

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

May 17, 2023

A meeting of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council was held at HistoryMiami and online via Zoom.

<p><u>Members Present</u> Brian May, Chairman Sandra Curbelo Adolfo Henriques, Immediate Past Chair Councilwoman Linda Julien Jorge Plasencia Cheryl Rees Janá Sigars-Malina, First Vice Chair Zaba St. George Rosa Sagrañes Monty Trainer</p>	<p><u>Members Not Present</u> Mitchell Bierman Kareem Brantley Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Second Vice Chair Al Dotson, Jr.</p> <p><u>Guests Present</u> Daniel Mannina</p>
<p><u>Staff</u> Michael Spring, Director Marialaura Leslie, Deputy Director Kelly Allocco Francine Andersen Stephanie Antequera Patricia Arbelaez Roxana Barba Stefania Barigelli Nikenna Benjamin Marshall Davis Marie Denis Ivette Dominguez Eric Fliss Bianca Gonzalez Olga Gonzalez Teddy Harrell</p>	<p><u>Staff (continued)</u> Regla Lee Ana Meza Gilda Mooney Carmen Morris Steven Padilla Alex Peraza Adriana Perez Dana Pezoldt Raul Rueda Helen Sanchez Amanda Sanfilippo Long Christina Tassy Geraldine Toussaint Pamela Valles Graham Winick</p>

Cultural Affairs Council Chair Brian May called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed the Cultural Affairs Council and staff. Mr. May noted Councilor Curbelo, Councilor Henriques, and Councilor Sagrañes joined via Zoom.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Approval of April 19, 2023 Minutes

The minutes of the April 19, 2023 Cultural Affairs Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Ms. St. George)

Requests for Excused Absences for May 17, 2023

Requests for an excused absence were submitted by Councilor Mitchell Bierman, Councilor Kareem Brantley, Councilor Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, and Councilor Al Dotson, Jr. (Motion by Ms. St. George; seconded by Mr. Plasencia)

FY 2022-2023 Community Grants (CG) Program Panel Recommendations – Fourth Quarter

Mr. Spring reported that the FY 2022-2023 Community Grants program panel, chaired by Councilor Sandra Curbelo, convened on April 27, 2023, to review 23 applications requesting \$172,500.00 for the Fourth Quarter of the program. The Panel recommended funding 23 applicants for a total of \$123,408.00. The Community Grants Program is responsive on a quarterly basis to organizations which develop small and large-scale community-based programs, projects, events, and publications and is sensitive to the needs of indigenous, cultural neighborhood activities and projects encouraging the preservation of heritage, traditions, and culture.

A motion was made to fund all the of the Panel's recommendations. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Ms. Julien)

Across Missions, Inc.	\$5,444
Aiding-Aids, Inc.	\$5,444
Ayuda, Inc.	\$5,444
Buddy System MIA, Inc.	\$5,444
Creative Media Group, Inc.	\$5,444
Fire Haus Projects, Inc.	\$5,444
Fresh Start of Miami-Dade, Inc.	\$5,444
Friends of the Japanese Garden, Inc. a/f/a Int'l Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring 45, Inc.	\$5,444
Hand2handteam Corp	\$5,444
Instituto de Cultura Peruana, Inc.	\$5,444
Jazz Education Community Coalition, Inc.	\$5,444
Languages Foundation, Inc.	\$5,444
Miami Factory Theater, Inc.	\$5,444
Primer Acto Florida Foundation, Inc.	\$5,444
Rainbow Oasiis, Inc.	\$5,444
South Florida Chamber Ensemble, Inc.	\$5,444
South Florida Educational Development Center, Inc.	\$5,444

The Ancient Spanish Monastery Foundation, Incorporated	\$3,640
The Bright Foundation, Inc.	\$5,444
The Miami Oratorio Society, Inc.	\$5,444
Town of Cutler Bay	\$5,444
Urgent, Inc.	\$5,444
Yiddishkayt Initiative, Inc.	\$5,444

FY 2023-2024 Community Grants (CG) Program Guidelines

Mr. Spring reported there are no substantive changes for the grant program guidelines for the FY 2023-2024 Community Grants (CG) program. He noted the program is keeping the option for virtual programs and events to provide flexibility to arts organizations. The grant program guidelines were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Plasencia; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

FY 2023-2024 Grant Program Panels

Mr. Spring presented the grant panels for the FY 2023-2024 grants cycle. Mr. Spring reported that that the Capital Development (CAP) grant panel will be chaired by Councilor Brantley and the Dance Miami Choreographers (DMC) grant panel will have panelists from outside Miami-Dade County participate. The grant panels were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Ms. St. George)

FY 2023-2024 Festivals and Special Events (FEST) Grants Program Panel Recommendations

Mr. Spring reported that the Festivals and Special Events Grants program panel, chaired by Councilor Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, convened on May 5, 2023, to review 16 applications requesting a total of \$1,670,000. The Panel recommended the Council approve the funding of fifteen 15 grants evaluated through the program's interim cycle process. The Panel also recommended that the Council approve one application, the Prizm Projects, Inc. - Prizm Art Fair, which upon undergoing a comprehensive review, it was determined to qualify for funding should additional funds above and beyond the comprehensive fiscal year program allocation become available. Grant funding recommendations are contingent upon approval of the Department of Cultural Affairs' FY 2023-2024 budget.

Mr. Spring noted that the program is structured with two major categories, cultural organizations and community organizations. Within each of these two categories, the applicant pool is divided into three levels for evaluation. Division A funds organizations with annual project budgets of more than \$1,000,000; Division B funds organizations with budgets between \$400,000-\$999,000 and Division C funds organizations with annual project budgets between \$150,000-\$399,999.

The following Councilors declared conflicts of interest and abstained from voting on the associated organizations:

Adolfo Henriques - Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of the School of Hospitality - South Beach Wine and Food Festival

Councilwoman Linda Julien – Miami Dade College - Miami Book Fair and Miami Dade College - Miami Film Festival

Jorge Plasencia - Miami Dade College - Miami Book Fair and Miami Dade College - Miami Film Festival

Jana Sigars-Malina - Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of the School of Hospitality - South Beach Wine and Food Festival

Monty Trainer - Bayfront Park Management Trust - New Year's Eve Celebration; Coconut Grove Arts and Historical Association - Coconut Grove Arts Festival; Miami Dade College - Miami Book Fair and Miami Dade College - Miami Film Festival

A motion was made to fund all the of the Panel's recommendations subject to Councilors with conflicts abstaining from voting on the applications affected. The Councilors with the above-mentioned conflicts of interest abstained from the voting. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Julien; seconded by Ms. St. George)

4-ward Miami, Inc. - Gay8 Festival

German American Social Club, Inc. - Oktoberfest

Ground Up Music Foundation, Inc. - GroundUp Music Festival

Inffinito Art & Cultural Foundation, Inc. - Brazilian Film Festival

Junior Orange Bowl Committee, Inc. - Jr. Orange Bowl Festival

Miami Beach Gay Pride, Inc. - Miami Beach Gay Pride Festival

Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival

Miami Hispanic Ballet Corp. - International Ballet Festival of Miami

Miami-Broward One Carnival Host Committee, Inc. - Miami Carnival

O Miami, Inc. - O Miami

Prizm Projects, Inc. - Prizm Art Fair

The Panel's recommendations to fund the following organizations, for which there are the above-mentioned conflicts of interest and abstentions from voting, were voted on and passed unanimously as follows:

Bayfront Park Management Trust - New Year's Eve Celebration
(Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Ms. St. George)

Coconut Grove Arts and Historical Association - Coconut Grove Arts Festival
(Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Mr. Plasencia)

Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of the School of Hospitality - South Beach Wine and Food Festival
(Motion by Ms. St. George; seconded by Ms. Julien)

Miami Dade College - Miami Book Fair
Miami Dade College - Miami Film Festival
(Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Ms. St. George)

FY 2023-2024 Hannibal Cox, Jr. (HCJ) Grants Program Panel Recommendations

Mr. Spring reported that the Hannibal Cox Jr. Cultural Grants program panel, chaired by Cultural Affairs Councilor Monty Trainer, convened on May 2, 2023 to review 28 applications requesting a total of \$1,120,000. The panel recommended funding all 28 applications. Councilwoman Linda Julien also served and did an outstanding job on the panel. The Hannibal Cox, Jr. Cultural Grants program provides funding support to mid-sized semi-professional and professional arts, scientific and historical organizations with a full-time presence in Miami-Dade County of presenting, performing or exhibiting a year-round season of cultural activities. The program awards grants to organizations with annual operating budgets of \$100,000 or more and is designed to assist groups in reaching their long-range goals.

The following Councilors declared a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on the associated organizations:

Councilwoman Linda Julien – Miami Dade College - Department of Arts & Philosophy

Jorge Plasencia – Miami Dade College - Department of Arts & Philosophy

Monty Trainer – Miami Dade College - Department of Arts & Philosophy; Miami Short Film Festival, Inc.

A motion was made to fund all the of the Panel's recommendations subject to the Councilors with conflicts abstaining from voting on the applications affected. The Councilors with the above-mentioned conflicts of interest abstained from the voting. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Jana Sigars-Malina; seconded by Ms. Julien)

Arca Images, Inc.

Artefactus Cultural Project, Inc.

Bas Fisher Invitational, Inc.

Bookleggers Library, Inc.

Community Arts and Culture, Inc.

Creation Art Center Corporation
Dimensions Dance Theater of Miami, Inc.
Dimensions Variable, Inc.
Edge Zones, Inc.
El Ingenio Teatro, Inc.
Friends of Chamber Music, Inc.
IlluminArts, Inc.
Karen Peterson and Dancers, Inc.
Kendall Art Center, Inc.
Main Street Players, Inc. d/b/a Main Street Players
Miami Chamber Music Society
Miami Lyric Opera, Inc.
PAXy, Inc.
Peter London Global Dance Company, Inc.
Rise Kern Cultural Productions, Inc.
Saint Martha Concerts and Cultural Affairs, Inc.
Siempre Flamenco, Inc.
Siudy Flamenco Dance Theater
South Florida Friends of Classical Music
The Opera Atelier, Inc.
Women Photographers International Archive

The Panel's recommendations to fund the following organizations, for which there are the above-mentioned conflicts of interest and abstentions from voting, were voted on and passed unanimously as follows:

Miami Short Film Festival, Inc.
(Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Ms. St. George)

Miami Dade College - Department of Arts & Philosophy
(Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Ms. Rees)

FY 2023-2024 Miami Individual Artist (MIA) Grants Program Panel Recommendations

Mr. Spring reported that the Department launched the Miami Individual Artists (MIA) Stipend program in FY 2021-2022 through a \$500,000 one-time grant from the National Endowment for the Arts from its American Rescue Plan allocation. Following the success of the MIA Program, Miami-Dade County established a grant program to recognize and support the contributions being made by Miami-Dade's diverse and outstanding professional artists of all artistic disciplines. For the FY 2023-24 Miami Individual Artists Program the Department was able to direct \$1.5 million in funding approved by the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners for the program and encouraged artists in all disciplines to apply. The program received a total of 572 applications and 309 professional artists were recommended for funding by the discipline-based grant panels through a competitive process. Artists were evaluated based on evidence of the work samples submitted, artist bios and work history. Program applicants are required to be working professional artists who have created a recognized body of work over a sustained period and pursue this work as a means of livelihood, must be a legal, full-time resident of Miami-Dade County, and must have resided and worked in Miami-Dade County for at least one year. Grant awards range from \$3,400 to \$10,000. Mr. Spring presented the list of recommended grant recipients and reported that an analysis demonstrates that every artistic discipline and every County Commission district were well represented in the list of award recipients. There was a discussion about the importance of engaging County Commissioners and communicating the availability of grant programs. Mr. Spring noted that the Department promoted the program through several communications and outreach channels, shared information via the Departmental newsletter as well as social media. The Department also partnered with community and service organizations that work closely with individual artists and specific disciplines to promote the program.

A motion was made to fund all the of the Panels' recommendations and was approved unanimously (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Mr. Plasencia)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on FY 2023-2024 County Arts Budget

Ms. Spring reported that Department staff has submitted the request for additional funds recommended by the Council at the Annual Planning and Budget Retreat to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Currently the OMB is reviewing all County department budget submissions internally. The Mayor has noted that she is aware of the Departmental budget staffing requests. The narrative section for the Budget Book is being finalized now and Departmental staff are reviewing it. It is possible that by the June Cultural Affairs Council meeting staff will have a better idea if the additional revenues will be allocated to fill the budget gap, as well as provide an increase to meet the documented need in the Departmental budget. Mr. Spring noted that at that at this time Bed Taxes are

up significantly and Property Taxes are expected to reflect an increase when they are announced in June. The Mayor will release the proposed budget and the Commission will set the millage rates in July as part of the budget process. Department staff will update the Cultural Affairs Council as soon as they are notified about a budget recommendation. Mr. Spring added that three of the Department's positions were approved as "overages" in the last month – a Gallery Manager at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, an Art in Public Places Construction Projects Manager, and a Cultural Affairs Projects Administrator to be a grant manager for the expanding programs. In addition, Mr. Spring noted that the Countywide Infrastructure Investment Program created five years ago by the Budget Office to address maintenance of County facilities is being used to address much needed maintenance and updates at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, Miami-Dade County Auditorium, the Joseph Caleb Auditorium and the Dennis C. Moss Center. At this time all of the Department's projects are active projects and moving forward.

Art in Public Places Update

Ms. Amanda Sanfilippo Long reported on the completion of public art commissions at Gallery on the River, a campus of affordable housing for seniors located at 401 NW North River Drive on the Miami River. Luis Gispert's artwork "Problems and Solutions" is a two-dimensional painting located at the exterior of the facility and is inspired by Hip Hop. Artwork by Molly Aubry called "Bioluminescent Portals" is located inside the lobby and is integrated into the walls. Anastasia Samoylova's photograph series "Miami River, Florida Series" features original photographs taken on the Miami River. Artwork by Franky Cruz, "Between Destiny and a Hard Place," is an exterior sculpture with an integrated watering system for watering the plants. The artist call was open to visual artists or artist-led teams based in South Florida.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Spring announced that the longtime Art in Public Places Trust Chair, Sandy-Jo Gordon passed away unexpectedly. Ms. Gordon was Trust Chair since 2014. Staff is working on a way to acknowledge all of her enormous contributions to the Art in Public Places Trust and will associate her legacy with one or more of the works in the collection.
- Mr. Spring announced the passing of Maggie Pelleya, Station Manager for WDNA. It is a big loss for the cultural community. Ms. Pelleya successfully sustained a public radio station that has been the flag bearer for jazz and new music with grace and immense talent. The Department worked closely with her to help WDNA purchase the Coral Way station headquarters and this year was able to provide \$100,000 for mortgage reduction.

- Mr. Spring noted that for the time being Cultural Affairs Council meetings will continue to be held at 10 a.m. Councilors were surveyed, and the majority preferred to keep it at the current meeting time.
- Mr. Spring reported that the Florida State legislature approved a little over \$43 million dollars for the state arts grants this year. It is an amazing number for arts grants in the state. The budget is pending review by the Governor. Miami-Dade County cultural organizations are recipients of 20% of the state's cultural grant funds, which is roughly \$8 million funds benefiting local cultural organizations.
- Mr. Spring reported that regarding the Coconut Grove Playhouse, Miami-Dade County is working through the County Attorney's Office and filed an appeal with the Circuit Court on May 10, 2023. This appeal provided an account of the unfair treatment that the City of Miami's Planning, Zoning and Appeals Board (PZAB) demonstrated at their March 15, 2023 meeting in voting to uphold an appeal of the County's demolition waiver. The appeal also detailed the reasons that the Court should overturn the PZAB's unsupported and erroneous decision. There is no timetable for the Circuit Court, but prior cases all won by Miami-Dade County have taken approximately one year to go through the process.
- Mr. Spring reminded Councilors that their source of income statements are due to the Elections Department by July 1st. Department staff can submit the filled-out forms on Councilors' behalf.
- Ms. Leslie thanked the staff who joined via Zoom. She welcomed guest Daniel Mannina from The Children' Trust who also joined the meeting via Zoom.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Councilor St. George has been conducting site visits for the Youth Arts Miami panel. She is happy to participate on the panel and to have the opportunity to learn more about these organizations.
- Councilor Curbelo stated that there was a great turnout for the Community Grants fourth quarter panel meeting and was happy to be part of it.
- Councilor Sigars-Malina reported that Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens is hosting the Bacon and Barbecue Classic on June 10.
- Councilwoman Julien reported that she has been receiving information from numerous arts organizations and is planning to visit many of them.
- Councilor Henriques thanked Mr. Spring for his efforts and perseverance regarding the Coconut Grove Playhouse project. He is confident it will happen due to Mr. Spring's efforts.

- Councilor Sugrañes reported that she was happy to join the meeting via Zoom from Barcelona, Spain.
- Councilor Trainer reported that he is very proud to participate in grants panels and he continues to learn something new every time he participates. He finds it a rewarding experience.
- Chairman May stressed to the Councilors the importance of Commissioner engagement. He noted that it would be good for staff to notify the Council when items will be before the County Commission so that Councilors can provide their support.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Liliana Hernandez-Constenla".

Liliana Hernandez-Constenla