

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

October 17, 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
Mitchell Bierman
Sandra Curbelo
Denise Gerson
Adolfo Henriques
Susana Ibargüen
Janá Sigars-Malina
Rosa Sugrañes
Monty Trainer
Justin Trieger

Members Not Present

Alejandro Aguirre
Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez
Phyllis Simpkins

Staff

Michael Spring, Director
Marialaura Leslie, Deputy Director
Kelly Allocco
Francine Andersen
Patricia Arbelaez
Roxana Barba
Stefania Barigelli
Christina Beauvoir
Nikenna Benjamin
Sue Camp
Tania Centeno
Mary-Margaret Dale
Marshall Davis
Eric Fliss
Olga Gonzalez
Teddy Harrell
Liliana Hernandez-Constenla

Staff (continued)

Annie Hoffman
Regla Lee
Cheryl Mizell
Gilda Mooney
Steven Padilla
Alex Peraza
Adriana Perez
Dana Pezoldt
Katherine Revell
Amanda Sanfilippo
Javier Siut
Lisa Thompson
Graham Winick

The meeting was chaired by Chairman Xavier Cortada. Mr. Cortada called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

PRESENTATION

Marshall Davis, African Heritage Cultural Arts Center Director, introduced Ashley Clark. Ms. Clark teaches at the Center and performed "If I Ain't Got You" by Alicia Keys.

Mr. Cortada thanked Ms. Clark for her performance and congratulated Mr. Davis for the talent that is cultivated at the Center. He also thanked Mr. Adolfo Henriques, former Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs Council Chairman. He recognized him for his dedication to the cultural community and ten years of service as Chairman.

Mr. Cortada announced that Mr. Michael Spring, would not attend the Cultural Affairs Council meeting; he is attending a meeting with Mayor Gimenez.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for October 17, 2018

A request for excused absence for Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez was approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

Approval of September 14, 2018 Minutes

The minutes of the June 20, 2018 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on FY 2018-2019 County Budget

Ms. Marialaura Leslie reported that the Miami-Dade County budget was approved at the final budget hearing on September 20, 2018. Ms. Leslie presented Chairman Cortada's FY 2019-2020 budget objectives. Based on the Council's vote at the February 18, 2018 Budget Retreat to "request incremental increases to the Department's annual budget over the next four years, starting with \$2.5 million for the Department's FY 2018-2019 budget. The five-year goal is to rebuild the budget with an additional \$10 million to keep pace with the reality of present-day growing costs and demands for programs and services." To build on this positive momentum, Mr. Cortada requested that Councilors meet with their respective appointing Commissioner before the February 2019 Planning and Budget Retreat to advocate for a minimum of \$2.5 million in additional funds for the FY 2019-2020 budget; and invite Commissioners to attend – with Councilors – an arts event, preferably in their district. Cultural Affairs staff will provide a fact sheet with contact information for respective Commissioners, highlights of the cultural activities that are supported in each Commissioner's district, and a suggested list of events to attend. Councilors will also receive a copy of the Department's "Top 15 Facts About the Arts in Miami-Dade County" as talking points.

Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program

Ms. Christina Beauvoir reported that the program's 2018-19 season has been launched with the opening show, "Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom" at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center in October. Over 800 students attended a free school performance on Friday, October 5 and a public performance on Saturday, October 6, 2018. The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center's *Voices of Heritage* choir opened the October 6 public performance. Ms. Beauvoir reported that the Culture Shock Miami Student Council has 23 participants for this year. Their first meeting was held on September 5, 2018. Student Council officers were elected at the October 3, 2018 meeting. A student Councilor delivered the curtain speech at the presentation of "Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom."

Department Facilities Updates

African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

Ms. Cheryl Mizell reported that African Heritage Cultural Arts Center recently finished its 34th annual Summer Arts Conservatory. This year 221 students participated in Conservatory which consisted of six classes and featured five shows, including drama, musical theater, music and fashion. The Center produced the play "The Colored Museum" and introduced Jamel Booth as a Director. Tarell McCraney's *Youth Art Leadership* program completed its 3rd year and performed the drama showcase "Theatrical Roller Coaster Ride" at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium. Ms. Mizell reported the Center is now planning one of its annual signature events, "Art Blues Soul & BBQ Festival" on December 1, 2018 which features performances, an art exhibition and BBQ competition.

South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Eric Fliss reported that attendance at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC) has grown. SMDCAC Presents shows reflect a 22 percent increase and overall shows reflect a 14 percent increase. Revenue has also grown with 23 percent increase for SMDCAC presents and 12 percent increase for overall shows. The Center surpassed the million-dollar mark in earned revenue and is currently running at 60 percent capacity. SMDCAC kicked off the 2018-19 season with the free "Back Yard Bash" featuring Morris Day and the Time. The Center has just launched "Dance Talks" hosted by arts writer and longtime former Miami Herald Dance Critic Jordan Levin. The series consists of pre- and post-performance discussions surrounding the 2018-2019 dance series. Mr. Fliss introduced Ms. Annie Hoffman, the Center's new Education and Outreach Manager. Ms. Hoffman has a background in art therapy.

Mr. Michael Spring joined the meeting at 12:54 p.m.

Coconut Grove Playhouse

Ms. Spring reported the funded County, FIU and State-approved plan to bring theater back to Coconut Grove continues to move forward. He reported that the construction bid package is expected to be ready early next year. Mr. Spring reported that the Board of County Commissioners approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County and the Miami Parking Authority (MPA) on October 2, 2018. The MOU outlines a number of important project components to be funded by MPA, including a new parking garage structure on the site of the current surface parking lot with approximately 300 spaces; office space lining both the front and rear sides of the garage to provide a friendly face on both Main Highway and towards the residential neighborhood to the west; a food and beverage establishment; and the restored historic front building that will re-establish the original 1927 uses of retail on the ground floor and offices at the second and third levels.

Mr. Spring reported that Miami-Dade County's court appeal of the City of Miami's Commission actions, which overturned its own City of Miami Historic and Environmental Preservation Board (HEPB) will be heard on October 25,

2018. The project is re-scheduled to appear before City of Miami's Planning, Zoning and Appeals Board (PZAB) on November 7, 2018 which is step three of the four-step regulatory approval process required by the City of Miami. At the September 5, 2018 PZAB meeting, the PZAB voted 5 to 3 to support the County's technical zoning requests for the Playhouse. After the vote, all parties were informed that a "super majority" vote is required, or 6 to 2, for the item to pass and a follow-up presentation was scheduled.

Mr. Spring also noted Miami-Dade County strongly disagrees with the State's letter and contention that the Coconut Grove Playhouse project is in violation of its lease regarding the timetable for the project. The project will be completed before the lease's deadline of 2022, which is the only date required by the lease. Miami-Dade County will respond before the end of the year.

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 Department of Cultural Affairs' Art in Public Places program held a call to artists for the new Norwegian PortMiami Terminal B. The artists chosen are: Jorge Pardo, Claudia Comte, Mark Dion, Edouardo Arranz-Bravo and Reynier Ferrer. The Department also held an artist call for the Carrie Meek International Business Park and the following artists were chosen: Michael Vasquez, Morel Doucet, Michelle Lisa Polissaint, Mickalene Thomas, Ruben Ochoa, Olalekan Jeyifous and Onajide Shabaka. Ms. Sanfilippo invited the Council to attend the Creative Time Summit co-hosted by the Department on Nov 1-3, 2018.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring introduced Stefania Barigelli, the Department's new Construction Projects Manager and part of the Art in Public Places team. She is an architect with a background in construction management.
- The Art in Public Places Trust voted to approve moving the homerun sculpture "Homer" by Red Grooms. The Marlins will create an "art walk" outside the stadium and the sculpture will remain part of the collection. The Marlins are absorbing all the costs related to moving the sculpture and any maintenance costs in excess of the \$20,000 for annual maintenance paid by Miami-Dade County.
- The 2018-2019 Golden Ticket Senior Arts Guide has been published. The guide was mailed to seniors via direct mail and is available for pick-up at Miami-Dade Public Library System branches and Miami-Dade County Mayor and Commissioner district offices.
- Councilors are being asked to attend Miami-Dade County's Sexual Harassment Training. Notices will be sent out.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Mr. Adolfo Henriques announced that he would be attending a play at GableStage with Mayor Gimenez.
- Ms. Ibarguen announced PAMM is hosting an exhibition featuring artist Lynne Gelfman.
- Ms. Sigars-Malina reported that Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden will celebrate the *Ghoulish Garden Halloween Bash* in October 26, 2018.
- Mr. Monty Trainer reported the art gallery will feature photography by Ron Magill, Zoo Miami Goodwill Ambassador and Communications Director.

- Mr. Trieger reported the New World Symphony is holding its season opening concert with Artistic Director Michael Tilson Thomas.
- Ms. Rosa Sugrañes visited PAMM and recommends the *Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Surrounded Islands* exhibition.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liliana Hernandez-Constenla". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name being particularly prominent.

Liliana Hernandez-Constenla