

**MINUTES OF THE  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL  
October 18, 2023**

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

<p><b><u>Members Present</u></b>          Brian May, Chairman          Kareem Brantley          Sandra Curbelo          Al Dotson, Jr.          Adolfo Henriques, Immediate Past Chair          Commissioner Daniela Jean          Janá Sigars-Malina, First Vice Chair          Zaba St. George Castro          Rosa Sugrañes          Monty Trainer</p>	<p><b><u>Members Not Present</u></b>          Mitchell Bierman          Councilwoman Linda Julien          Jorge Plasencia          Cheryl Rees</p>
<p><b><u>Staff</u></b>          Marialaura Leslie, Interim Director          Francine Andersen          Stephanie Antequera          Kelly Allocco          Stephanie Antequera          Patricia Arbelaez          Stefania Barigelli          Dorixis Batista          Nikenna Benjamin          Eddy Calero          Tania Centeno          Nicole Chaplin          Kimberly Chuck          Mary-Margaret Dale          Marie Denis          Bianca Gonzalez          Olga Gonzalez          Teddy Harrell          Liliana Hernandez-Constenla          LaToya Hightower</p>	<p><b><u>Staff (continued)</u></b>          Regla Lee          Valentine Medina          Dorixis McComas          Gilda Mooney          Steven Padilla          Alex Peraza          Adriana Perez          Dana Pezoldt          Pablo Rincon          Katherine Revell          Patricia Romeu          Raul Rueda          Helen Sanchez          Amanda Sanfilippo          Javier Siut          Christina Tassy          Geraldine Toussaint          Pamela Valles          Eduardo Vivas          Graham Winick</p>

Cultural Affairs Council Chairman Brian May called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed the Cultural Affairs Council. He noted it is the first meeting with Interim Director Marialaura Leslie at the helm and recognized Cultural Affairs Council members and Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs staff that have joined the meeting via Zoom.

Chairman May introduced new Cultural Affairs Council member City of North Miami Beach Commissioner Daniela Jean, appointed by Miami-Dade County Commissioner Marleine Bastien, representing District 2.

Commissioner Jean stated she is pleased to be a new member of the Cultural Affairs Council. She noted that she is looking forward to working together with other Council members to promote the arts in Miami-Dade County.

## **ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

### **Approval of September 20, 2023 Minutes**

The minutes of the September 20, 2023 Cultural Affairs Council meeting were presented. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. St. George Castro)

### **Requests for Excused Absences for September 20, 2023**

A request for an excused absence was submitted by Councilor Bierman, Councilwoman Julien, Councilor Plasencia, and Councilor Rees. (Motion by Mr. Henriquez; seconded by Ms. Curbelo)

### **FY 2023-2024 Miami Individual Artists (MIA) Grants Program Guidelines**

Ms. Leslie reported in 2021 the Department of Cultural Affairs received a major grant from the National Endowment of the Arts for half a million dollars to launch the Miami Individual Artists (MIA) program to help artists recovering from the COVID-19 Pandemic. The program provides awards to artists of all disciplines representing key diversity factors, including geography as every commission district is represented. Last year, the Department of Cultural Affairs was able to fund 300 artists at a meaningful level. For the FY 2023-2024 budget year the MIA program is recommended for funding at \$1.25 million. The program has evolved and recognizes that artists are an important segment of the community and put Miami on the map globally. Ms. Leslie noted that this would be the third year for the significant program and that there are no substantive changes to the grant program guidelines. The Miami Individual Artists (MIA) Grants Program guidelines were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

## **2023 Sunset Review of County Boards**

Ms. Leslie reported that the Department is finalizing the Sunset Review report of the Cultural Affairs Council. The report is an assessment and a requirement for the continued existence of the County boards. This report is provided every two years. The recommendation to approve the Sunset Review report of the Cultural Affairs Council recommending the continuation of the board was approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Mr. Henriques)

## **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Update on FY 2023-2024 County Arts Budget**

The Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners approved and adopted Mayor Levine Cava's FY 2023-2024 County Budget and recommended renewal of funding for the Department of Cultural Affairs at the second and final Budget Hearing on Thursday, September 21, 2023. Ms. Leslie noted that the budget was amended by the Mayor to include five additional grants, each grant for the amount of \$250,000, for The Historic Hampton House Community Trust, Inc., Miami-Dade North Arts & Humanities Foundation, Inc. (MoCAAD), Doral Contemporary Art Museum, Inc., Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida, Inc., The Black History Museum, and Miami Fashion Week. The source of revenues for these additional grants had not been confirmed by the County's Office of Budget and Management.

### **Department Facilities Update – African Heritage Cultural Arts Center**

Mr. Teddy Harrel provided an update on the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center in Liberty City. He reported that the Center currently has 450 students registered in its arts education programs, including the AHCAC Miami Children's Museum Dance Arts Outreach program and the Afterschool Arts Academy. He reported that the Center hosted visual artists Kiro Urdin for the "Ancestor" exhibition in the Amadlozi Gallery in partnership with Art in Public Places division and El Espacio 23. On September 29, 2023, the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center was featured on ABC's Good Morning America where Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, and Adam Ganuza, from the Knight Foundation recognized the Center's Managing Director Marshall L. Davis, Sr., and presented him with \$50,000 in grant funds for programs. It was an unprecedented honor and recognition for the Center. Council Member Al Dotson, Jr., suggested the Center explore presenting an update with students for the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners as well as explore fundraising and arts sales through the Center's website.

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

Ms. Amanda Sanfilippo presented the Art in Public Places update. She presented the updated Art in Public Places branding and look developed to celebrate the program's upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She noted that the program was established in 1973 with the passage of an ordinance allocating 1.5% of capital costs of new local government buildings for the purchase or commission of artworks in Miami-Dade County. The program is overseen by the Art in Public Places Trust which is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The Trust receives recommendations on acquisitions and commissions from the Professional Advisory Committee, which is an independent group of professionals in the field of art, art history, public art, architecture, landscape architecture and architectural history. She presented many highlights of the Art in Public Places collection, including "Homegrown" by Christina Lei Rodriguez, at the Westchester Cultural Arts Center; "A Walk on the Beach" by Michele Oka Doner at Miami International Airport; "Between Destiny and a Hard Place" by Franky Cruz at Gallery on the River; and "Sunday" by Dara Friedman at Terminal V PortMiami. Ms. Sanfilippo reported that currently the program has over 1,000 artworks, which includes two and three-dimensional works, site specific works and integrated works. The program has over 100 active commissions and 28 commissions in the planning phase. Ms. Sanfilippo noted all Art in Public Places works are on publicly owned land, even when working on a public-private partnership. The program has procedures in place to deal with all things affecting the artworks.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Ms. Leslie provided an update on the Department of Cultural Affairs' leadership transition. Mayor Levine Cava has appointed Ms. Leslie as Interim Director and approved the recruitment of a new Deputy Director. The Department is going through the recruitment process which should be finalized soon.
- Ms. Leslie reminded Councilors that Miami-Dade County has filed a brief to overturn the City of Miami's Planning and Zoning Appeals Board's unsupported decision to grant an appeal stopping our approval of the County's demolition waiver, which has to do with trees and landscaping. In August, the City filed a response containing a confession of error stating that PZAB should not have granted the appeal. The 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court was scheduled to review on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Miami-Dade County is now waiting for the decision. If it is positive, all the regulatory steps with the City of Miami have been completed and the project is shovel ready.
- Ms. Leslie shared the news regarding the Arts and Economic Prosperity study, known as the Economic Impact - AEP6 study. Every 5 years Miami-Dade County participates in a national economic impact survey and for the last 18-months surveyed Miami-Dade audiences about their spending related to attending cultural events and as well as nonprofit cultural groups about their organizational budgets and spending power. Cultural Affairs staff member Kelly Allocco led a team to collect the data from cultural organizations, including Department-managed cultural facilities. The results of the study show that Miami-Dade

County has an annual economic impact of \$2 Billion dollars and ranks Miami-Dade County as #1 in the country. Ms. Leslie noted the Department will announce the news and launch a campaign to promote and share the accomplishments.

## **COUNCILOR REPORTS**

- Mr. Henriques spent time in Hungary, Czech Republic, Austria and was impressed with the level of arts participation. He saw a lot of children and youth focused on arts programs. It served to remind him that there is more work to be done and that arts helps people to grow.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported Fairchild Botanic Garden was voted Best Botanic Garden by USA Today for the last three years (2021-2023) and awarded the Best Place for Kids by the Miami New Times. The garden will host the Creepy Crawly Cocktail Party on October 20 and October 27, 2023. Night Garden will be held November 10 through January 2024.
- Mr. Trainer reported that plans are underway for the Coconut Grove Arts Festival. Dade Days is being planned for February 7, 2024.
- Mr. Dotson commended Interim Director Leslie for doing an amazing job with her first Cultural Affairs Council meeting.
- Ms. St. George Castro reported Belen Jesuit School is hosting an exhibition of Baroque Art. She also noted that the Adrienne Arsht Center restaurant is now open with the new concept, Teatro.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Liliana Hernandez-Constenla