

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

**March 20, 2019**

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  
Mitchell Bierman  
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez  
Denise Gerson  
Adolfo Henriques  
Brian May  
Cheryl Rees  
Janá Sigars-Malina  
Rosa Sugrañes  
Monty Trainer  
Justin Trieger

**Members Not Present**

Sandra Curbelo  
Susana Ibargüen  
Phyllis Simpkins

**Others Present:**

Ian Welsch  
Ramis Mercado

**Staff**

Michael Spring, Director  
Marialaura Leslie, Deputy Director  
Kelly Allocco  
Francine Andersen  
Patricia Arbelaez  
Roxana Barba  
Stefania Barigelli  
Christina Beauvoir  
Sue Camp  
Tania Centeno  
Mary-Margaret Dale

**Staff (continued)**

Eric Fliss  
Olga Gonzalez  
Liliana Hernandez-Constenla  
Regla Lee  
Amanda Sanfilippo Long  
David Martinez-Delgado  
Alex Peraza  
Adriana Perez  
Katherine Revell  
Javier Siut  
Graham Winick

Chairman Xavier Cortada called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Chairman Cortada introduced Mr. Ian Welsch, Founder and CEO, and Ramis Mercado, Teaching Artist of The Motivational Edge. Over the last decade, The Motivational Edge has grown into an organization that engages, educates and empowers thousands of under-resourced youth with remarkable success. The organization has a 22,000 square foot facility in Allapattah and is primed and positioned to impact young lives by partnering with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems to identify and work with youth to implement art-based prevention programs with over 200 active students.

## ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

### Requests for Excused Absences for March 20, 2019

Requests for excused absences for Sandra Curbelo and Susana Ibarguen were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

### Approval of February 27, 2019 Minutes

The minutes of the February 27, 2019 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Mr. Henriques)

### FY 2018-2019 Community Grants (CG) Grant Program – Third Quarter Panel Recommendations

Mr. Graham Winick reported that the FY 2018-2019 Community Grants program panel convened on February 21, 2019 to review 24 applications requesting \$192,500.00 for the Third Quarter of the program. The Panel, chaired by Councilor Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, recommended funding 23 applicants for a total of \$140,000.00. 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. Mr. Winick thanked Councilor Chancy-Gonzalez for serving as Panel Chair and Henny Guedes for her assistance with the proceedings.

The following Council member declared a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on the following:

Chairman Cortada – FundArte a/f/a Siren Arts

Chairman Cortada – IKT Miami, Inc.

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

|                                                     |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Ancient Spanish Monastery Foundation, Inc.          | \$4,682  |
| Artefactus Cultural Project, Inc.                   | \$4,215  |
| CACEC, Inc.                                         | \$4,682  |
| Centro Cultural Boliviano Masis, Corp.              | \$7,023  |
| Compositum Musicae Novae, Inc.                      | \$7,023  |
| Cuatrogatos Foundation, Inc. a/f/a Art for Us, Inc  | \$7,023  |
| I Want to Be a Dancer Foundation Inc.               | \$7,023  |
| Indie Pasion Arts & Festivals Inc.                  | \$937    |
| Living Arts Trust, Inc. d/b/a O Cinema a/f/a Arlin  | \$7,023  |
| Magic Slippers Fine Arts Academy, Inc.              | \$2,342  |
| Miami Beach Gay Pride, Inc.                         | \$14,047 |
| Miami Chamber Music Society, Inc.                   | \$7,023  |
| Miami River Fund, Inc.                              | \$7,023  |
| Mud Foundation Inc. a/f/a Digitech & Arts Edu, Inc. | \$3,279  |

|                                                                                  |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Mundo Art, Inc.                                                                  | \$5,619 |
| NAMI Miami-Dade County, Inc.                                                     | \$7,023 |
| National Art Exhibitions of the Mentally Ill, Inc.                               | \$3,747 |
| NWD Projects, Inc.                                                               | \$7,023 |
| The Episcopal Church of the Holy Family, Inc. d/b/a Holy Family Episcopal Church | \$5,619 |
| The Miami Oratorio Society, Inc.                                                 | \$7,023 |
| The Yiddishkayt Initiative, Inc.                                                 | \$6,555 |

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

|                                 |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Fundarte, Inc. a/f/a Siren Arts | \$7,023 |
| IKT Miami, Inc.                 | \$7,023 |

(Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

### **FY 2019-2020 International Cultural Exchange (ICE) Grant Program Guidelines**

The program guidelines for the International Cultural Exchange had no significant changes and were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sagrañes; seconded by Mr. Henriques)

### **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **Update on the FY 2019-2020 State Arts Budget**

Mr. Spring reported staff traveled to Tallahassee, FL to meet with State legislators for Arts and Culture Day. The Florida Division of Cultural Affairs completed its review of grant applications and recommended funding grants for a total of \$61 million. The State arts budget impacts 143 cultural organizations in Miami-Dade County. Mr. Spring added that Governor's budget recommended \$5 million, which was largely based on the previous administration's budget recommendations. The Florida House Committee has initially recommended \$10 million to fund the State arts budget. The recommendation from the Senate Committee is pending. The total State budget is \$88 billion.

#### **Update on the FY 2019-2020 Federal Arts Budget**

Mr. Spring reported that the Administration has recommended the elimination of the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) for the third consecutive year. Congress has responded in a bipartisan manner and has increased the NEA and NEH budget recommendations to \$155 million each. The NEA administers thousands of arts grants and 40% of the overall funding is directed to State Arts Councils.

#### **Audience Mobilization Task Force**

The Council discussed prospects for looking more closely at the ways cultural groups can help mobilize audiences for advocacy, and the tools that could be used to help gauge the impact of the people who are receiving the services of the cultural organizations funded by the Department. Mr. Brian May, Mr. Monty Trainer and Mr. Justin Trieger volunteered to lead the discussions and make recommendations.

## **Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program**

Ms. Christina Beauvoir reported that on February 15th, Culture Shock Miami presented Israeli dance company Mayumna on the main stage of the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC). Culture Shock Miami is also sponsoring two performances, Marthe Redbone's "Bone Hill, The Concert" and "Legally Blonde – The Musical" both at the SMDCAC. To date, 2,105 tickets were sold for the season, representing 85% of available tickets. Beber Silverstein Group, the program's public relations agency, secured a meeting with Florida International University's student media advisor to discuss editorial inclusion in the student newspaper and radio station. Ms. Beauvoir presented photos of the program's Student Council engaged in activities.

## **Department Facilities Updates**

### **South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center**

Mr. Eric Fliss reported that on January 13, the SMDCAC presented a re-creation of Simon & Garfunkel's iconic 1981 concert in New York's Central Park, performed by veteran Broadway singers and entertainers Johnny Rogers and Lee Lessack. The show was followed by the culmination of the Dance Theatre of Harlem's *The Return of the Black Ballerina*, funded a Knight Arts Challenge grant, which featured two sold-out performances, two school shows and 3 community classes. The program also featured four pre- and post-show community talks with Virginia Johnson from the Dance Theatre of Harlem. In the month of February, the Center broke all sales records with the presentation of Flamenco legend Farruquito, The Center continued record-breaking sales with the presentation of *Legally Blonde – The Musical*. In April, the Center will present Broadway's *RENT* and *One Night of Queen* concert.

### **Joseph Caleb Auditorium**

Ms. Pamela Valles reported that the Caleb Cultural Passport is a collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools that services 40,000 students annually. All program activities have shifted to the Miami-Dade County Auditorium during the construction phase that is currently impacting activities at the Joseph Caleb Auditorium. Ms. Valles reported that they have partnered with Fantasy Theatre Factory, Arts Power National Touring Company and Paige Turner Adventures to present programs to public school children throughout the year.

### **Coconut Grove Playhouse**

Mr. Spring reported that the Coconut Grove Playhouse project appeared before the City of Miami Historic and Environmental Preservation Board on March 5, 2019. After a seven-hour public hearing, the Board voted against the application, in a 6-4 vote defying the Board's previous vote in support of the application. The County has appealed the HEPB's decision, and the appeal will be heard at the City of Miami Commission Meeting on April 25, 2019. Mayor Gimenez was concerned that the County was not treated fairly and plans to attend the hearing at the City of Miami. It is important to note that the funding in place for the project, including the Knight Foundation \$2 million gift, is for this specific project.

### **Art in Public Places Update**

Ms. Amanda Sanfilippo Long presented final images of the installation *Space Moving Light* by Tomás Saraceno at Port Miami. The project is a major Art in Public Places collaboration and private-public partnership with Royal Caribbean Cruise Line. Ms. Long presented images for the project *Arcturus*, a large scale-sculpture by artist Mark Dion and Ron Holthuysen, featuring a replica of the ship used in the New York Zoological Society's first oceanic expedition which is being developed by the artist for Port Miami's new Norwegian Cruise Line Terminal B. The IKT – International

Association of Curators of Contemporary Art will host its annual gathering in the U.S. - Miami and Miami Beach - for the first time in the organization's 45-year history on April 11-14, 2019.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring reported that the Council's Budget Task Force will meet after the Cultural Affairs Council meeting to review research and analysis conducted regarding budget recommendations.
- Mr. Spring reported that the Green/Resilience Task Force will reschedule the current meeting in early April. The Task force will coordinate efforts with the County's Office of Resilience, and they will announce major initiatives in April.

## COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez reported she really enjoyed the Council's Budget Retreat and visiting the Sandrell Rivers Theater for the first time.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina invited the Council to attend Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's *Yoga in the Garden* and bromeliad auctions in March.
- Mr. Trieger reported that New World Symphony is wrapping up its programming season. He is headed to Prague for an international convening of arts educators and presenters that use technology in innovative ways.
- Ms. Gerson recommended the Council visit the Freedom Tower to view the multi-media installation and Kislak Gallery collection.
- Mr. Henriques attended the New World Symphony's gala featuring composer John Williams and was impressed by the attendance at the Wallcast. He attended the PAMM Gala and he was happy to see recognition of the significant work done by the Department and the Council. Mr. Henriques commended Mr. Trainer for his work with the Coconut Grove Arts Festival.
- Mr. Aguirre commended Mr. Henriques for his leadership as Chairman of the Cultural Affairs Council for a decade.
- Mr. May recommended the Area Stage production "American Idiot" featuring the music of Green Day.
- Mr. Trainer reported that New World School of the Arts is having a gala and invited Council to attend. He also invited the Council to join him for Dade County Days on April 3-4, 2019, in Tallahassee.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Liliana Hernandez-Constenla