

**MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
November 19, 2014**

A meeting of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council was held at the 6th Floor Conference Room, Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 111 N.W. 1st Street, Miami, Florida.

Members Present

Adolfo Henriques, Chairman
Alejandro Aguirre
Victor Bao
Xavier Cortada
Robert Jensen
Jorge Luis Lopez
Janá Sigars-Malina
Jorge Pérez
Rosa Sugrañes
Monty Trainer

Members Not Present

Steven Alexander
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez
Susana Ibarguen
Louis-Albert Jolivet
Phyllis Simpkins

Staff

Michael Spring, Director
Carolina Alfonso
Kelly Allocco
Francine Andersen
Patricia Arbelaez
Roxana Barba
Christina Beauvoir
Nikenna Benjamin
Sue Camp
Lisa D'Andrea-Thompson
Marshall Davis
Eric Fliss
Sandra Hill
Gerry Landreth
Regla Lee
Marialaura Leslie
Deborah Margol
Gilda Mooney
Alex Peraza
Adriana Perez
Dana Pezoldt
Brandi Reddick
Javier Siut
Pamela Valles

Others

Joel Hoffman, Executive Director - Vizcaya Museum
& Gardens
Dwayne Wynn

Chairman Adolfo Henriques called the meeting to order at 12:20 pm.

Chairman Henriques introduced Joel Hoffman, Executive Director of Vizcaya Museum and Gardens.

PRESENTATION: Joel Hoffman, Executive Director - Vizcaya Museum & Gardens

Mr. Hoffman presented the Council with a brief history of Vizcaya Museum and Gardens and an update on current activities and upcoming plans.

Built as a winter home by James Deering, the estate was donated to the County in 1952. The following year, it opened as the Dade County Art Museum within the County's Park and Recreation Department. It soon became a tourist attraction, and remains one of Miami-Dade County's more popular attractions.

The replacement of the courtyard skylight has recently been completed. The museum received \$1.4 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the project which was completed on time and within budget.

Mr. Hoffman announced a major change that is being proposed for the operation of Vizcaya. The museum would transition to a management structure whereby a non-profit organization would operate this County-owned property under an operating agreement with the County. This new non-profit organization would be a consolidation and replacement of all of the existing support organizations for Vizcaya. The proposed change is designed to provide the museum with greater capacity to raise private sector funds. The goal is to complete this transition within the next year.

Mr. Spring noted that the department is working closely with Vizcaya on the restructuring plan, including the make-up of the new board.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for November 19, 2014

Requests for excused absences submitted by Susana Ibargüen, Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Jorge Pérez and Rosa Sugrañes were approved unanimously. (motion by Mr. Alexander; seconded by Mr. Bao)

Approval of the October 15, 2014 Minutes

The minutes of the October 15, 2014 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (motion by Mr. Alexander; seconded by Mr. Bao)

FY 2014-2015 Community Grants (CG) Program Recommendations – Second Quarter

The FY 2014-2015 Community Grants program panel chaired by Steven Alexander convened on October 30, 2014, to review 29 applications requesting \$246,900.00 for the Second Quarter of the program. The Panel recommended funding 28 applicants for a total of \$167,000.00.

Individual grant recommendations that involved Councilor conflicts of interest were removed from the package of recommendations and voted on individually. The following Council member declared a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on the following:

Mr. Lopez - The Miami Foundation, Inc. a/f/a for Indie Film Club Miami

The Panel's recommendations to fund the remaining organizations were approved unanimously. (motion by Mr. Alexander; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

Arca Images, Inc. a/f/a for IMAGINARIA	\$5,946
ArtSpring, Inc.	\$4,360
Branches, Inc.	\$5,946
Brazilian Voices, Inc.	\$3,885
Center for Advancement of Jewish Education, Inc.	\$11,892
City of West Miami	\$2,973
Communities In Schools of Miami, Inc.	\$5,946
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Parade and Festivities Committee, Inc.	\$7,928
Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival Organization, Inc.	\$7,928
Haitian American Youth Organization, Inc.	\$1,983
Hispanic-American Lyric Theatre a/f/a for IlluminArts, Inc.	\$3,964
Hispanic Flamenco Ballet Ensemble, Inc.	\$5,549
Kiwanis Club of Little Havana, Inc.	\$2,775
LIFE IS ART, INC.	\$5,946
Living Arts Trust, Inc d/b/a O Cinema a/f/a for BISTOURY, INC.	\$5,549
Miami Dance Futures, Inc.	\$5,946
Miami Light Project, Inc. a/f/a for GodoyPradera Projects	\$5,946
Musical, Inc.	\$5,549
NE 2ND Avenue Partnership, Inc.	\$3,964
PAXy Inc.	\$5,946
Rotary Foundation of South Miami, Inc.	\$7,928
Shakespeare in the Park Miami, Inc.	\$7,928
St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc.	\$3,964
St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Community	\$5,549
Tradisyon Lakou Lakay, Inc.	\$5,946
United Jewish Generations, Inc.	\$5,946
Women's International Film & Arts Festival, Inc.	\$11,891

The panel's recommendations to fund the remaining organization, for which there was the above-noted Councilor conflict of interest and abstention, was voted on individually and passed unanimously as follows:

The Miami Foundation, Inc. a/f/a for Indie Film Club Miami \$7,928
(motion by Mr. Jensen; seconded by Mr. Alexander)

Sunset Review of the Cultural Affairs Council

Ms. Margol presented the Council with the bi-annual Sunset Review of the Cultural Affairs Council as required by the County. The report outlines the goals and accomplishments of the Council for the past calendar year.

A motion was made to accept the report recommending the continuation of the Cultural Affairs Council and the item passed unanimously. (motion by Mr. Bao; seconded by Mr. Jensen)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program

Ms. Tassy-Beauvoir reported that, to date, 1,283 tickets have been sold for the first two months of the 2014-2015 cultural season. In addition, 672 students have been reached through a free outreach performance and workshop in collaboration with the Miami-Dade Public School System and the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC), bringing the program's total reach to date to 1,955. As of October 1st, more than 66 performances have been made available to the program's target audience for the first quarter of the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

To celebrate the 10th season of the program, Culture Shock Miami is presenting eight (8) special performances, spanning different arts disciplines. Three performances are being produced as part of the Culture Shock Miami Presents series – *The Intergalactic Nemesis: Target Earth* (October 2014), The StepCrew (January 2015), and Ballet Memphis (April 2015). The additional five (5) performances are being presented in collaboration with SMDCAC. They include: The free season kick-off Backyard Bash (October 2014), Soledad Barrio and *Noche Flamenca* (November 2014), The Improvised Shakespeare Company (February 2015), Peking Acrobats (February 2015), and Mummenschanz (February and March 2015). All performances were placed on sale in September.

Mr. Aguirre inquired about the program's investment in Hispanic media. Ms. Tassy noted that there has not been a targeted effort but staff will investigate the opportunities.

Department Facilities Updates

South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Fliss reported that during the month of October, the Center had 5,617 patrons in attendance. Performances included TU Dance and Seraphic Fire, both of which received funding from the Knight Foundation. Additional funding for Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenca was provided by South Arts and the New England Foundation for the Arts.

Education and outreach events for the month of November include eight FREE TU Dance classes and lecture demonstrations as well as four events for Noche Flamenco.

Mr. Fliss announced that the Center is launching its volunteer program for the 2014-2015 season and recently created a volunteer postcard and e-blast to promote new recruitment.

African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Davis reported that The After School Arts Academy has a total of 99 students enrolled in the program, which operates from 2:00 PM to 6:30 PM. The program consists of instructional classes in various art forms, including dance, chorus, visual arts, fashion arts, drama and music. The classes provide the students, ranging from 5 to 16 years of age, an opportunity to demonstrate and develop their latent talents and abilities.

A partnership with Orchestra Miami and Miami Children's Initiative has created a free music program open to students interested in the After School Arts Academy and becoming part of an opera production. Forty-six students are currently enrolled in the program.

The AHCAC is also partnering with Liberty City Elementary School to offer an After School Arts Program for kindergarten through 5th grade students. AHCAC staff is providing instructional classes in dance, chorus, creative dramatics, and instrumental music at the school as of November.

As a part of "Sankofa: Celebrating 40 years of Service," a Call to Artists has generated 85 applicants competing for the visual art exhibitions that will be held as part of this year-long celebration. Selection of artists will occur in November for exhibitions at the Center throughout 2015.

Coconut Grove Playhouse

Mr. Spring thanked Councilor Trainer for his assistance in working with the Coconut Grove community.

The architectural selection is still under the "Cone of Silence."

There is a proposal to build a second, larger theater on the site. Mr. Spring and Mayor Gimenez met with Lewis "Mike" Eidson to review the proposal.

Mr. Spring noted that before moving forward with any proposal there will need to be a masterplan completed by the architectural firm to determine what the site can accommodate.

Art in Public Places Update

Ms. Reddick reported that the new Arcola Lakes Head Start Facility, located at 770 NW 83rd Street, is slated to open by the end of summer 2014. The new facility will provide comprehensive child-development services for low-income children and families. Two existing seating elements located at the exterior entranceway of the facility will be enhanced by artist Sinisa Kucec who has been commissioned for the project. Mr. Kucec proposed to enclose the bottom portion of the benches and camouflage the concrete benches with random flowing patterns of a SEMCO product outdoor paint.

APP is also collaborating with Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department (MDFR) to create an artist-designed terrazzo floor for two branch fire stations located in Miami Lakes and Coconut Palm. Artists Felicia Carlisle, a resident at Cannonball, and Michelle Weinberg have been commissioned for the projects, with one artist working in each station.

Ms. Carlisle's design, entitled *Broken Triangle*, combines colors that signify air (blue), fuel (gold) and heat (orange/red) in an equilateral triangle formation with interconnecting sides, each symbolizing one of the elements that form fire. Ms. Weinberg's design will use of the bright green colors found on rescue vehicles and combines them in geometric patterns on a black terrazzo. Her floor design also will be interspersed with metal cut outs depicting tools and symbols of rescue workers.

Twenty-five utility boxes will be wrapped in Commissioner Zapata's District 11. Five artists have been shortlisted.

A Call to Artists went out to design the marquee at African Heritage Cultural Center. The project budget is \$150,000 and five artists have been asked to submit proposals.

APP is working with the City of Miami Beach to manage the public art projects that will be part of the expanded convention center. The project has a budget of \$4.3 million for public art.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- The Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, Jane Chu, will be visiting Miami on December 2. The Department will be hosting a town meeting at the Pérez Art Museum Miami to introduce her to the community.
- The Florida Cultural Alliance has adopted its platform for the upcoming legislative session. It includes a request for support to fully fund all of the grant recommendations of that came out of the Division of Cultural Affairs' panel evaluation process. Mr. Spring will provide details and talking points for the Council.
- The County is required to hold the second budget hearing again on December 4 due to an error in the advertisement of the millage rate.

COUNCILORS REPORTS

- Mr. Trainer reported that the monthly art walk in Coconut Grove is doing well.
- Mr. Cortada will be lecturing at Broward Collage followed by an exhibition of "Littoral Creatures." The lecture is co-sponsored with the Broward County Public Art and Design program.
- Mr. Bao noted that with the election of Ms. Levine Cava, he may not be reappointed to the Council. He congratulated the Council on the work they are doing and said that it has been a pleasure to serve with them.
- Ms. Sigars-Molina reported that the Ramble at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens was a great success.
- Mr. Lopez thanked Mr. Hoffman for his presentation and noted that this is an important time in the development of the institution. He also wished the Council a happy holiday.
- Mr. Aguirre noted that artists Dale Chihuly will be returning to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens. It will be the artist's third project at Fairchild.
- Mr. Jensen reported that Commissioner Levine Cava chose for her first site visit Farm Life School which is trying to develop a food institute. He also congratulated Ms. Andersen and the staff on their work on accessibility issues.

Former Councilor Dwayne Wynn thanked the Council for the work that they are doing and said that he was proud to have been a part of it.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Landreth