

**MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
May 20, 2020**

A meeting of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council was held online via GoToMeeting.

<p><u>Members Present</u> Xavier Cortada, Chair Alejandro Aguirre Mitchell Bierman Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Second Vice Chair Sandra Curbelo Denise Gerson Adolfo Henriques Brian May Cheryl Rees Janá Sigars-Malina, First Vice Chair Rosa Sugrañes Monty Trainer Justin Trieger</p>	<p><u>Members Not Present</u></p> <p><u>Others Present:</u></p>
<p><u>Staff</u> Michael Spring, Director Marialaura Leslie, Deputy Director Carolina Alfonso Kelly Allocco Francine Andersen Roxana Barba Stefania Barigelli Nikenna Benjamin Sue Camp Tania Centeno Kimberly Chuck Lisa D'Andrea Thompson Marshall Davis Marie Denis Ivette Dominguez Eric Fliss Olga Gonzalez Teddy Harrell</p>	<p><u>Staff (continued)</u> Liliana Hernandez-Constenla Annie Hoffman Regla Lee Amanda Sanfilippo Long Gilda Mooney Steven Padilla Alex Peraza Adriana Perez Dana Pezoldt Katherine Revell Liz Shannon Javier Siut Christina Tassy-Beauvoir Pamela Valles Graham Winick</p>

Chairman Xavier Cortada called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. He thanked the Councilors for coming together for the Cultural Affairs Council virtual meeting and explained Director Spring is at a meeting with Miami-Dade County Mayor. He will join the meeting as shortly. Deputy Director Marialaura Leslie will handle any staff reports in his absence.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for May 20, 2020

There were no requests for an excused absence.

Approval of April 15, 2020 Minutes

The minutes of the April 15, 2020 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Gerson)

Mr. Michael Spring joined the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

FY 2019-2020 Community Grants (CG) Program Panel Recommendations – Fourth Quarter

Mr. Graham Winick reported that the FY 2019-2020 Community Grants program panel, chaired by Janá Sigars-Malina, convened on May 14, 2020 to review 18 applications requesting \$132,500.00 for the Fourth Quarter of the program. The Panel recommended funding 18 applicants for a total of \$127,057.00. The Community Grants program is designed to be responsive on a quarterly basis to non-profit organizations developing small to large 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.

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

Mitchell Bierman – Vizcaya Museum and Gardens Trust

Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez - Vizcaya Museum and Gardens Trust

Monty Trainer - Vizcaya Museum and Gardens Trust

Councilor Henriques made a motion to fund all the of the panel's recommendations subject to Councilors with conflicts abstaining from voting on the applications affected. Councilors with the above-mentioned conflicts of interest abstained from the voting. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sagrañes)

After School Film Institute, Inc.	\$7,338
Ballad of America, Inc.	\$7,338
Conecta: Miami Arts, Inc.	\$7,338
Culture and Community Association, Inc.	\$7,338
Florida Film House International Inc	\$7,338
Fresh Start of Miami-Dade, Inc.	\$7,338
IFE ILE, Inc.	\$7,338
Instituto de Cultura Peruana, Inc.	\$4,893
Jazz Education Community Coalition, Inc.	\$7,338
MAIACA Inc	\$7,201
Miami Young Adult Christian Theater Inc	\$4,893

Rachel Weiss	\$7,338
South Florida Chamber Ensemble, Inc.	\$7,338
The Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida, Inc.	\$7,338
Troop of Actors Inc	\$7,338
Urgent, Inc.	\$7,338
Village of Palmetto Bay	\$7,338

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

Vizcaya Museum and Gardens Trust, Inc. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sagrañes)	\$7,338
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FY 2020-2021 Grants Program Panels

The program panel for the Cultural Development (CDG) Grants Program and Dance Miami Choreographers' Program were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sagrañes; seconded by Ms. Curbelo)

FY 2020-2021 Community Grants (CG) Program Guidelines

Mr. Spring reported there are no substantive changes to the guidelines for the Community Grants (CG) Program. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. May; seconded by Mr. Henriques)

FY 2020-2021 Festivals and Special Events (FEST) Grants Program Panel Recommendations

Ms. Adriana Perez reported that the Festivals and Special Events Grants Program Panel, chaired by Councilor Rosa Sagrañes, convened on May 7, 2020 to review 13 applications requesting a total of \$1,055,000. The Panel recommended funding all 13 applications. The Festivals and Special Events Grants Program (FEST) provides funding to cultural and community-based festivals that have an international, national or regional impact. These festivals have long-standing success records of quality programming in our community. The annual operating budget of these organizations ranges between \$150,000 to over a million dollars.

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

Mitchell Bierman - Florida International University for the Benefit of School of Hospitality

Xavier Cortada - Florida International University for the Benefit of School of Hospitality, Miami Dade College

Adolfo Henriques - Florida International University for the Benefit of School of Hospitality

Cheryl Ress - Florida International University for the Benefit of School of Hospitality

Monty Trainer - Bayfront Park Management Trust, Coconut Grove Arts Festival

Justin Triegeer – Miami Dade College

Councilor Henriques made a motion to fund all the of the panel's recommendations subject to Councilors with conflicts abstaining from voting on the applications affected. Councilors with the above-mentioned conflicts of interest abstained from the voting. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

Bayfront Park Management Trust, Inc.
Borscht Corp.-- Borscht Film Festival
German American Social Club – Oktoberfest
Inffinito Arts & Cultural Foundation, Inc.- Brazilian Film Festival
Junior Orange Bowl Committee – Junior Orange Bowl
Miami Broward One Carnival Host Committee
Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival
Miami Hispanic Ballet Corp.
University of Wynwood/O Miami

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

Coconut Grove Arts and Historical Association, Inc.—Coconut Grove Arts Festival
Florida International University for the Benefit of the School of Hospitality- South Beach Wine and Food Festival
Miami Dade College – Miami Book Fair
Miami Dade College – Miami Film Festival

(Motion by Mr. May; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

FY 2020-2021 Hannibal Cox, Jr. (HCJ) Cultural Grants Program Panel Recommendations

Ms. Roxana Barba reported that the Hannibal Cox Jr. Cultural Grants Program Panel, chaired by Council member Brian May, convened on May 6, 2020 to review 24 applications requesting a total of \$720,000. The panel recommended funding all 24 applications. The Hannibal Cox, Jr. Cultural Grants Program provides funding and technical assistance support to mid-sized semiprofessional 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 annual operating budget of the organizations ranges between \$100,000 - \$250,000.

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

Xavier Cortada – Miami Dade College, University of Miami Frost School of Music
Denise Gerson - University of Miami Frost School of Music
Monty Trainer – Miami Dade College, Miami Short Film Festival, University of Miami Frost School of Music
Justin Trieger – Miami Dade College

Councilor May made a motion to fund all the of the panel's recommendations subject to Councilors with conflicts abstaining from voting on the applications affected. Councilors with the above-mentioned conflicts of interest abstained from the voting. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. May; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

Arca Images, Inc.
Artists in Residence in Everglades, Inc
Bas Fisher Invitational, Inc.
Community Arts and Culture, Inc.
Creation Art Center Corporation
Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator, Inc.
Dimensions Dance Theater of Miami, Inc.
Edge Zones, Inc.
Friends of Chamber Music of Miami, Inc.
Historic Hampton House Community Trust, Inc
Juggerknot Theatre Company
Karen Peterson and Dancers, Inc.
Main Street Players, Inc. d/b/a Main Street Players
Miami Beach Film Society, Inc.
Miami Lyric Opera, Inc.
PAXy, Inc.
Pioneer Winter Collective, Inc.
Peter London Global Dance Company, Inc.
Saint Martha Concerts and Cultural Affairs, Inc.
Siempre Flamenco, Inc.
The Opera Atelier, Inc.

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 Dade College – Department of Arts and Philosophy
Miami Short Film Festival, Inc.
University of Miami – Frost School of Music
(Motion by Mr. May; seconded by Ms. Sagrañes)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Mr. Spring reported the has Department published the results of the COVID-19 Survey of Impact on Miami-Dade County's Cultural Community for the months of March and April. The responses provided by nearly 200 nonprofit arts organizations reflect a total financial impact of the pandemic of \$43 million with 5,377 cultural jobs affected. This information will be used to advocate and elevate the need for recovery resources for the cultural community to be able to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. A bright spot is the fact that Miami-Dade cultural organizations reported securing nearly \$14 million in Paycheck Protection Program funding that will help survival for the moment. Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez convened a series of working groups to address restarting the economy. Mr. Spring was appointed to facilitate the arts and culture working group which included health professionals, representatives from the museums and the cultural community, and Councilor Adolfo Henriques representing the Cultural Affairs Council. Under the New Normal guidelines that were recently published the limited opening of museums and public gardens was included. At this point Miami-Dade is one of the few communities in America to have a formal re-opening plan for the arts. The Department redeployed \$300,000 in Travel/Consultant funds and issued emergency grants funds to 120 arts groups to provide additional immediate assistance during the pandemic. Overall, \$19 million in grants funds have been allocated and issued to the cultural community. Commissioner Higgins is sponsoring a food distribution event every Saturday at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium. Department staff is there every Saturday to assist in the coordination.

The South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center has launched online performances called SMDCAC Sessions where local artists are commissioned to perform every Thursday.

State Arts Budget Update

Mr. Spring reported the State of Florida legislature has not sent the Governor the budget for his signature. At the conclusion of the legislative session \$21.25 million was allocated for the State arts budget. There currently is reluctance to submit the budget for signature until the state has a better idea of the effect of COVID-19 on decreases in revenues and increases in expenditures. The highwater mark for arts funding was the approval of \$43 million by the State legislature in 2014. Chairman Cortada reported that he and Director Spring called Florida State Representative Vance Aloupis, State House District 115, regarding the CARES Act. During the conversation, they discussed the multiplier effect related to arts funding and asked the Representative to advocate for the arts funding recommended in the State budget. In addition, Mr. Spring's proposed plan and recommendations regarding the use of the \$600,000 in federal funds was approved by the State of Florida.

Federal Arts Budget Update

Mr. Spring reported that Congress responded to national advocacy by providing an additional \$75 million in recovery funding to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) also received an additional \$75 million in recovery funding. A total of 40% of the funding allocated to the NEA is directed to state arts councils. The Department of Cultural Affairs applied for an NEA grant to commission work by artists and if awarded, will be able to redistribute 100% of the funds. The NEH invited the Department to apply for the \$750,000 grant to benefit the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center's new building; the NEH also requested introductions to Miami arts leaders to potentially allocate more funds locally. Mr. Spring reported that he participated in an arts and culture roundtable with U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz. The session focused on what it will take for the arts to survive the pandemic. Mr. Spring added that Americans for the Arts is advocating for \$4 billion in federal recovery funds for the arts at the national level.

Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program

Ms. Christina Tassy-Beauvoir reported that while Culture Shock Miami (CSM) was experiencing the cessation of ticket sales, and significantly diminished pageviews. The use of the CSM website to feature free virtual performances – Online Experiences - is an effective strategy to maintain web visibility during COVID-19. Ms. Tassy-Beauvoir reported that 103 listings of virtual events are currently available to patrons, a 243% increase in online cultural engagements listed from 30 at launch. Staff is staying active, engaging with cultural partners, including Fantasy Theater Factory for their "Together Apart" initiative. All events are available and promoted to all age groups online.

Department Facilities Updates

Status Report

Mr. Spring reported that the Department's capital and architecture team is very busy as construction activity at the facilities continues at a brisk pace now that they are closed to the public. The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center's project is moving forward by adding project scope now that there is County-wide Infrastructure Improvement Program (CIIP) funding available. Construction work includes everything from roof replacements to interior spaces that are currently being refurbished. There will be a major public artwork, a digital marquee, installed at Center. The team is working on increasing the scope for work at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium and the Caleb Auditorium, given the availability of CIIP funding. Eric Fliss, Managing Director of the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, and Marie Denis, Capital Projects Chief, are currently working with Arquitectonica to develop plans for the Center's future café.

Westchester Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Spring reported that Carolina Alfonso, Construction Projects Manager, is working closely with the Miami-Dade County Building Department and project contractor to get ready for onsite construction. The project is undergoing building permit review and work is expected to begin in June 2020. The Center will be located at the Bird Road entrance to Tropical Park and will feature a black box theatre with 125-150 seats, including a significant lobby that will function as an art gallery and potential meeting space.

Coconut Grove Playhouse

Mr. Spring reported that Miami-Dade County's petition to the Appellate Division of the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit appealing the City of Miami Mayor's veto of the County's application for a final Certificate of Appropriateness for the Coconut Grove Playhouse is scheduled to be heard on June 16, 2020. Mr. Spring reported the sad news of the passing of Joe Adler, Artistic Director of GableStage. The GableStage Board has rallied, developed a succession plan, and hired a guest artistic director to create a series of virtual performances.

Arts Education Update

Ms. Francine Andersen, Ms. Annie Hoffman, and Ms. Dana Pezoldt reported on education and outreach programs currently being developed. The All Kids Included (AKI) Family Arts Festival and art contest will be a completely virtual experience this year and inspired by the theme of the book "The Boy Who Grew Flowers" by Jen Wojtowicz. The AKI Access Academy is a new online initiative that provides video and training materials for including children with disabilities in community and classroom settings. The Animation Gets Real Miami 2020 Summer Camp for teens with autism and related disabilities will be virtual starting June 15. Youth Arts in the Parks Saturday program is a six-week multidisciplinary camp which will also be provided virtually.

Art in Public Places Update

Ms. Amanda Sanfilippo Long reported that Art in Public Places Program (APP) currently has over 80 commissions in production and 30 in the planning phase, 3 temporary commissions are in the planning phase and 3 restorations are currently in progress. Ms. Sanfilippo Long shared the artist shortlist for artist call for Garage K at PortMiami: Edouard Duval-Carrie, Liam Gillick, Typoe, Gran, Monica Lopez de Victoria, Lydia Okumura, Marielle Plaisir, Erwin Redl, Paul Anthony Smitha and Shinique Smith. APP has a current artist call being issued for South Florida artists: VOX Miami at South Miami Metrorail Station phase I. The public art collection was featured in The Miami Herald and WLRN as a way to enjoy art during the COVID-19 shutdown.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring announced the new Arts Resilient 305 website launched on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. He thanked Chairman Cortada for his leadership and Councilor Sigars-Malina for leading the Green Task Force.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Ms. Rees was proud to serve on the Festivals and Special Events Grants program panel, which went smoothly.
- Ms. Sugranes reported Museo El Prado created a video to celebrate a major anniversary.
- Ms. Gerson thanked Roxana Barba for doing a great job with the Hannibal Cox Jr. panel meeting. She also commended the measured COVID-19 response of Miami-Dade Mayor Gimenez and other South Florida cities.

- Mr. Trieger reported the New World Symphony is moving and transitioning online and expecting not to have the full fellowship performing together onstage for the coming year. The Make Music Miami will take place on June 21, 2020.
- Mr. Aguirre observed that as we go through process of reopening the economy, it is not going to be easy. He advised that we will need to stay optimistic and innovative for the foreseeable future.
- Mr. May believes that the arts community is a resilient part of our society and that this will give our stake holders a big advantage. He commended staff for their great work.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is conducting plant and mango sales online.
- Mr. Henriques expressed that it is important that decision makers understand that the arts are an economic engine. He commended Mr. Spring for getting ahead of the game and developing a plan for reopening the arts in our community. The plan was so well done it was used as a model and template for reopening plans for other sectors.
- Mr. Monty Trainer explained they are moving forward with plans for the next Coconut Grove Arts Festival.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Liliana Hernandez-Constenla