

# Memorandum



**Date:** June 21 2017

**To:** All Members  
Cultural Affairs Council

**From:** Michael Spring, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Spring", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Subject:** FY 2017-2018 Dance Miami Choreographers' Program Recommendations

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As of this date, the FY 2017-2018 Dance Miami Choreographers Program allocation is being recommended to continue at the same funding level as in FY 2016-2017, allowing for four choreographers to be awarded. Any specific funding recommendations being considered and reviewed at this time are subject to the availability of funds in the Department's FY 2017-2018 budget, which is dependent upon the County's Final Adopted Budget in September 2017.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council approve \$40,000 in funding support for four (4) awards to Miami-Dade choreographers from the FY 2017-2018 Dance Miami Choreographers' Program.

## **BACKGROUND**

Four \$10,000 awards are being recommended for outstanding Miami-Dade choreographers selected by the program panel for the FY 2017-2018 Dance Miami Choreographers' Program. This program supports the artistic development of Miami-Dade County-based choreographers for the creation of new work in all dance forms, including contemporary, classical and traditional dance. A panel of national dance experts met on June 12, 2017 to review the submissions. The panel was comprised of: Amy Smith, Founder and Artistic Director of Headlong Dance Theater (Philadelphia); Angela Harris, Executive Director of Dance Canvas (Atlanta); and Helanius Wilkins, Artistic Director of Helanius Wilkins Dance and faculty member at University of Colorado, Boulder (Boulder). The selection of the recommended award recipients was based primarily on the quality of the choreographers' work as evidenced by the work samples submitted via digital media. Funding for the Dance Miami Choreographers' Program is derived from Departmental proprietary revenues.

The recommended choreographers are:

### **\$10,000**

#### **Rosie Herrera**

550 NE 63 Street, Unit 1, Miami, FL 33138

Rosie Herrera is a Miami based dancer, choreographer and Artistic Director of Rosie Herrera Dance Theater. She is a graduate of the New World School of the Arts with a BFA in Dance Performance. She has been commissioned by the Miami Light Project, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, Dance Place, Maui Arts and Cultural Center and the American Dance Festival (ADF) in 2010, 2011 and 2013. She has had two residencies at the ADF recreating her work *Various Stages of Drowning: A Cabaret* set on ADF dancers, and creating a new work set on her own company titled *Make Believe* which is premiering later this year.

**\$10,000**

**Niurca Marquez**

221 SW 136<sup>th</sup> Court, Miami, FL 33184

Niurca Márquez has a wide range as a creator and performer in flamenco and other contemporary dance forms, such as Afro-Cuban and Contemporary Dance, collaborating with renowned choreographers including Susana Yamuchi (Brazil). Her work has been commissioned by Espacio Vivo Endanza (Seville), Next at 19th (Miami), FUNDarte Inc. (Miami), among others and presented on various stages in Europe and the US. She conducts workshops internationally that integrate elements of tradition, awareness, improvisation and organic movement of the “bata de cola” (train dress) and other traditional elements of flamenco.

**\$10,000**

**Ana Mendez**

237 NE 86 Street, El Portal, FL 33138

Ana Mendez, is a multifaceted professional dancer and performance artist who specializes in site-specific work. In 2016, she was commissioned by Pioneer Winter Collective’s Grass Stains program with mentor Stephan Koplowitz, in which she presented Transplants at the Kampong Gardens in Coconut Grove. Most recently, Ana was selected as one of 6 artists to participate in the MDC Live Arts Lab Alliance (LALA) residency, which will culminate in a performance in 2018 at the Prometeo Theater in Miami.

**\$10,000**

**Pioneer Winter**

14640 NW 17th Drive, Miami, FL 33167

Pioneer Winter is a Miami-native choreographer, dancer, and filmmaker, and Founder/Artistic Director of Pioneer Winter / Collective. He has created a significant body of boundary-pushing work, including Gimp/Gait. Winter also produces the annual Cine-danse festival and directs Project LEAP (Living Equality through Arts and Performance), a free dance and creative communication program for LGBTQ teens that focuses on teaching how to use the arts for activism and social change. As a young queer artist, he uses social and cultural narratives to anchor his work.