

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

December 19, 2018

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

Members Present

Xavier Cortada, Chairman
Alejandro Aguirre
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez
Sandra Curbelo
Susana Ibargüen
Denise Gerson
Adolfo Henriques
Brian May
Cheryl Rees
Janá Sigars-Malina
Monty Trainer

Members Not Present

Mitchell Bierman
Phyllis Simpkins
Rosa Sugrañes
Justin Trieger

Others Present:

Dimarco Barea

Staff

Michael Spring, Director
Marialaura Leslie, Deputy Director
Kelly Allocco
Francine Andersen
Roxana Barba
Stefania Barigelli
Christina Beauvoir
Nikenna Benjamin
Sue Camp
Tania Centeno
Marshall Davis
Eric Fliss
Liliana Hernandez-Constenla

Staff (continued)

Gilda Mooney
Steven Padilla
Alex Peraza
Adriana Perez
Dana Pezoldt
Patricia Romeu
Amanda Sanfilippo
Lisa Thompson
Pamela Valles
Graham Winick

Chairman Xavier Cortada called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

INTRODUCTION NEW CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman Cortada welcomed and introduced new Cultural Affairs Council members. Ms. Cheryl Rees is the Senior Vice President and Director of Marketing, Ocean Bank. Prior to joining Ocean Bank in 2007, Ms. Rees served as senior vice president at Regions Bank, a position she held for nine years. She also held a position with Barnett Bank. Mr. Brian May is a Partner with Floridian Partners and spent a decade working in government and politics. Mr. May served as Chief of Staff and key strategist for former Miami-Dade Mayor Alex Penelas and served U.S. Senator Bill Nelson in similar positions throughout the Senator's career dating back to 1994.

Ms. Rees stated that she is deeply honored to serve on the Cultural Affairs Council. She is familiar with the arts from the private sector standpoint and is eager to learn and become familiar with the arts and cultural sector from the public sector perspective.

Mr. May thanked Chairman Cortada and stated that he is eager to learn more about the arts. He looks forward to public service as part of the Cultural Affairs Council.

Cultural Affairs Council members present introduced themselves and welcomed the new Council members.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for December 19, 2018

Requests for excused absences for Mitchell Bierman, Rosa Sagrañes and Justin Triegeer were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

Approval of November 14, 2018 Minutes

The minutes of the November 14, 2018 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Curbelo)

FY 2018-2019 Community Grants Program – Second Quarter Recommendations

Mr. Graham Winick reported that the Community Grants program is designed to be responsive on a quarterly basis to non-profit organizations developing small to medium scale community-based cultural programs, projects and events, such as fairs, parades, neighborhood festivals, conferences and publications. This program is particularly appropriate for projects which encourage the preservation of heritage and cultural traditions, and social service organizations and cultural groups developing collaborative intervention projects.

Mr. Winick reported that the FY 2018-2019 Community Grants program panel chaired by Councilor Janá Sigars-Malina convened on November 15, 2018 to review 30 grant applications requesting \$247,300 for the Second Quarter of the program. Eight panelists reviewed the 30 applications, out of which 7 were first-time applicants to the program. The Panel recommended funding 30 applicants for a total of \$170,000.

The following Council members declared conflicts of interest and abstained from voting on the following:

Mr. Bierman – Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of the Miami Beach Urban Studios

Mr. Cortada – Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of the Miami Beach Urban Studios

Mr. Henriques – Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of the Miami Beach Urban Studios

Mr. Trainer - Rotary Foundation of South Miami, Inc.

Mr. Bierman - Village of Pinecrest

Mr. Cortada - Village of Pinecrest

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

4Ward Miami, Inc.	\$5,198
After School Film Institute, Inc.	\$5,198
Baba Collective, Inc.	\$5,198
Brazilian Voices, Inc.	\$3,396
Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education, Inc.	\$10,394
Children's Hope Chest of Dreams, Inc.	\$5,198
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Parade and Festivities Committee, Inc.	\$10,394
Evolutionary Arts Life Foundation, Inc.	\$5,198
Florida Shakespeare Theater, Inc.	\$5,198
Global Arts Project, Inc.	\$5,198
Global Stem Academy, Inc.	\$5,198
Gray Area Collective	\$4,505
IlluminArts, Inc.	\$5,198
Kaleidoscope MusArt, Inc.	\$5,198
Miami Beach Arts Trust, Inc.	\$5,198
Miami Dance Futures, Inc.	\$5,198
Miami International Ballet Competition, Inc.	\$5,198
Miami International Jazz Fest, Inc.	\$5,198
Miami International Science Fiction Film Festival, Inc.	\$5,198
Miami Shores Village	\$5,198
Nigerian American Foundation, Inc.	\$5,198
Power Access, Inc.	\$5,198
Shakespeare Troupe, Inc.	\$5,198
St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc.	\$5,128
The Dance Now! Ensemble, Inc. a/f/a Miami Dance Hub Inc.	\$5,198
Tradisyon Lakou Lakay, Inc.	\$5,198
United Jewish Generations, Inc.	\$5,198

The Panel's recommendation to fund the following organizations, for which there were the above-mentioned Councilors' conflicts of interest and abstention was voted on and passed unanimously as follows:

Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of the Miami Beach Urban Studios	\$4,505
(Motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Ms. Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez)	
Rotary Foundation of South Miami, Inc.	\$10,394
(Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez)	
Village of Pinecrest	\$6,928
(Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)	

Councilor Janá Sigars-Malina joined the meeting at 12:24 p.m.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on the FY 2018-2019 State Arts Budget

Mr. Spring reported that the Division of Cultural Affairs at the state level has completed its review of grant applications and recommended funding grants taking place in fiscal year 19-20 in four categories for a total of \$61 million. Miami-Dade County submitted 144 of those applications for almost \$10 million in the form of grant recommendations. The Florida Cultural Alliance, the state advocacy group, will request that the Governor and state legislature restore and fully fund the \$61 million of recommendations. Last year, funding at the state level was negatively impacted. Chairman Cortada reported that he and Mr. Spring presented at the Dade Delegation public hearing, asking them to help reverse the negative trend in arts funding and spoke on the impact of the arts and culture on the economy.

Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program

Ms. Christina Beauvoir reported that the program is partnering with the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC) to sponsor Dance Theatre of Harlem in January 2019. Tickets were released for sale in November. The program has sold approximately 30% of its ticket allotment. The program is also partnering with the All Kids Included initiative to co-present the international B-Boy dance crew, ILL-Abilities in May 2019 at the All Kids Included Festival. Beber Silverstein Group, the program's public relations agency launched and coordinated a campaign centered around *Holiday Gift of Arts*, where Culture Shock Miami, as well as the Department's mission and cultural facilities were promoted and encouraged Miami-Dade County residents to purchase tickets to cultural events as holiday gifts. In November 2018, 1,070 tickets were sold.

Department Facilities Updates

African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Teddy Harrell, reported on activities at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center. He reported that the Center's youth arts education programs have a total enrollment of 131 students. The programs include the Afterschool Arts Academy, Saturday Arts Workshop, African Heritage Youth Theater, Hands of Vision visual arts, Voices of Heritage choral and Winds of Heritage dance programs. The Center has a new program, the My Life/My Power Prep Academy with 28 students enrolled. Ten students from the Center's afterschool program were recently admitted to the Michael Krop Senior High theater magnet program. Mr. Harrell reported that on December 1, 2018, the Center held the second

annual *Art Blues, Soul & BBQ Festival*. The free, outdoor festival was headlined by Angela Winbush and featured artists Mojo Ike & Val, A. Randolph and The Harden Project.

South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Eric Fliss reported on activities at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center. The Center just kicked off its 8th season with the free outdoor concert, *Backyard Bash* with 1,200 people in attendance. During the month of November, the Center featured a total of 13 *SMDCA Presents* productions and reported that 2,502 patrons visited. Featured performers included Kibbutz Contemporary Dance from Israel, Dimensions Dance Theatre of Miami, *Ballet: Bold and Beautiful* with a pre and post show “Dance Talk” featuring Jordan Levin on November 17 and 18, and Miami Youth Ballet’s *The Nutcracker* on November 28-30, with three days of school performances. He added that during the month of December most of the activity in the facility is related to local schools and dance organizations who rent the theater for holiday productions. SMDCAC partnered with the Town of Cutler Bay for a free “Trick-or-Treat” Halloween event with interactive arts experiences which was well attended. Mr. Fliss presented a marketing video running through the partnership with WSVN. Mr. Fliss reported that Dimensions Dance Theatre was awarded a \$80,000 grant by the Knight Foundation and he was honored to be named a Knight Arts Champion, with the ability to donate \$10,000 to be split by the Miami Youth Ballet and the Carbonell Awards.

Coconut Grove Playhouse

Ms. Spring reported that the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs has received a \$2 million grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to benefit the Coconut Grove Playhouse project. This major gift, announced as part of a new \$37 million investment to support the arts and anchor institutions, allows the Department to maintain high levels of quality designed into the project. Mr. Spring reported the project has now completed three of the four required regulatory steps from the City of Miami with its second appearance before the City’s Planning, Zoning and Appeals Board (PZAB). The PZAB voted to approve the item with an 8-3 supermajority of the members present, as required by code.

Mr. Spring reported that a panel of the Circuit Court Appellate Division ruled in favor of Miami-Dade County in a case regarding the historic preservation approval granted to the County to rehabilitate the Coconut Grove Playhouse and removed the City of Miami’s Commission conditions, thereby restoring the approval by its Historic and Environmental Preservation Board (HEPB). The last step for the project is appearing before the HEPB in February 2019. Mr. Spring noted that the project is on track to be completed before 2022. Construction documents for the project are almost completed, with a bid package for the project ready to be issued in early 2019.

Westchester Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Spring reported the project went out for construction bid and is currently under the Miami-Dade County Cone of Silence. He noted that the Center, which will be located at the Bird Road entrance to Tropical Park, has received several bids which are under review.

Art in Public Places

Ms. Amanda Sanfilippo reported that the Art in Public Places division provided tours during Art Basel, including a HistoryMiami VIP walking tour and a tour of the monumental artworks by Erwin Redl and Tomas Saraceno. The commission, located at the new Royal Caribbean Cruise Line terminal at PortMiami, is Saraceno’s first major public art

installation in the US. It is an extension of the artist's widely-known "Cloud" series. Fringe Projects, a temporary art initiative supported by Art in Public Places hosted a tour of Tschabalala Self's installation at Lee's Oriental Market, a bodega in Downtown Miami. Ms. Sanfilippo reported that four artists have been chosen to be commissioned for the Caribbean Village Housing Development in South Miami-Dade, including Karen Rifas, Magnus Sodamin, Deon Rubi and Christina Pettersson. The artists are all based in Miami-Dade County.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring reported that Cultural Affairs staff hosted a delegation from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) during Miami Art Week. Tony Chaveaux, NEA Deputy Chairman for Programs and Partnerships, and Helen Aguirre Ferre, NEA Director of Strategic Communications and Public Affairs, visited several arts groups and cultural facilities with Chairman Cortada during their three-day visit. Mr. Spring noted that Mary Ann Carter, a Floridian, has been nominated as the in-coming Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. He recognized Councilor Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez for assisting with the tour.
- The Department's initiative, the Miami Emerging Arts Leaders, hosted a session with Bob Lynch, President and CEO of Americans for the Arts. Mr. Lynch spoke on the arts in America and public policy.
- Marshall Davis, the Managing Director of the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, was recognized by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners for his 35 years of public service.
- Miami-Dade County Commissioner Audrey Edmondson has been elected as the new Chair and Commissioner Rebeca Sosa as the new Vice Chair of the Miami-Dade County Commission, effective January 2019.
- He thanked Councilors and reminded the Council that sexual harassment training has upcoming sessions and should be completed.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Mr. Xavier Cortada thanked the Council and staff for their work in making the Miami-Dade County community better and wished everyone a happy holiday.
- Mr. Cortada also reminded Councilors to please get to know their State legislators and begin conversations to advocate for the state arts budget, as the arts is not a partisan issue.
- Ms. Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez attended the Knight Foundation Awards evening at PAMM and commended staff and the Chairman for a great visit with the NEA delegation.
- Ms. Ibarquen noted PAMM has a wonderful artwork by Tschabalala Self of a bodega as part of the collection.
- Ms. Curbelo wished the Council a happy holiday and is looking forward to participating as a grants panelist next year.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina invited the Council to attend the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Chocolate Festival in January and Night Garden on display during the month of December. She also noted that she was inspired and motivated by Bob Lynch's presentation during Miami Art Week.
- Ms. Gerson wished the Council a happy holiday and commended the artwork at the Miami Beach Convention Center. Ms. Gerson stated she will be out-of-town during the months of January and February. She will report back on the status of the arts and new museums in Los Angeles upon her return.
- Mr. May wished the Council happy holidays and thanked the staff for their hard work. He is looking forward to a positive 2019.
- Mr. Trainer reported Dade County Days had a successful kick-off. He invited the Council to join him for Dade County Days on April 3-4, 2019, in Tallahassee.

- Ms. Rees thanked everyone for the warm welcome and is looking forward to working with the Council and staff in 2019.
- Mr. Aguirre thanked the Council and the staff for all the work they have done throughout the year. He noted his sister, Helen Aguirre, was part of the NEA delegation and reported being impressed with the visit. He had the opportunity to have dinner with Mr. Chaveaux who was equally impressed and interested in how the Council get its work done.
- Mr. Henriques was pleased to see the new Miami Beach Convention Center. He was impressed with the flow and accessibility of the Center and was also equally impressed with the artwork. Mr. Henriques commended Mr. Spring for his leadership and work guiding the Coconut Grove Playhouse project.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Liliana Hernandez-Constenla".

Liliana Hernandez-Constenla