distinguished service to Miami-Dade County.

BUDGET AND PLANNING RETREAT REPORTS: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Presentation: Business Plan and Budget Overview

Mr. Spring provided an overview of the work of the Department and its programs and services.

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

- Arts & Economic Prosperity Study is released and video is produced documenting the enormous economic and social impact of the arts (more later!)
- Miami-Dade County Auditorium receives a NACo Achievement Award in recognition of the diversity and artistic excellence of programming and is awarded a \$35,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for its season
- The Children's Trust renews its annual grant of \$1,245,328 and 229,510 children and families have opportunities to participate in arts activities
- Student participation increases by 29% in "Culture Shock Miami," our \$5 student ticket initiative (more than 18,400 tickets!)

- Bilingual “Golden Ticket Arts Guide” reaches more than 17,000 senior citizens with free ticket offers
- More than 232,000 people attend performances at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, Joseph Caleb Auditorium, Miami-Dade County Auditorium and South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center
- The Sandrell Rivers Theater completes its first season under the management of Fantasy Theatre Factory and with resident company The M Ensemble
- A \$500,000 State of Florida Cultural Facilities Grant is secured for additional improvements at Joseph Caleb Auditorium

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

- African Heritage Cultural Arts Center receives a NACo Achievement Award for the Young Artist Leadership Summer Program, led by MacArthur “genius” and Academy Award-winner Tarell Alvin McCraney
- The South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center receives a Knight Arts Challenge grant of \$150,000 for a two-year residency of the Dance Theatre of Harlem
- The Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science opens to the public and already is achieving record-breaking attendance
- The Department receives a Knight Arts Challenge grant of \$125,000 to host the 2018 Creative Time Summit, the world’s largest convening focused on art, politics and social change
- Art in Public Places receives a NACo Achievement Award for the successful restoration of The Miami Line, artist Rockne Krebs’ iconic light sculpture over the Miami River

Mr. Spring addressed the following improvement areas for the work of the Department and State and National support of the arts:

- The Council’s request for additional \$10 million for FY 2017-2018 to help rebuild the Department’s grant budget to pre-recession levels and keep pace with the reality of present-day growing costs did NOT result in any additional funding; additional funds were necessary and secured to maintain grants at status quo level
- The State Legislature and Governor reduced overall arts grants allocations by 16% (Culture and Museum Grants were reduced by 29%), reducing allocations to 137 Miami-Dade arts groups
- President Trump continued to recommend the elimination of the NEA and NEH; Congress approved \$150 million for each agency
- Arts groups’ future remain in jeopardy due to threats to their facilities:
 - o Area Stage Company – their affordable rental home at the Riviera Theater was purchased and slated for demolition/redevelopment
 - o Miami Light Project – the lease on their affordable rental home in Wynwood expires in 2018/2019
 - o Roxy Theatre Group – they lost their lease in a converted movie multiplex in West Miami and currently are surviving at FIU
 - o Dimensions Variable – lost its current exhibition space in downtown Miami

- The City of Miami over-ruled its own Historic and Environmental Preservation Board and placed untenable conditions on the Coconut Grove Playhouse project
- Staff transition at the Department is precipitating a reorganization of administrative resources which requires a new, realistic look at staffing levels and organizational structure

Mr. Spring summarized the vision, mission and main objectives of the work of the Department:

- VISION: To be a major, international cultural capital
- 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
- Strengthen non-profit arts and cultural organizations and artists
 - Grants: restore grants funding to pre-recession levels and secure more funding needed to help address today's growing needs
- Increase participation through education and outreach
 - Audience participation and private giving: initiate expanded and new programs and partnerships to reach and involve more people
- Build new and improve existing cultural facilities and manage and program cultural facilities
 - Cultural capital projects: build the next generation of facilities and care adequately for existing venues
 - Cultural facilities: manage and pro-actively program our theaters and arts centers
- Improve our built environment through the involvement of artists and public art
 - Quality design: involve great artists and designers collaboratively to make our built and natural environment outstanding

Mr. Spring outlined the portfolio of public sector investments to promote the growth of Miami-Dade County's cultural community:

- General operating support grants
- Project-based grants
- Youth arts grants
- Artist grants

Mr. Spring provided an overview of the Department's Education, Outreach and Access initiatives:

- Invest in and Strengthen Cultural Organizations that provide youth arts programs for children and families;
- Increase Opportunities for Children and Youth in Miami-Dade County to engage in direct, high quality, live arts experiences as a part of their overall education;
- Expand Training Opportunities and Technical Assistance for arts administrators, cultural organizations, artists and educators;
- Expand Outreach and Promotional Opportunities to connect more people to cultural events and create opportunities for residents and visitors to participate fully in the arts
- Strengthen Our Collaborations with Civic and Community Partners positioned to help maximize our marketing strategies and develop future audiences; and

- Develop Publications and Technical Assistance Materials to assist cultural organizations and artists, as well as to connect people with cultural opportunities.

Mr. Spring noted the Department's civic and community partners and recognized the great work of the 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.

- ✓ Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau
- ✓ Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ The Beacon Council
- ✓ Arts & Business Council of Miami
- ✓ Municipalities

Mr. Spring presented the potential factors affecting success for the FY 2018-2019 Department budget:

- 1- There is a decline in projected "bed tax" revenues, negatively impacting anticipated "carry-over" funds (i.e., revenues in excess of projections) and requiring more conservative future forecasting of these revenues (resulting in lower revenue numbers for FY 2017-2018)
- 2- Departmental administrative costs in submitted budget are increasing due to growing internal service charges
- 3- 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 provided an overview of the fundamentals of the department budget. He reported that the budget as submitted internally for next year requires a 7.7% reduction in grants programs, which represents a \$983,000 gap. After closing the \$983,000 gap, an additional \$1.370 million is needed to restore grants programs to FY 2006-2007 levels. An additional \$2.350 million is needed to strengthen the work of the 4 Department-managed facilities (mainly for essential staff, programming, production, building management and marketing costs) and to provide additional support staff resources for the Culture Shock Miami program.

Mr. Spring noted that the budget development is a fluid process and shifts are anticipated. He outlined the anticipated timeline for the Budget process.

- February 28 Cultural Affairs Council Planning and Budget Retreat
- TBD Internal Department Budget Hearing
- June Mayor's Budget is Released
- July County Commission Sets Preliminary Millage Rates
- September 6th County Commission First Budget Hearing (1st Thursday)
- September 20th County Commission Second and Final Budget Hearing (3rd Thursday)

Council Motion Regarding the FY 2018-2019 Budget

A motion was made to approve the budget and request incremental increases to the Department's annual budget over the next four years, starting with \$2.5 million for the Department's FY 2018-2019 budget. The 5-year goal is to rebuild the budget with an additional \$10 million to keep pace with the reality of present-day growing costs and demands for programs and services. The motion passed unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Mr. Cortada)

UPDATED COUNCILOR ASSIGNMENTS FOR FY 2018-2019

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.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Leslie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marialaura Leslie