

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

April 21, 2021

A meeting of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council was held at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium and online via Zoom.

<p><u>Members Present</u> Brian May, Chairman Mitchell Bierman Sandra Curbelo Denise Gerson Adolfo Henriques, Immediate Past Chair Jorge Plasencia Cheryl Rees Janá Sigars-Malina, First Vice Chair Rosa Sugrañes Monty Trainer</p>	<p><u>Members Not Present</u> Alejandro Aguirre Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Second Vice Chair Justin Trieger</p> <p><u>Others Present:</u> Oscar Mazzei</p>
<p><u>Staff</u> Michael Spring, Director Marialaura Leslie, Deputy Director Carolina Alfonso Kelly Allocco Francine Andersen Roxana Barba Stefania Barigelli Nikenna Benjamin Sue Camp Tania Centeno Kimberly Chuck Lisa D'Andrea Thompson Marshall Davis Marie Denis Ivette Dominguez Eric Fliss Olga Gonzalez Teddy Harrell</p>	<p><u>Staff (continued)</u> Liliana Hernandez-Constenla Regla Lee Amanda Sanfilippo Long Gilda Mooney Steven Padilla Alex Peraza Adriana Perez Dana Pezoldt Katherine Revell Javier Siut Christina Tassy-Beauvoir Pamela Valles Graham Winick</p>

Chairman May called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for April 21, 2021

A request for an excused absence was submitted by Alejandro Aguirre, Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez and Justin Trieger. (Motion by Mr. Trainor; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

Approval of March 17, 2021 Minutes

The minutes of the March 17, 2021 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Plasencia; seconded by Mr. Bierman)

FY 2021-2022 Grants Program Panels

Mr. Spring presented the grant panels for the Cultural Advancement (ADV), Cultural Development (CDG), Festivals and Special Events (FEST), and the Youth Arts Miami (YAM) grants programs. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Rees; seconded by Ms. Curbelo)

Nomination of At-Large Council Member

Mr. May reported that Councilor Sigars-Malina serves on the Cultural Affairs Council as an At-Large member. A motion was made to nominate Councilor Sigars-Malina for reappointment to the Council. It was approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Rees; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Mr. Spring reported Miami-Dade County Mayor Levine Cava has simplified and streamlined the New Normal rules and guidelines, as well as lifted the curfew. The County's focus is now on encouraging the continued use of face masks, hand sanitizing, physical distancing, and increasing the availability and access to the COVID-19 vaccine for a continued re-opening of the community and economy.

Update on County Arts Budget

Mr. Spring stated that at the March meeting, the Council resolved to recommend that FY 2021-2022 funding for the Department's grants programs and cultural services remain at least at the FY 2020-2021 levels of support in light of the devastating financial impact of the pandemic on nonprofit cultural organizations and individual artists and that a motion was made at that time to recommend a minimum of status quo levels of Department funding for FY 2021-2022. Mr. Spring reported the Department participated in an internal budget meeting in April and discussed the American Rescue Plan Act which allows funding to be used for government revenue loss and nonprofit organizations. He also noted that the American Rescue Plan Act includes more than \$16 billion for entertainment venues through the Shuttered Venues Operator Grants Program managed by the Small Business Administration and that the Department's cultural facilities plan to apply.

Update on the State Arts Budget

Mr. Spring noted that with the session ending on Friday, April 30th, the Senate met the House number on Culture Builds Florida program and on Culture and Museum Grants, the Senate countered the House \$21,987,504 with \$15,569,365.

Update on Federal Arts Budget

Mr. Spring reported the Small Business Administration's Shuttered Venue Operator Grants Program portal is expected to reopen soon and that the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was allocated \$135 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding and will be releasing the program's guidelines in a couple of months.

Department Facilities Updates

Status Report

Mr. Spring reported that construction activity at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center is moving at a brisk pace and is expected to continue through the summer. The Center is planning virtual programming to include summer and after school programs. The Miami-Dade County Auditorium is the current site for the Department of Cultural Affairs' grant panel meetings and Cultural Affairs Council meetings to accommodate appropriate social distancing on-site and virtual participation as well. The Auditorium continues to host live Drive-Through Theater events and provide virtual programs, including May as an all-digital month. Mr. Spring reported that the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center has been a COVID-19 vaccination site for the County. The Westchester Cultural Arts Center should be completed by the summer of 2021. It will include an outdoor performance amphitheater.

Coconut Grove Playhouse

Mr. Spring reported on April 7, 2021, the Appellate Division of the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit approved Miami-Dade County's Coconut Grove Playhouse appeal of the City of Miami Mayor's veto of the County's final historic preservation Certificate of Appropriateness for the Coconut Grove Playhouse project. Mr. Spring announced that GableStage has hired a new Producing Artistic Director, Bari Newport, as the successor to legendary theater director, the late Joe Adler.

Art in Public Places Update

Mr. Spring noted that the Art in Public Places team is currently working on more than 100 active public art projects. Construction projects continue to move forward.

Director's Report

Mr. Spring reported that the Building Better Communities (BBC) General Obligation Bond (GOB) Citizens Advisory Committee approved the Florida International University (FIU) Wolfsonian Museum plan to expand their headquarter building.

Councilor Reports

- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported that the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden has a family-friendly Jurassic Garden dinosaur exhibit open through the summer.
- Mr. Henriques noted that the Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) hosted a successful fundraiser in April.
- Mr. Bierman reported that he has met Bari Newport, the new director of GableStage and was impressed with her vision for theater in South Florida.
- Mr. Plasencia noted that Miami is seeing an influx of artistic talent, with creative professionals moving here due to the pandemic, similar to trends that frequently occur in the tech industry.
- Chairman May reported that the Superblue Miami exhibition had a soft opening in May and would be open to the public during the spring.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:31 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Leslie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "M" being particularly large and stylized.

Marialaura Leslie