

**MINUTES OF THE  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL  
October 21, 2020**

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

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

Chairman Xavier Cortada called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. He thanked the Councilors for coming together for the Cultural Affairs Council virtual meeting. He reminded the Council that Miami-Dade County and the Department are entering a new era of governance with the upcoming elections and it is an opportunity for Councilors to play a critical role in advancing a cultural agenda.

## **ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

### **Requests for Excused Absences for October 21, 2020**

A request for an excused absence was submitted by Denise Gerson and approved. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded Ms. Curbelo)

### **Approval of September 16, 2020 Minutes**

The minutes of the September 16, 2020 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Mr. Henriques)

## **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update**

Mr. Spring reported that Mayor Gimenez is considering loosening restrictions under the New Normal guidelines, pushing the curfew back to midnight. Face coverings remain a requirement. Facilities must continue to submit re-opening plans to Miami-Dade County for pre-approval and show evidence that they comply with New Normal requirements, including operating at 50% building capacity. The Department has concluded the gathering of financial data via the monthly COVID-19 Survey of the Impact on Miami-Dade County's Cultural Community. The Department collected data for six months and documented a financial impact of almost \$112 million with over 18,000 jobs affected. The survey was useful and increased interest and awareness of the challenges faced by the cultural community. Department staff is finalizing the review of applications for the Miami-Dade Arts Support (MAS) Program which was established by the Miami-Dade County Commission allocating \$10 million in CARES Act funds for the arts. Mr. Spring reported \$8.3 million in funds have been approved for 79 organizations. All Category B applicants will be fully funded through the MAS program. The program is also providing funding for 857 artists awards through a second round of MAS! grant support for individual artists. Miami-Dade County Commissioner Dennis Moss, District 9, submitted an agenda item to support individual artists living in unincorporated Miami-Dade County. The item allocates over \$112,000 for artists who live in unincorporated Miami-Dade County. Staff analysis determined that 238 artists who applied to the program live in the area. If the item is approved by the County Commission, artists will receive awards over \$500 level.

Mr. Spring reported that some Department staff members have been redeployed and are currently working on COVID-19 efforts, including the SURGE Teams and the Miami-Dade County Auditorium continues to be one of the central food distribution sites for the County, where typically 500 individuals receive services on Saturdays. The Department's grants division is working virtually for the most part and is successfully managing the granting process and working with the cultural community in that manner.

Mr. Spring reported the re-opening of the cultural community is happening slowly. Many museums have re-opened or have plans to do so soon. It is more difficult for theaters to reopen due to capacity limitations. The Adrienne Arsht Center is planning to reopen with limited programs and streaming of programs. Miami City Ballet is planning an outdoor and socially distanced production of The Nutcracker in Doral. Retrofitting theaters is challenging because older facilities were not designed to support high capacity air conditioning filtration systems recommended by the medical community.

## **County Arts Budget Update**

Mr. Spring reported that agreements for the 2020-2021 grants are starting to be issued and processed. Grant agreements have been revised to provide grantees with increased flexibility regarding how they deliver programs to allow virtual programming, more latitude to authorize budgetary changes, and the ability to consider multiple year extensions. The County Grants Budget was renewed at full funding for 2020-2021.

## **Upcoming Council Meetings**

Florida "Sunshine" meetings are currently able to be held virtually courtesy of an executive order issued by Governor DeSantis. The order was set to expire in September and was extended for the month of October. If the virtual meeting authorization is not renewed, it will impact Commission meetings as well as meetings of the Cultural Affairs Council. Staff will develop a thorough plan and provide suggestions to the Council if it is required to implement in-person meetings in November. Department staff will work with County Attorney's Office to determine if an in-person/virtual hybrid meeting is an option.

## **Department Facilities Updates**

### **Status Report**

Mr. Spring reported that construction activity at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center is moving at a brisk pace. The Center has shifted to free virtual programming to include summer and after school programs. The Miami-Dade County Auditorium was going to host the in-person October Miami-Dade County Commission meeting, which was eventually held virtually. The Auditorium is an election site for the November election. Now that the curfew has been pushed back, the Auditorium is hosting the first live Drive-Through Theater event. The public will be able to enjoy a performance, socially distanced, from the comfort of their cars. Mr. Spring reported that the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center continues to work with Arquitectonica to develop plans for its future café. The SMDCAC has been tentatively identified as the location where newly elected Commissioners would be sworn in during the month of November. The SMDCAC may also serve as a venue to host County zoning meetings starting January 2021.

### **Westchester Cultural Arts Center**

Mr. Spring reported that the construction is moving forward on the Center which will be located at the Bird Road entrance to Tropical Park. The Miami-Dade County Commission approved an amendment to the architectural and engineering contract that allowed for additional funds to finalize the project. Zyschovich has designed a plan for an outdoor amphitheater located where the previous activities building would have been. Staff is moving forward with cost estimates for the amphitheater and will make an effort to identify the funds to support construction. The Center is expected to be finished in 2021.

### **Coconut Grove Playhouse**

Mr. Spring reported that the case is going through the judicial process. Currently the Miami-Dade County team is waiting for the City of Miami to respond to the County-filed brief. The County's appeal refutes the opinion issued by the lower court which ruled it did not have jurisdiction over the City of Miami Mayor's veto of the County's application for a final Certificate of Appropriateness for the Coconut Grove Playhouse. The latest appeal, if successful, will mean that the lower court will be instructed to review the County's case on its merits.

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

Ms. Amanda Sanfilippo Long provided updates on Art in Public Places (APP) projects. She reported that currently there are 72 commissions in production, 41 projects in the planning phase, 11 commissions in the close-out phase and 3

temporary art projects being planned. Ms. Sanfilippo reported on the Virgin Voyages Terminal V call for South Florida artists selection: Patrick Oleson, Deon Rubi, Jessy Nite, Naomi Fisher, Amanda Keeley, Jillian Mayer, Najja Moon, Sterling Rook, Jamilah Sabur, Tom Scicluna, Kelly Breez, We are Nice n' Easy and Kelley Johnson. The national artists call for the Virgin Voyages Terminal V for the time-based media project includes Yucef Merhi, Monica Lopez de Victoria, Coral Morphologic, Dara Friedman, Deborah Jack, Cauleen Smith, Softlab, Monika Bravo, Siebren Versteeg and Elizabeth Withstandley. Ms. Sanfilippo also announced two new calls to artists, Gallery on the River and Platform 3750.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

- Mr. Spring announced that Amanda Sanfilippo Long leads the work on the South Florida Cultural Consortium grant program for visual and media artists. The application deadline was October 19<sup>th</sup> and 390 applications were received from across the five-county area.
- Marshall Davis and the team at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center have been leading an initiative on diversity, equity, inclusion, and access. Staff convened a roundtable of Black arts leaders to discuss the visibility, advocacy, and resources available for the Black arts community.
- The County Commission passed a resolution asking the Department look at options to establish a Black resident dance company at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center. Teddy Harrell and Eric Fliss are leading the work.
- A second resolution conveys \$500,000 for the Black Archives to serve as fiscal agent for planning funds for the new Black History Museum in Downtown Miami. Mr. Spring reported he has been working on the initiative with Commissioner Moss.
- Ms. Marialaura Leslie congratulated Cultural Affairs Council Chairman Cortada for receiving the 2020 Florida Arts Education Doris Leeper Leadership Award.

## **COUNCILOR REPORTS**

- Ms. Sigars-Malina also supports Ms. Sugranes' suggestion that there should be a way to recognize the Department's volunteer grants panelists. She also noted that the Miami City Ballet will perform "Pop Up" performances throughout the County.
- Mr. Henriques noted the Pérez Art Museum Miami received tremendous national exposure hosting the Presidential Town Halls.
- Mr. Aguirre congratulated Art in Public Places program staff for the job well done on the many projects. He also would like to see Department grant panel volunteers be recognized.
- Mr. Trieger reported the New World Symphony (NWS) will have a free show on social media.
- Mr. Bierman recommended "The Trial of the Chicago Seven" an amazing film with Oscar quality performances.
- Ms. Curbelo would like to see a virtual program to promote local art initiatives during Art Week.
- Chairman Cortada commented he would like to see an organic way to recognize and celebrate local artistic riches during Art Week possibly spearheaded by the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau. Mr. Cortada also announced he was named Professor of Practice within the Mailman Center Department of Pediatrics.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Liliana Hernandez-Constenla