

# Memorandum



**Date:** July 15, 2020  
**To:** Members, Cultural Affairs Council  
**From:** Michael Spring   
**Subject:** FY2020-2021 International Cultural Partnerships (ICP) Grants Program 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 International Cultural Partnerships 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 Council approve the funding of 8 grants for the FY 2020-2021 International Cultural Partnerships Grants Program.

## **BACKGROUND**

The FY2020-2021 International Cultural Partnerships Program Panel, chaired by Rosa Sugrañes, convened on Wednesday, July 8, 2020 to review 12 applications requesting a total of \$350,000. The Panel recommended funding 8 applications.

The International Cultural Partnerships Program is designed to provide grants to professional Miami-Dade County based cultural organizations to support significant artistic Partnerships, partnerships or collaborations with artists, arts professionals and/or organizations abroad. The principal objectives of the program are: 1) to elevate Miami-Dade County's image abroad; and 2) to support the efforts of Miami-Dade's artists and cultural organizations to improve their work by engaging in meaningful arts activities with artists, arts professionals (such as curators, historians, designers) and/or organizations abroad. Priority consideration is extended to projects that develop reciprocal relationships with another city, country or region, either as a component of the project for which application is being made, or as an anticipated extension of that project over a specified period of time. Additionally, projects are encouraged to demonstrate artistic excellence and originality within the organization's overall programming and goals.

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The Panel specifically evaluated each applicant organization based on the following competitive review criteria: 1) artistic and cultural merit; 2) efforts leading to long-term cultural enrichment of Miami-Dade County; and 3) management capability. As set forth in the published guidelines, the panel's deliberations reflected the program's emphasized, targeted outcome to fund a selected group of projects at the highest possible percentage of their requests, thereby enabling the most significant opportunities for meaningful, long-term and developing cultural Partnerships.

Funding for the International Cultural Partnerships Grants Program is derived from departmental proprietary revenues. All funding recommendations are contingent upon approval of the Department of Cultural Affairs' FY 2020-2021 budget by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners and Mayor and are subject to the availability of funds.

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**1. Arca Images, Inc.**

*Award to be calculated based upon ICP allocation*

*Fallen Angels – Miami/Paris Exchange*

Funds are requested to support the creation and presentation of *Fallen Angels*, a new play touching on gender inequality and government censorship, developed in exchange between Miami's Arca Images and France's Maison de l'Amérique Latine. The play will be written by notable French-Cuban playwright Joel Cano in Spanish (with English and French simultaneous translation), who is based in France, in collaboration with Alexa Kuve, Arca Image's Executive Producing Director, and Alain Rouquié, MAL's Artistic Director, working with actors and technical personnel from both companies. *Fallen Angels* will first premiere in Miami in the spring of 2021 and then be adapted and presented in Paris.

**2. Bas Fisher Invitational, Inc.**

*Award to be calculated based upon ICP allocation*

*Art and Infra-Structure from the Tropics to the Arctic – Miami/Norway Exchange*

Funds are requested to support a reciprocal residency program that sends three Miami artists to Norway and three Norwegian artists to Miami. In partnership with the Fountainhead Residency in Miami and Rogaland Kunstsenter in Stavanger, Norway, visiting artists will have month-long residencies that include public presentations, juxtaposing artist's practices based in polar-opposite climates. In addition to these career advancement opportunities, artists will research the countries' different approaches to cultural funding and municipal-artist partnership.

**3. Delou Africa, Inc.**

*Award to be calculated based upon ICP allocation*

*Art Ova Seas – Miami/Trinidad & Tobago Exchange*

Funds are requested to support *Art Ova Seas*, an international cultural exchange project that brings together artists from Delou Africa in Miami and Wa Wo Performing Arts Company in Trinidad & Tobago, to collaborate on a new work that reveals the intersection of African retentions in music, dance and folktale found in the diaspora. The collaboration will culminate with premiere presentations of *Footprints: Timeless Impressions of the African Diaspora* in Miami and Trinidad & Tobago in August and September of 2021.

**4. Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator, Inc**

*Award to be calculated based upon ICP allocation*

*Caribbean Global Currents: Talking Across Difference – Miami/Panama Exchange*

Funds are requested to support the Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator's (DVCAI) international residency exchange with Panama's Museo De Arte Contemporaneo (MAC), Diablo Rosso, a contemporary experimental space supporting emerging artists. DVCAI will engage with Panama's contemporary artists in a conversation and multi-teared action around the influences of "nationhood" and "sovereignty". This exchange provides Miami-based artists from many diasporas the opportunity to create new work, encourage risk-taking and innovation toward the creation of new art and ideas.

**5. Edge Zones**

*Award to be calculated based upon ICP allocation*

*Art of Uncertainty – Index Miami/Santo Domingo*

Funds are requested to support the 13th edition of Edge Zones' annual cultural exchange between noted Florida and Dominican artists, *Art of Uncertainty -Index –Miami/Santo Domingo*. The focal point of this exchange program is for Florida artists to collaborate and experience creating art under different conditions, connect with peers and curators

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from other cultures and countries, and enrich their curriculum by exhibiting alongside the top artists of a country in museums. Presentations will take place in multiple loctions in Miami and Santo Domingo.

**6. FUNDarte, Inc.**

*Award to be calculated based upon ICP allocation*

*Sharing Grandmothers – Miami/Cameroon*

Funds are requested to support the development and creation of *Sharing Grandmothers* (working title), a collaborative musical piece co-produced by FUNDarte and AfriCan Connection. The piece will feature multidisciplinary women artists from Cameroon and the Haitian Diaspora in Miami. Project activities taking place in Miami will be presented at the Little Haiti Cultural Center, African Heritage Cultural Center and Miami Light Project.

**7. The Dance NOW! Ensemble, Inc.**

*Award to be calculated based upon ICP allocation*

*Anusin: What is Hidden is Never Lost – Miami/Portugal Exchange*

Funds are requested to support *Anusin: What is Hidden is Never Lost* – a two-year cultural exchange between Dance NOW! Miami and Dança Em Diálogos, Braga, Portugal. The first year includes Dance NOW! Miami's ten day residency in April 2021 in Braga, with the presentation of a new contemporary dance work blending the voices of four choreographers and 16 dancers from the two countries addressing themes of cultural annihilation, assimilation and forced diaspora.

**8. University of Wynwood, Inc.**

*Award to be calculated based upon ICP allocation ICP*

*Residency and Anthology of Modern Caribbean Poetry*

Funds are requested to support O, Miami's Poetry Exchange residency, curated by Dominican Poet Frank Baez, in partnership with the Fundación René del Risco in the Dominican Republic. O, Miami will host a weeklong residency for 11 Caribbean poets in April of 2021 at the Betsy Hotel South Beach. In turn, the Fundación René del Risco will a host a weeklong residency for six Miami poets in Santo Domingo in May of 2021 and culminate in the launch of a multilingual poetry Chapbook.