

Memorandum



Date: December 17, 2014

To: Members, Cultural Affairs Council

From: Michael Spring, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Spring". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Subject: Facilities Updates: African Heritage Cultural Arts Center
Joseph Caleb Auditorium
Miami-Dade County Auditorium
South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

As a result of Mayor Gimenez' re-organization of County government and beginning in 2012, the Department of Cultural Affairs has been responsible for managing the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, Joseph Caleb Auditorium, and Miami-Dade County Auditorium. The Department managed the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center through design and construction and programmed and operated the Center since its opening in 2011.

The management and operation of these cultural facilities supports the overall mission of the Department, specifically to:

- 1) Strengthen and advance the work of our local non-profit cultural organizations and artists; and
- 2) Increase audience participation in the arts.

Assessment of the Facilities Capital Needs

Since taking on the responsibility of managing the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, Joseph Caleb Auditorium, and Miami-Dade County Auditorium, the Department has focused on assessing the capital needs of each facility and launching new mission-driven programming initiatives. These three facilities need significant work to repair and/or replace basic functional building systems, upgrade theater and sound and communications equipment, and modernize its architecture, including building signage, facades and audience and performer accommodations. To this end, the Department worked with the Internal Services Department to implement a competitive process to select a team of architects, engineers (A/E) and specialty consultants to conduct a comprehensive assessment of these items and to prioritize and cost the recommendations to improve each facility. While this work is expected to take some time to accomplish, modest upgrades and routine maintenance are being performed with the goal of improving the staff, user, and patron experience.

Rodriguez and Quiroga Architects Chartered has provided their findings for the first phase of the work including the assessment of each facility and an order of magnitude cost estimate for the improvements. The Department has provided comments and has begun to prioritize the list of work. Life safety issues and major building systems such as HVAC, roofing, and electrical systems are being prioritized.

It should be noted that each facility has Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond (BBC-GOB) funds available to begin this work, but costs for the planned improvements exceed the BBC-GOB funds currently allocated. Improvements will be phased while additional funding is sought.

- African Heritage Cultural Arts Center: \$1.0 million
- Joseph Caleb Auditorium: \$1.4 million (balance remaining)
- Miami-Dade County Auditorium: \$4.0 million

African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center (AHCAC) complex includes a black box theater, a music building with a concert hall, piano lab and several practice rooms, a dance studio that is accessible to individuals with disabilities, an art gallery, several studio spaces, a print shop and classrooms. It has a distinguished history of providing instruction in the arts in all artistic disciplines to youth through after school, school break academies and summer school programs. Its work continues to develop the next generation of artists and arts supporters. In addition, the Center serves as an incubator for supporting and developing the work of African-American arts groups and artists through its black-box theater, rehearsal spaces and art gallery. The Center also serves as a welcoming place to the surrounding community, hosting evening classes and civic meetings.

The following is a summary of activity at the AHCAC:

	<u>FY 2014-2015 to date</u>	<u>November</u>
Total number of students registered:	99	127
Number of arts production rentals:	6	5
Number of community rentals:	23	25
Number of arts groups using the Center:	19	19
Number of civic meetings:	17	24
Number of tours and outreach:	5	6

Program highlights and rentals for November

- The John S. and James L Knight Foundation, as part of their Knight Arts Challenge, has awarded African Heritage Cultural Arts Center (AHCAC) a generous \$75,000.00 grant in support of Sankofa. Sankofa (from the Akan language of Ghana meaning “Looking Back, Going Forward”) is a year-long series of events, performances, and educational workshops, recognizing and celebrating the talented performers, instructors and community leaders who have grown up in and contributed so importantly to the development and creativity of young people in the inner city.
- The After School Arts Academy program is currently in its 2nd 8 week session for this fiscal year 2014-15. Registration has increased to a total of 127 students; it operates from 2:00 PM to 6:30 PM. This session concludes on December 17th with a showcase of the students’ acquired skills.
- The Winter Arts Workshop is scheduled for December 22 through January 2. This two week long multi-arts program provides 6 classes per day for students ages 5 through 16. The participating students will give a performance on the final day to demonstrate their acquired knowledge and the development of their artistic abilities.
- The Amadlozi Gallery with the assistance of Brandi Reddick (Art in Public Places) selected a jury for the Center arts exhibitions for the 2014-15 year. Additionally, the Amadlozi Gallery will be hosting the visual art resident group, Kuumba Collective’s annual exhibits.
- The AHCAC apprenticeship groups; Winds of Heritage Dance Company and Voices of Heritage are scheduling their auditions and finalizing dates for in-house performances/exhibits as well as tours.
- The evening programs consist of resident artists and community residents using the spaces for meetings, rehearsals, and classroom training for youths and/or adults in dance, theater, visual arts, ceramics, etc. Rentals also activate the Center during the weekends.
- Regarding collaborations, the Center continues to work with Orchestra Miami and Miami Children’s Initiative in providing classical training in the arts for students 7 years old and up. Orchestra Miami has created a free music program open to students interested in the After School Arts Academy and in becoming part of an opera production. Forty-nine students are currently enrolled in the program.

- The AHCAC children had an opportunity to work with the Zot Arts program on November 21st, which was followed by a teacher workshop on the next day. The students enjoyed making the designs with their teachers and painted their very own work of art on a giant canvas covering the floor. They created all their patterns for their art work and were able to take home a smaller version of their community mural. The children ranged from 5 to 16 years of age.
- The AHCAC has started a program at Liberty City Elementary School offering after school arts activities for kindergarten through 5th grade students. AHCAC staff is providing instructional classes in dance, chorus, creative dramatics, and instrumental music at the school.
- The Center is investigating the possibility of working with The Center for Social Change with a grant that they initiated to bring additional 2 part time staff to serve as coaches. The coaches will aid the students with the social and academic development and assist our instructional staff in classroom management.
- Center staff member Ashlee Thomas met with the company Braingrove to discuss and utilize their online system to help us acquire assessment data on our students. This will allow the Center to follow the students' growth and development throughout their matriculation through the program.
- In regard to marketing initiatives, the Kuumba Arts Workshop flier is ready for print and email. The social media calendar and new website are being developed.
- As a part of Sankofa: Celebrating 40 years of Service, Aramis O'Reily, Artist & Professor at the New World School of the Arts, is curating the Black History Month Art Exhibition. The first two events will start on January 23, 2015; the opening of the Black History Month Exhibition and the Club Night Series featuring Courtney Mickens AHCAC alumni to be held at the Center.
- At the present time Ms. Thomas is starting the apprenticeship booklet for the Sankofa events. The Knight Arts Challenge winners were posted on social media and updated on the website. Walmart, Price Choice and Winn Dixie are being approached as potential sponsors for the forty year anniversary.
- A call to artists was issued through the Art in Public Places program for the design of the Center's marquee and 65 responses were received. A short list of artists was recommended to develop project proposals.

For more information on the Center's events and offerings, please visit the Center's website at www.ahcacmiami.org.

Joseph Caleb Auditorium

The Joseph Caleb Auditorium is a 962-seat theater that has been the gathering place in the Liberty City community for the performing arts for more than 36 years. The Auditorium has featured concerts, community forums, movie screenings and productions by community arts organizations throughout the year. It is still anticipated that the parking lot serving the Auditorium and the adjoining Caleb Center office complex will be closed to prepare the site for construction of a new parking garage. The public art funds generated by the parking garage project will be used to have an artist design a prominent and attractive "connection" between the new garage and the Auditorium.

With the loss of parking resulting from the beginning of construction of the parking garage for the Caleb Center, the Department has launched a plan that converts the Caleb Auditorium into a venue for school field trip performances. This has the benefits of: 1) providing more students with opportunities to experience the arts; 2) offering opportunities for local arts organizations to develop and present programs designed for children; and 3) introducing arts organizations and artists to the Caleb Auditorium so that when the parking situation is resolved, they can use the theater for evening performances. Ultimately, the goal for the Joseph Caleb Auditorium is to continue the field trip program and also to program the theater proactively with

prominent arts groups and artists to re-establish its reputation for artistic excellence, diversity and community outreach.

Attendance to date at the Joseph Caleb Auditorium for FY2014-15 is 17,315.

Attending Schools in November:

1.	Biscayne Gardens Elementary School	40.	Coral Reef Elementary School
2.	George Washington Carver	41.	Fairlawn Elementary School
3.	Kendale Lakes Elementary School	42.	Fulford Elementary School
4.	Madie Ives Community Elementary School	43.	Greynolds Park Elementary School
5.	Maya Angelou Elementary School	44.	Gulfstream Elementary School
6.	Miami Gardens Elementary School	45.	Hialeah Elementary School
7.	Nathans B. Young Elementary School	46.	John I. Smith K-8 Center
8.	Miami Springs Elementary School	47.	Lakeview Elementary School
9.	North Glades Elementary School	48.	Meadowlane Elementary School
10.	Norwood Elementary School	49.	Miami Gardens Elementary School
11.	Charles David Wyche, Jr. Elementary	50.	Miami Shores Elementary School
12.	Dr. Carlos J. Finlay Elementary School	51.	Miami Springs Elementary School
13.	Irving & Beatrice Peskoe K-8 Center	52.	Morningside K-8 Academy
14.	Ludlam Elementary School	53.	Phillis Wheatley Elementary School
15.	Marjory Stoneman Douglas Elementary	54.	Natural Bridge Elementary School
16.	Village Green Elementary School	55.	Norma Butler Bossard Elementary
17.	West Homestead Elementary School	56.	Ojus Elementary School
18.	William Lehman Elementary	57.	Oliver Hoover Elementary School
19.	Bob Graham Education Center	58.	Palm Lakes Elementary School
20.	Bunche Park Elementary School	59.	Carrie P. Meek/ Westview K-8 Center
21.	Citrus Grove Elementary School	60.	Myrtle Grove K-8 Center
22.	Coral Gables Preparatory Academy	61.	Poinciana Park Elementary School
23.	Franaces S. Tucker Elementary School	62.	Royal Palm Elementary School
24.	Hubert O. Sibley K-8 Center	63.	Seminole Elementary School
25.	Mae M. Walters Elementary School	64.	South Hialeah Elementary School
26.	North Miami Elementary School	65.	Zora Neale Hurston Elementary School
27.	Rainbow Park Elementary School	66.	Pine Villa Elementary School
28.	Shadowlawn Elementary School	67.	Pinecrest Elementary School
29.	Village Green Elementary School	68.	Redondo Elementary School
30.	Dr. Henry E. Perrine Academy of the Arts	69.	Spanish Lake Elementary School
31.	Linda Lentin k-8 Center	70.	Twin lakes Elementary School
32.	Miami Heights Elementary School	71.	Coconut Palm K-8 Center
33.	Riverside Elementary School	72.	Claude Pepper Elementary School
34.	Santa Clara Elementary School	73.	Barbara Hawkins Elementary School
35.	Winston Park K-8 Center	74.	Eneida Massas Hartner Elementary
36.	Ada Merrit K-8 Center	75.	Edison Park K-8 Center
37.	Benjamin Franklin K-8 Center	76.	David Fairfield Elementary School
38.	Brentwood Elementary School	77.	Crestview Elementary School
39.	Charles David Wyche, Jr. Elementary School	78.	Coconut Groves Elementary School

Events for the month of November:

- November 2, 2014 – Souls to The Polls Presented by A. Phillip Randolph Institute
- November 5, 2014 – *Junie B. Jones* Presented by Theatreworks USA
- November 10, 2014 – John Tartaglia’s *Imagin Ocean* presented by the Brad Simon Organization
- November 12-14, 2014 – Never Everglades presented by the Fantasy Theatre Factory
- November 18, 2014 – Joseph Caleb garage groundbreaking ceremony

Miami-Dade County Auditorium

Miami-Dade County Auditorium (MDCA) offers three dynamic presentation styles:

1. A 2,372-seat theatre that can host major dance, theatre and music performances;
2. A “Mid-Stage” theatre which can accommodate up to 450 patrons is well-suited for small concerts, dance and theatre presentations, giving mid-sized organizations an ideal setting to showcase their work; and
3. A 250-seat “On.Stage Black Box” theatre in which both the audience and performers share the stage of the Auditorium which is adapted into an innovative studio theatre for more intimate and often, cutting edge shows.

Since the theatre opened its doors in 1951, it has served as the center for showcasing the diversity of our cultural life and most recently, as a hub for celebrating the Hispanic arts community.

The Department has launched a program to establish co-presenting partnerships with non-profit cultural organizations that can present performances on the main stage, mid-stage and in the black box configuration and begin to establish an artistic reputation for the theatre which will encourage more use and presentations of higher artistic quality. Partner organizations include Fundarte, the Rhythm Foundation, Tigertail, the Performing Arts Series presented by Miami Dade College and Teatro Avante. This program also has the benefit of helping to develop Hispanic audiences for some of our community’s premiere cultural organizations. In addition, the Auditorium has restructured its staff and policies in order to attract more uses of the facility.

The following is a summary of activity at MDCA:

	<u>FY 2014-2015</u>	<u>November 2014</u>
Number of Events:	31	16
Attendance:	12,965	4,210

Program highlights and rentals for November

- MDCA and FundArte teamed up to bring to Miami internationally renowned Chilean theatre group Teatro En El Blanco. They performed their latest offering, the critically acclaimed, *La Reunion* in the On.Stage Black Box over 2 evenings. The group also conducted a master class with local theatre artists.
- Tigertail celebrated their yearly fundraiser at MDCA for the third year in a row. This year’s theme was Beauty and the Beast.
- MDCA and FundArte co-presented (for the second year in a row) Casa Patas. Casa Patas is recognized internationally for its traditional form of Tablao and was named a cultural patrimony by UNESCO. This year’s presentation *Flamenco de Plomo y Cobre*

marked the opening of the Mid-Stage Theatre series. The group also offered a master class open to local dancers.

- MDCA and WDNA partnered to present the first of what will be a yearly series: An Evening with NEA Jazz Masters. For this first outing, multiple Grammy Winner Paquito D’Rivera packed the house.

MDCA events during this month garnered wide media coverage. This included feature newspaper articles in El Nuevo Herald, The Miami Herald, Diario Las Americas, among others.

MDCA is currently working with Matrix 2 on the development of its website.

South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

The South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC) is a multidisciplinary arts center designed by Arquitectonica International, Inc. to showcase the performing arts. The Center’s 961-seat state-of-the-art Theater Building includes a fly tower, orchestra pit, front of house spaces (box office, lobby, restrooms, concessions, etc.), back of house support spaces (dressing rooms, storage and work areas, administrative offices, etc.) and a multi-purpose rehearsal space. The separate Activities Building houses an informal performance space, and smaller multi-purpose spaces for lectures, classes, or community gatherings. The Center’s two buildings are joined by an outdoor promenade leading to a gently-sloping lawn for outdoor concerts and festivals along the Black Creek Canal.

Through Miami-Dade County’s Art in Public Places Program, the Center has major public art works created by Miami artist Robert Chambers. An innovative light piece illuminates the translucent inner lobby wall with changing light designs created by computer-programmed LED fixtures. In addition, the lobby features two marble sculptures also created by Robert Chambers.

The following is a summary of activity at SMDCAC:

	FY 2014-2015 to date	November 2014
SMDCAC Presents:	24	16
Number of rentals:	80	53
Attendance:	12,593	6,976

Events presented by the Center for the month of December include:

- The Nutcracker by Miami Youth Ballet (December 6)
- Handel’s Messiah (December 21)

Rentals for the month of December include:

- Thomas Armour Youth Ballet (every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday)
- The Nutcracker by Miami Youth Ballet (December 5)
- New Theatre’s The Gospel According to Jerry (December 5-14)
- Pinecrest Holiday Show (December 8 and 15)
- Somerset Holiday Show (December 9-10)
- The Nutcracker by Artistic Dance (December 12-13)
- Greater Miami Youth Symphony Winter Concert (December 14)
- SMDCAC and Miami Youth Ballet partnered to provide a FREE contemporary dance class open to the community on Saturday, November 22.

So far this season (the season began October 1, 2014) the Center's volunteer program has saved the County \$7,085.

For a complete listing of upcoming shows and events, please visit the Center's website, www.smdcac.org.

Attachments

Miami - Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs

KUUMBA WINTER ARTS

DEC 22ND - JAN 2ND TIME: 7:30AM - 6:30PM

6161 NW 22nd Avenue Miami, FL 33142

The **Kuumba Winter Arts Program** is a 2 week program that allows youth, ages 5-16, to explore the **rich cultural heritage** of the African Diaspora in the US & the Globe. Students take 5 classes per day including dance, theater, instrumental music, vocal music, and visual arts. The program culminates in a showcase for families and friends! Quality Instruction & Supervision. **Register now!**

Contact us for more details!

www.ahcacmiami.org

E: ahcac@miamidade.gov

Tel: (305) 638 -6771



AFRICAN HERITAGE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

Miami - Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs

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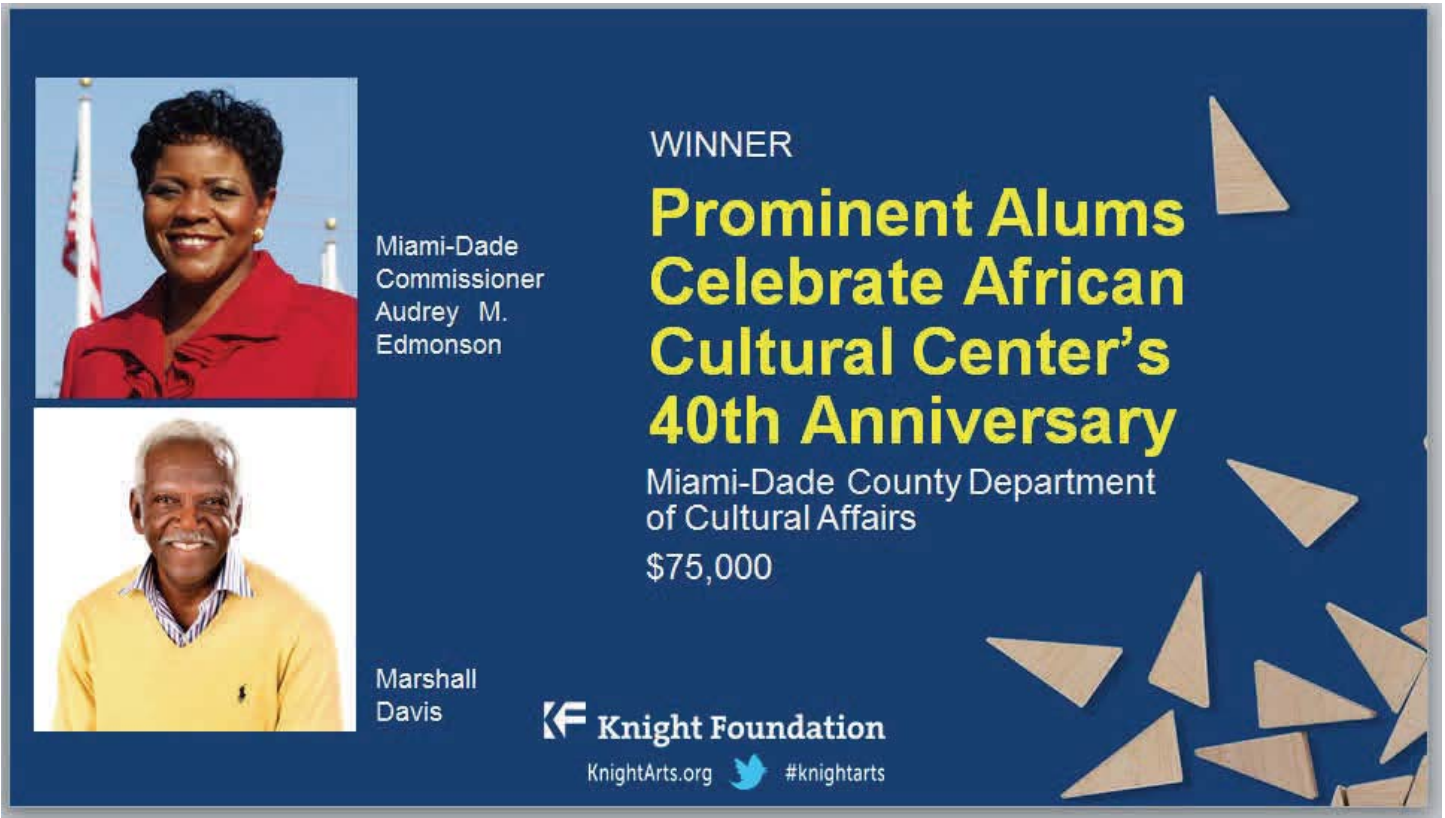
Tel: (305) 638 -6771 E: ahcac@miamidade.gov



ahcacmiami.org

AFRICAN HERITAGE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

It is policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of Americans with Disability Act. The facility is accessible. To request materials in accessible format and/or accommodation to attend an event at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, please contact Gloria Wilkins at 305-638-6771 or ahcac@miamidade.gov, at least five days in advance to initiate your request. TTY users may also call 711 (Florida Relay Service).



A promotional graphic for the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center's 40th Anniversary. The background is dark blue with several light-colored triangles scattered on the right side. On the left, there are two portrait photos: the top one is of Audrey M. Edmonson, Miami-Dade Commissioner, wearing a red jacket; the bottom one is of Marshall Davis, wearing a yellow sweater. To the right of the photos, the text reads: "WINNER Prominent Alums Celebrate African Cultural Center's 40th Anniversary Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs \$75,000". At the bottom, the Knight Foundation logo is displayed with the website "KnightArts.org" and the hashtag "#knightarts".

WINNER

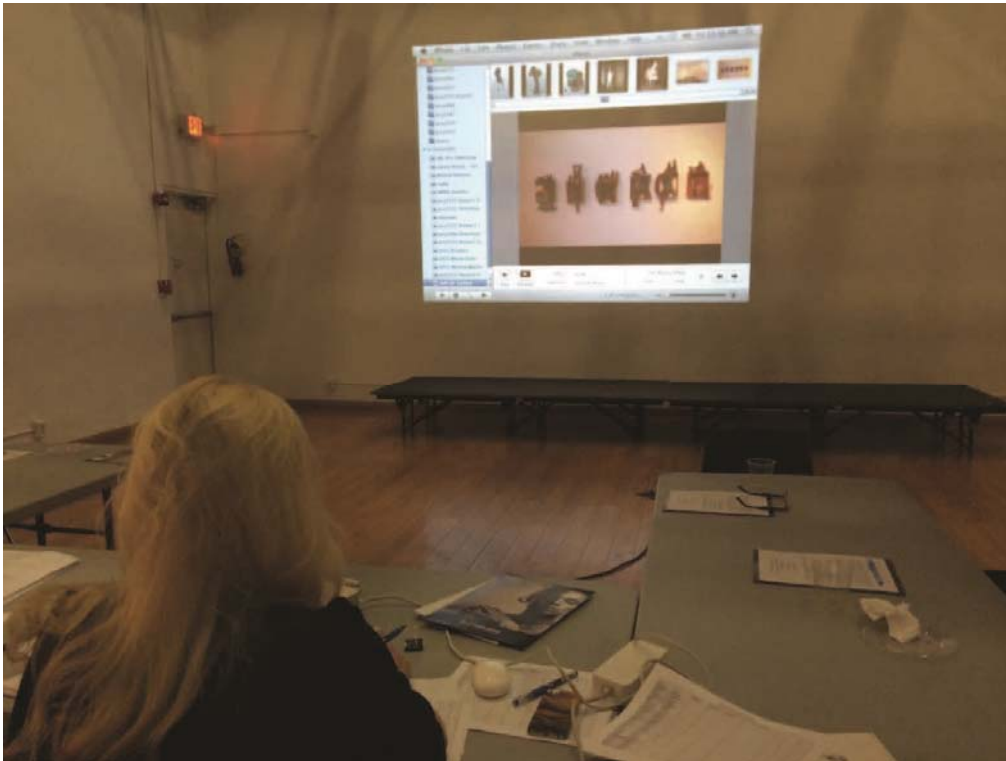
Prominent Alums Celebrate African Cultural Center's 40th Anniversary

Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs
\$75,000

Miami-Dade Commissioner
Audrey M. Edmonson

Marshall Davis

KF Knight Foundation
KnightArts.org #knightarts



In November a jury met at the Center to evaluate over 85 artists who submitted for the upcoming 2015 exhibition season. The jury included Aramis O'Riley (Artist, NWSA Professor), Adler Guerrier (Artist) and Maria Ortiz (Curator, PAMM).



In November, all the students in our aftercare school program had an opportunity to experience the very popular ZOT ARTZ workshop!





Junie B. Jones (November 5)



Never Everglades (November 12-14)



John Tartaglia's *Imagin Ocean* (November 10)



Joseph Caleb garage groundbreaking ceremony (November 18)



About 40 local theatre artists took part of a Master Class conducted by Chile's Teatro en el Blanco. (Nov.4-2014)



Beauties and Beasts came out to party with TigerTail for their yearly fundraiser. (Nov.8-2014)



Casa Patas performed in our Mid-Stage Theatre. (Nov.9-2014)



Jazz master Paquito D'Rivera. (Nov.15-2014)



Flamenco demonstration for Senior Citizens (November 14)



TU Dance demonstration at INKUB8 (November 5)



Honey Shine arts day at South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (November 22)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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AFRICAN HERITAGE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER'S YEAR-LONG "SANKOFA" CELEBRATION MARKS

40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AND ACCOMPLISHMENT

With Generous Support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

(MIAMI, December 2, 2014) - To commemorate its 40th anniversary, African Heritage Cultural Arts Center (AHCAC) is presenting "**Sankofa: Looking Back, Going Forward.**" *Sankofa* is a year-long series of events, performances, and educational workshops, recognizing and celebrating the talented performers, instructors and community leaders who have grown up in and contributed so importantly to the development and creativity of young people in the inner city.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, as part of its Knight Arts Challenge, has awarded AHCAC a generous grant in support of *Sankofa* (from the Akan language of Ghana meaning "Looking Back, Going Forward") to honor the past and celebrate the present by reconnecting established artists with the AHCAC that fueled and fomented their training and careers. "The Center has produced a wealth of phenomenal talent and we're excited to have our alumni engage and inspire the next generation," said Marshall Davis, Managing Director of AHCAC.

The Knight Foundation's Knight Arts Challenge aims to bring South Florida together through the arts. "The cities that are the most vibrant are those where every person considers themselves a creative being," said Dennis Scholl, vice president of arts for Knight Foundation. "With Sankofa, some of our community's most accomplished artists will help show the way for our youth."

“For four decades, the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center has served as a nucleus of arts learning, training and access for children in Liberty City; now, thanks to the Knight Arts Challenge award, our renowned alumni are returning to encourage those following in their footsteps to become the brilliant artists of tomorrow,” said Michael Spring, Senior Advisor to the Mayor and Director of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs.

Upcoming *Sankofa* event highlights include:

- **The Sankofa Gala, April 25, 2015:** the opening celebration of the 40th anniversary year, coordinated in conjunction with Black History Month, celebrating 40 years of artistic service to the community and recognizing outstanding leaders who have been integral to the AHCAC’s success.
- **The Amadlozi Gallery Exhibitions, (January 23 – March 2015):** a guest-curated series of exhibitions and scholarly presentations featuring local, national, and alumni artists.
- **Jazz Spring Fest, May 9, 2015:** a live music event featuring luminary teachers and alumni Melton Mustafa, Shareef Clayton, and Willerm Delisfort, among others, including pre-Jam workshops with the artists for local musicians and community.

To learn more about *Sankofa*, please contact Marshall Davis at 305-638-6771/ahcac@miamidade.gov or visit www.ahcacmiami.org.

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The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, part of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, was founded in 1975 to serve as the nesting ground for emerging talent in the performing and visual arts in the heart of Liberty City. The Center provides quality instruction, inspiration and encouragement to young people within the community, and creates a means through which youth can discover their artistic talents. For more information about the program, upcoming events, or the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, call (305) 638-6771 or email: ahcac@miamidade.gov. You can also visit our website at www.ahcacmiami.org.

John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities and foster the arts. We believe that democracy thrives when people and communities are informed and engaged. For more, visit www.knightfoundation.org

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