


**Date:** June 17, 2020

**To:** Members,  
Cultural Affairs Council

**From:** Michael Spring, Director 

**Subject:** FY 2020-2021 Cultural Advancement Grants Program Panel Recommendations

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In light of the uncertainty surrounding the long-term impact of Covid-19 on public programs scheduled to begin after October 1, 2020, staff advised the Cultural Advancement Grant Program Panel at the panel's orientation to review and score each proposal based upon both the quality of the application and the ability to satisfactorily address each of the evaluation criteria, as stated in the program's guidelines. The award recommendations will be computed using the established funding formula for this program. The program's FY 2020-2021 total allocation and the recommended grant award amounts per grantee will be presented to the Council for final review later this summer, after all the Spring cycle grants program panels have convened and preliminary FY 2020-2021 budget numbers are received.

Final grant awards are contingent upon the availability of funds in the Department's FY 2020-2021 budget, which is subject to the County's Budget as adopted in September 2020. At that time the Department will assess the grantee's feasibility of presenting public programs in traditional venues and performing spaces; if necessary, the Department is prepared to exercise appropriate contractual flexibility to include virtual programs and other program delivery strategies, as may be necessary.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Cultural Affairs Council approve the funding of twenty-two (22) grants for the FY 2020-2021 Cultural Advancement Grants Program.

## **BACKGROUND**

The FY 2020-2021 Cultural Advancement Grants Program Panel, chaired by Mitchell Bierman, convened on May 27, 2020 to review twenty-two (22) applications requesting a total of \$2,750,000. The Cultural Advancement Grants Program is designed to provide significant grants and technical assistance to a distinct group of Miami-Dade County's highest quality, mid- to large-size, culturally diverse performing, visual, literary and presenting arts organizations that have a history of distinguished artistic programming.

The Cultural Advancement Grants Program operates on a three-year review cycle. For the first year of the cycle (FY 2019-2020), a pre-application qualification/invitation to apply was issued, comprehensive applications were submitted, and a full panel review conducted. For the subsequent two years of the cycle (FY 2020-2021 and FY 2021-2022), a more streamlined application form and review process is being employed. Grants awarded in the FY 2019-2020 cycle of the program defined grant award levels for the remainder of the cycle, subject to annual adjustments to award level based on audited organizational budget information and contingent upon the availability of funding and upon a satisfactory review and recommendation of the interim applications by the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Advancement Panel interim year review committee and the Cultural Affairs Council. Grantees must meet

all program criteria satisfactorily, as well as comply with the prior year reporting requirements to be eligible for renewed funding consideration.

The Cultural Advancement Grants Program also features a travel/consultant financial assistance component. Cultural Advancement and designated Emerging Major Cultural Institutions grantees may submit requests in advance to the Department's professional staff for consideration and authorization for subsidies to cover eligible travel related costs and/or consultant/capacity building services and opportunities. Fantasy Theatre Factory, Inc. serves as fiscal agent in the administration of these funds. The Department continues to accept and evaluate requests from eligible grantees and to monitor unexpended carryover travel/consultant financial assistance funds that may be available from prior years to address approved requests. Any additional funds that may be identified as available for the program's technical assistance component will be factored in accordingly, and may enable amended, category-defined grant allocations.

A complete list of recommendations for FY 2020-2021 is attached.

**Recommended  
FY 2020-2021  
Grant Award**

**Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs  
FY 2020-2021 Cultural Advancement Grants Program  
Organization / Summary of Mission**

*Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation*

**Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, Inc.** - Founded in 1997 by Russian-born Ballet Master and Choreographer Vladimir Issaev, Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida provides accessibility, community involvement, education, and training for professional and pre-professional ballet dancers. Based on the Vaganova technique of the St. Petersburg Imperial Theatre School (now the Vaganova Ballet Academy) in Russia, the company's repertoire includes works by Classical Ballet Masters as such Petipa, Fokine, Lavrosky and Bournonville, works by Artistic Director Vladimir Issaev and contemporary guest choreographers.

*Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation*

**Bakehouse Art Complex, Inc.** – Chartered in 1980, this visual arts organization is dedicated to providing artists and visual arts organizations in Miami-Dade County with a permanent facility containing affordable working and exhibition space. Key to its mission are: hands-on arts workshops for neighborhood and Miami-Dade at-risk youth; and encouraging the growth of a “working arts district” as part of an economic/community development project in Wynwood.

*Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation*

**Bascomb Memorial Broadcasting Foundation, Inc. (WDNA-FM 88.9)** - Incorporated in 1971, licensed by the FCC in 1980, WDNA broadcasts cultural, educational and informational programs in five languages, 24-hours a day. WDNA's mission is to provide quality, culturally diverse public broadcasting services to the residents of South Florida, and to provide training for individuals to create these programs.

*Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation*

**Centro Cultural Español de Cooperacion Iberoamericana, Inc.** – Founded in 1996, the Centro Cultural Español aims to make tangible the cultural presence of Spain and Latin American countries in Florida, to enhance their historical traditions and cultural expressions by promoting and fostering cultural cooperation, local creativity and the creation of a space for dialogue and exchange through relevant annual programs. CCE encourages the study and enjoyment of both Spanish language and in-Spanish cultural programming.

*Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation*

**City Theater, Inc.** - City Theater, founded in 1996, is dedicated to the discovery and presentation of original short plays and promising artists from Florida and throughout the nation. In addition to producing original plays in its annual, award-winning "Summer Shorts" festival, the organization brings the nation's finest playwrights and noted theater professionals to South Florida for rare artistic exchanges and collaborations.

*Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation*

**Coral Gables Cinematéque, Inc.** - Founded in 2007, Coral Gables Cinematéque presents and supports media arts in South Florida, with the specific purpose of developing and running the Coral Gables Art Cinema as a venue for alternative films. The 141-seat theater operates seven days a week and presents high-quality and culturally-diverse American independent, foreign and classic programs not generally available at other venues in South Florida.

*Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation*

**GableStage, Inc.** - GableStage provides the South Florida community with classical, contemporary and new theatrical productions of artistic excellence. GableStage strives to challenge a multicultural audience with innovative productions that entertain as well as confront today's issues and ideas.

*Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation*

**Living Arts Trust, Inc. / O Cinema** - O Cinema offers screenings of first-run, independent, foreign, family, special screenings of classic works and cult film fare, as well as community outreach events and initiatives. Founded in 2009, O Cinema seeks to provide intriguing, entertaining, and quality films at affordable prices and accessible for the broadest possible audiences that might otherwise not be seen in Miami-Dade County.

***Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation***

**Locust Projects, Inc.** - Founded in 1998, Locust Projects' mission is to facilitate the development of visual art by providing exhibition space and public exposure for contemporary artists while supporting diversity and experimentation in the field. Artists are selected from a global pool on the strength of their proposals and are encouraged to create site-specific installations as an extension of their representative work. Locust Projects serves the community through professional development seminars for artists, educational programming for youth, internships in arts administration, and a public commissions program, all free and open to the public.

***Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation***

**Miami Dade College - Cultural Affairs Department (MDC Live)** - MDC Live Performance Series presents the newest, most-challenging performing arts being created today with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. Annual programming represents a complex mix of high quality performances and educational activities designed to make contemporary and culturally specific work accessible to the entire community.

***Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation***

**Miami Dade College - Miami Book Fair Year Round** - Established in 2001 by Miami Dade College as the Florida Center for the Literary Arts and recently re-branded, Miami Book Fair Year Round is a college-wide academic and cultural initiative that promotes the appreciation of literature in all forms and engages South Florida's diverse community in an exchange of ideas. The creation of the Center is a reflection of Miami Dade College's commitment to inspire students, as well as to serve the community by promoting the craft and power of the written word.

***Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation***

**Miami Dade College – Museum of Art and Design** - Established as a formal museum in August of 2012, The Museum of Art and Design (MOAD) at Miami Dade College (MDC) is the College's flagship institution dedicated to providing open, critical, and collaborative frameworks for artistic experimentation and interdisciplinary risk-taking that explores the intersections of art, design, and other art forms with cultural action. MOAD is housed at the National Historic Landmark Freedom Tower at the MDC Wolfson Campus in downtown Miami and provides its patrons and visitors access to unique cultural, historical, and educational exhibitions that enrich the greater community while building and preserving an expansive permanent collection of art, design and innovative public programming.

***Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation***

**Miami Design Preservation League, Inc.** - Miami Design Preservation League (MDPL) is dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting the cultural, social, economic, environmental and architectural integrity of the Miami Beach Architectural Historic District and all other areas of the City of Miami Beach where historic preservation is a concern. It provides a clearinghouse for information and materials pertaining to the City of Miami Beach; sponsors year-round educational and recreational activities for the community-at-large; and designs, advocates, and endorses programs that enhance the Art Deco Architectural Historic District, local historic districts, and potential historic districts and sites.

***Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation***

**Miami Light Project, Inc.** - Founded in 1989, Miami Light Project presents today's most innovative performing artists on the local, national and international arts scene, creating vital connections between artists and the community. Miami Light is committed to presenting dance, music and theater of the highest caliber, building new audiences, and commissioning new work.

***Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation***

**Miami New Drama, Inc.** - Founded in 2014, Miami New Drama is a producing and presenting theatre organization whose work is designed for, and celebrates Miami's unique multicultural audience. The organization is dedicated to placing Miami at the helm of the national theatre conversation through exceptional works by American, Latin American, and international artists.

***Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation***

**Nu Deco Ensemble, Inc.** – Founded in 2013, the mission of Nu Deco Ensemble is to create compelling and transformative genre-bending musical experiences to inspire, enrich, and connect new and diverse audiences and artists. Nu Deco Ensemble ignites the imaginations and passions of music lovers of all ages, contributing significantly to the cultural renaissance of South Florida. Fusing a collaborative enthusiasm for new music with classical and popular traditions, Nu Deco Ensemble aspires to represent Miami on the world's stage.

***Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation***

**Seraphic Fire, Inc.** – Seraphic Fire was founded in 2002 to present high quality performances of under-performed music with cultural significance to audiences in South Florida, while simultaneously encouraging the occupational advancement of musicians by providing a forum for the development and presentation of their talents.

***Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation***

**Teatro Avante, Inc.** - Teatro Avante, formed in 1979, seeks to preserve, further develop and enhance our Hispanic cultural heritage through the creation and presentation of universal theatre and educational programs, and to participate in the artistic growth and expansion of worldwide theatre by presenting an outstanding artistic and educational program through Teatro Avante's annual award-winning International Hispanic Theatre Festival of Miami.

***Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation***

**The Coral Gables Museum, Corp.** - Coral Gables Museum's mission is to celebrate, investigate and explore the civic arts of architecture and urban and environmental design, including fostering an appreciation for the history, vision, and cultural landscape of Coral Gables. The museum also promotes beauty and planning as well as historic and environmental preservation for a broad audience, including children, families, and community members, as well as local, regional, national and international visitors. Exhibitions, collections, educational offerings, lectures, tours, publications and special events take place at the museum, located at the City's restored and renovated Police and Fire Station, originally built in 1939.

***Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation***

**The Deering Estate Foundation, Inc. - The Deering Estate Foundation, Inc.** - Established in 1989, the Deering Estate Foundation was created to increase outreach, understanding and the enjoyment of the Deering Estate at Cutler. The Foundation is fully dedicated to advancing cultural programs and projects to preserve and protect the natural, archaeological, architectural and historic legacy of the Estate through the "Artist Village", "Living Artist Concert Series", Visual and Literary Artists in Residence programs, Saturday Camps for Kids and a variety of workshops, demonstrations and exhibits – all designed to educate and enhance the public appreciation of the unique characteristics of the Estate.

***Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation***

**The Rhythm Foundation, Inc.** - The Rhythm Foundation was established in 1988 to promote multicultural exchange through the presentation of live music. The Foundation focuses on Caribbean, Latin American, Brazilian and African music - cultures which are of particular interest to South Florida residents, allowing greater depth of understanding between communities. The Foundation features internationally acclaimed artists performing in concert venues and festivals.

***Grant amount to be determined based upon final ADV program allocation***

**Zoetic Stage, Inc.** - Founded in 2009, Zoetic Stage was founded to create fresh, bold interpretations of contemporary plays and musicals, and is dedicated to enhancing South Florida's national artistic profile by producing regional premieres and developing new works to become part of the American stage repertoire. Zoetic Stage's goal is to be one of Miami's cultural icons and a theatrical institution that draws visitors from across the United States.

