

**MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
September 20, 2023**

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

<p><u>Members Present</u> Brian May, Chairman Mitchell Bierman Kareem Brantley Sandra Curbelo Al Dotson, Jr. Cheryl Rees Zaba St. George Monty Trainer</p>	<p><u>Members Not Present</u> Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Second Vice Chair Adolfo Henriques, Immediate Past Chair Councilwoman Linda Julien Jorge Plasencia Janá Sigars-Malina, First Vice Chair Rosa Sugrañes</p> <p><u>Others Present</u> Xavier Cortada Don Slesnick Pauline Winick</p>
<p><u>Staff</u> Michael Spring, Director Marialaura Leslie, Deputy Director Kelly Allocco Stephanie Antequera Stefania Barigelli Dorixis Batista Eddy Calero Mary-Margaret Dale Marie Denis Eric Fliss Olga Gonzalez Teddy Harrell Liliana Hernandez-Constenla LaToya Hightower Regla Lee Valentine Medina</p>	<p><u>Staff (continued)</u> Gilda Mooney Steven Padilla Alex Peraza Adriana Perez Dana Pezoldt Pablo Rincon Patricia Romeu Raul Rueda Helen Sanchez 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 10:15 a.m. and welcomed the Cultural Affairs Council. He noted it is a special day as it is Director Michael Spring's last Cultural Affairs Council meeting. Mr. Spring is retiring after 40 years of public service.

Deputy Director Marialaura Leslie noted that Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs staff members have joined the meeting via Zoom.

Chairman May welcomed guests Pauline Winick, Don Slesnick and Xavier Cortada. Mr. May noted that Ms. Winick was the Cultural Affairs Chairperson when Mr. Spring first became Director of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs. Mr. Slesnick served as a former Cultural Affairs Council Chairman and has the distinction of also serving as a former Mayor of City of Coral Gables. Mr. Cortada is also former Chairman of the Cultural Affairs Council and has the distinction of being the only one to be a practicing artist.

ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION

Approval of June 21, 2023 Minutes

The minutes of the June 21, 2023 Cultural Affairs Council meeting were presented.

FY 2023-2024 Playwright Development Program Panel

The FY 2023-2024 Playwright Development Program Panel is comprised of nationally-renowned experts in playwrighting. The program is designed to provide intensive support during a two-year cycle for developing new work from Miami-Dade County's growing and diverse community of playwrights.

FY 2023-2024 Capital Development Grants Program Panel Recommendations

The FY 2023-24 Capital Development (CAP) Grant Program Panel convened on Thursday, June 29, 2023 to review eight applications requesting a total of \$119,634 in cultural facility improvement support funds. The panel reviewed and recommended funding all eight applications. The primary objective of the Capital Development (CAP) Grant Program is to provide funding support to nonprofit cultural organizations for capital improvement projects that are designed to expand, renovate, construct and/or equip cultural facilities located within Miami-Dade County. Priority consideration is given to facilities that submit applications for projects to implement improvements regulated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Actor's Playhouse Productions, Inc.	\$10,988
Bascomb Memorial Broadcasting Foundation, Inc.	\$10,452
Friends of the Bass Museum, Inc.	\$12,548

IFCM Corp.	\$9,169
Miami Theater Center, Inc.	\$10,668
The Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center, Inc.	\$10,603
The Miami Children's Museum, Inc.	\$10,377
The Roxy Theatre Group, Inc.	\$10,195

FY 2023-2024 Dance Miami Choreographers (DMC) Grants Program Panel Recommendations

A panel of national dance experts met on June 20, 2023 to review the submissions for the Dance Miami Choreographers' Program. It is recommended that the Council approve \$80,000 in funding support for eight awards to Miami-Dade choreographers. Subject to the availability of additional funding, it is recommended that a ninth award of \$10,000 be awarded. This program supports the artistic development of Miami-Dade County-based choreographers for the creation of new work in all dance forms, including contemporary, classical and traditional dance.

Brigid Baker	\$10,000
Carla Forte	\$10,000
Peter London	\$10,000
Niurca Marquez	\$10,000
Yanis Eric Pikieris	\$10,000
Smita Sen	\$10,000
Randolph Ward	\$10,000
Pioneer Winter	\$10,000

In the event additional funding becomes available or one of the above recommended choreographers is unable to accept their award, the panel recommend funding choreographer Gabriela Pineiro.

Mr. Spring noted there are no Councilor conflicts for any of the items for ratification. The June 21, 2023 Cultural Affairs Council meeting minutes, the FY 2023-2024 Playwright Development Program Panel, FY 2023-2024 Capital Development (CAP) Grants Program Panel Recommendations, and the FY 2023-2024 Dance Miami Choreographers (DMC) Grants Program Panel Recommendations were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Ms. Rees)

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for September 20, 2023

Requests for an excused absence were submitted by Councilor Chancy-Gonzalez, Councilor Henriques, Councilwoman Julien, Councilor Plasencia, Councilor Sigars-Malina, and Councilor Sagrañes. (Motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Ms. St. George)

FY 2023-2024 Grants Program Guidelines

Mr. Spring reported there are no substantive changes to the grant program guidelines for the Artist Access (ART) Grants Program. The guidelines for the Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) grant program have minimal changes which align the final reporting requirements with The Children's Trust requirements. The SAS-C program is fully funded by The Children's Trust. The grant program guidelines were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Ms. St. George)

FY 2023-2024 Grants Program Panels

Mr. Spring presented the grant panels for the FY 2023-2024 grants cycle. Mr. Spring noted that the Community Grants (CG) program grant panel will be co-chaired by Councilor Sandra Curbelo and Councilor Janá Sigars-Malina. The Youth Arts Enrichment program (YEP) grant panel was slated to be chaired by Councilor Chancy-Gonzalez. Mr. Spring noted Councilor Chancy-Gonzalez has received notification that her appointment to the Cultural Affairs Council representing District 2 has ended. If needed, a different Councilor will become Chair of the YEP grant program panel. Mr. Spring noted that the panels are diverse and balanced in terms of expertise, ethnicity, geography, and gender representation. Panelists rotate on and off serving on a panel to ensure fresh perspectives and ideas are also well represented. The grant panels were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Ms. Curbelo)

FY 2023-2024 Community Grants (CG) Program Panel Recommendations – First Quarter

Mr. Spring reported that the FY 2023-2024 Community Grants program panel, co-chaired by Councilors Janá Sigars-Malina and Sandra Curbelo, convened on August 25, 2023 to review 30 applications requesting \$230,000.00 for the First Quarter of the program. The first quarter covers events and activities occurring October through December. The Panel recommended funding all 30 applicants for a total of \$186,000.00. 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.

Mr. Dotson asked how Department staff is conducting outreach efforts for the program. Mr. Spring noted that the Community Grants program has a very broad reach, with 10-15 new applicants participating every quarter from all over the County. The grant opportunities are promoted internally at the County level and externally to the community at large.

A motion was made to fund all the of the Panel’s recommendations. No Councilor conflicts were identified, and the recommendations were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Dotson; seconded by Ms. Rees)

Afrikin Foundation, Inc.	\$6,370
Afro Borinken Roots Performing Group, Inc.	\$6,370
Alyans Atizay Ayisyen, Inc. d/b/a Haitian Cultural Arts Alliance, Inc.	\$6,370
Art for Us, Inc.	\$6,370
Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, Inc. a/f/a Iberoamerican Art Foundation, Inc.	\$6,370
Arts Connection Foundation, Inc.	\$6,370
Center for Social Change, Inc. a/f/a The Things Lab	\$4,670
Center for Social Change, Inc. a/f/a Impact Edition	\$6,370
Centro Cultural de Puerto Rico en el Sur De La Florida, Inc.	\$4,247
Collaborative, Inc.	\$6,370
Community Performing Arts Association, Inc.	\$6,370
Cuatrogatos Foundation, Inc.	\$6,370
De La Cruz Theater Performing Art, Inc.	\$6,370
Doral Symphony Orchestra, Inc.	\$6,370
Due to Arts, Inc.	\$4,670
Florida Dance Education Organization, Inc.	\$6,370
Friends of the Underline, Inc.	\$6,370
Havfama, Inc.	\$6,370
Intentional Provisions Outreach Corporation a/f/a Tawana Dixon	\$6,370
Les Ailes Du Desir Foundation, Inc. dba Miami Circus Arts Center	\$6,370
Merrick Festival Incorporated	\$8,493
Miami Art Club, Inc.	\$4,670
Miamibloco, Inc.	\$6,370
Music in Miam, Inc.	\$6,370
North Bay Village	\$6,370
Pioneer Winter Collective, Inc. a/f/a Juraj Kojs	\$6,370
Sybarite Productions, Inc.	\$6,370
TL Tango Lovers Organization, Inc. d/b/a Global Arts Organization	\$6,370
World Strings Music, Inc.	\$6,370
Zunzun Arts & Education, Inc.	\$6,370

FY 2023-2024 Youth Arts Enrichment (YEP) Grants Program Panel Recommendations

Mr. Spring reported that the FY 2023-2024 Youth Arts Enrichment Program (YEP) Grants Panel, chaired by Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, convened on September 7, 2023 to review

35 applications. The Panel recommended funding 33 applications for a total of \$550,000.00. The program is a very competitive and two applications that scored below the threshold established by the Panel were not recommended for funding. The organizations not funded are being referred to other grant programs managed by the Department of Cultural Affairs for support. The Youth Arts Enrichment (YEP) Grants Program was created as a joint initiative of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and The Children's Trust. The objective of the program is to enrich the lives of children through the arts by making the arts available to more children and families throughout Miami-Dade County.

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

Mitchell Bierman – GableStage, Inc; Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)

Sandra Curbelo – The Dance NOW! Ensemble, Inc.

Cheryl Rees - GableStage, Inc.

Monty Trainer - Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)

A motion was made to fund all the of the Panel's recommendations for which there were no conflicts of interest. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Ms. St. George)

Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, Inc.	\$21,514
ArtSouth, A Not-For-Profit Corporation	\$21,876
Brazilian Voices Inc.	\$20,000
Community Arts and Culture, Inc.	\$10,000
Coral Gables Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), Inc.	\$22,481
El Ingenio Inc.	\$21,876
Evolutionary Arts Life Foundation Inc.	\$21,514
Friendship Circle of Miami, Inc.	\$20,000
Jar of Hearts, Inc.	\$20,000
Jazz Education Community Coalition (JECC)	\$10,000
Karen Peterson and Dancers, Inc.	\$10,000
Mahogany Youth Corporation	\$10,000
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, Inc.	\$10,000
Miami Chamber Music Society, Inc.	\$10,000
Miami City Ballet, Inc.	\$21,816
Miami New Drama, Inc.	\$22,360
Michael-Ann Russell Jewish Community Center, Inc.	\$10,000
New World Symphony, Inc.	\$10,000
Nu Deco Ensemble, Inc.	\$21,816

O, Miami, Inc.	\$30,000
Orchestra Miami, Inc.	\$10,000
Pinecrest City Music Project, Inc.	\$10,000
Saint Mertha Concerts and Cultural Affairs, Inc.	\$10,000
Seraphic Fire, Inc.	\$15,124
South Florida Arts & Counseling	\$20,000
South Florida Symphony Orchestra, Inc.	\$10,000
The Deering Estate Foundation, Inc.	\$21,695
The Murray Dranoff Foundation, Inc.	\$10,000
The Opera Atelier, Inc.	\$21,634
Xavier Cortada Foundation, Inc.	\$21,272

The following organizations' recommendations were approved with Councilors with the above-mentioned conflicts of interest abstained from the voting:

The Dance Now! Ensemble, Inc.
(Motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Ms. St. George)

GableStage, Inc.
Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)
(Motion by Mr. Dotson; seconded by Mr. May)

Chairman May encouraged Councilors to reach out to their District Commissioners to educate them on the grants process. The Department of Cultural Affairs' grant application process is one that encourages new organizations to apply, and staff will provide resources to ensure cultural organizations compete in the appropriate program. Mr. Spring noted that staff has previously conducted grants workshops in Commission Districts to educate the public and reach new cultural organizations interested in cultural funding.

FY 2023-2024 Grants Programs Recommendations

Mr. Spring reported that the aggregate of all grants programs panel recommendations that will be adopted as part of the FY 2023-2024 budget process at the second and final Budget Hearing where the final grant allocation numbers will be approved by County Commission. The individual grant program panel recommendations have been previously presented to the Cultural Affairs Council. Generally, grant funding is remaining constant from this current budget year to next year; the significant budget increases for FY 2022-2023 are currently being renewed in the Mayor's budget recommendation for FY 2023-2024.

Mr. Spring noted that each year a number of organizations demonstrate the ability to "graduate" and based on the growth of their budget and programming, they can move up to a higher-level grants program and earn increased funding. To address the backlog of cultural organizations being able to move into the higher funded category the Department has shifted funding from the Miami Individual Artists (MIA) Grants Program, which had

received a budget increase and was funded at \$1.5 million in the current fiscal year. For the FY 2023-2024 budget year the MIA program is recommended for funding at \$1.25 million; this makes funding available that allows the mostly smaller cultural nonprofits to “graduate” and earn higher grant awards. Mr. Spring clarified that these organizations were invited to apply at the higher funding level and have been advised that this higher grant funding would be subject to the availability of revenue.

FY 2023-2024 Major Cultural Institutions Grants Program Panel Recommendations

Mr. Spring also noted that the Department’s Major Cultural Institutions (MCI) grant recommendations are the only ones that have not been presented individually and voted on by the Council. The recommendations were forwarded to the Cultural Affairs Council last week. The program operates on a four-year review cycle. For FY 2023-2024, Department staff is recommending renewal of the grant awards made at the current level. All 16 organizations continue to demonstrate compliance with the program’s guidelines and a level of performance that warrants the renewal of their grants.

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

Mitchell Bierman – Florida international University Board of Trustees, for the Benefit of Jewish Museum of Florida; Florida international University Board of Trustees, for the Benefit of the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum; Florida international University Board of Trustees, for the Benefit of The Wolfsonian; GableStage, Inc.; Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)

Al Dotson, Jr. – Adrienne Arsht Center Trust, Inc. d/b/a Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County

Cheryl Rees - GableStage, Inc.

Zaba Castro St. George - Adrienne Arsht Center Trust, Inc. d/b/a Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County

Monty Trainer - Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA); University of Miami Lowe Art Museum

A motion was made to fund all the of the Panel’s recommendations for which there were no conflicts of interest. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Ms. St. George)

Actor's Playhouse Productions, Inc.	\$380,595
Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida, Inc., The	\$185,000
Florida Grand Opera, Inc.	\$637,811
Friends of the Bass Museum, Inc.	\$408,143

M Ensemble Company	\$165,000
Miami City Ballet, Inc.	\$640,634
Miami Symphony Orchestra/Orquesta Sinfonica de Miami, Inc., The	\$165,000
New World Symphony, Inc.	\$689,970
South Florida Art Center, Inc. d/b/a Oolite Arts	\$282,169
Teatro Avante, Inc.	\$185,000

The following organizations' recommendations were approved with Councilors with the above-mentioned conflicts of interest abstained from the voting (Motion by Mr. Dotson; seconded by Mr. Brantley):

Adrienne Arsht Center Trust, Inc. d/b/a Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County	\$696,168
Florida international University Board of Trustees, for the Benefit of Jewish Museum of Florida	\$206,005
Florida international University Board of Trustees, for the Benefit of the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum	\$275,758
Florida international University Board of Trustees, for the Benefit of The Wolfsonian	\$496,943
GableStage, Inc.	\$165,000
Museum of Contemporary Art, Inc.	\$309,375
University of Miami - Lowe Art Museum	\$357,429

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on FY 2023-2024 County Arts Budget

Ms. Spring reported that there were no surprises at the first Budget Hearing on September 7th. The Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners will adopt a FY 2023-2024 County Budget at the second and final Budget Hearing on Thursday, September 21, 2023. As is the norm, Director Spring will report to the Council on the details of the adopted budget for the Department. Mr. Spring noted that at the first Budget Hearing, Commissioner Juan Carlos Bermudez highlighted the need to invest more funding for the arts on the west side of the County, highlighting the value of the Doral Contemporary Art Museum. The Department's proposed FY 2023-2024 grants budget now includes additional funds for the Doral Contemporary Art Museum. The Mayor's Change Memo has been issued and there are no changes or surprises in regard to the Department of Cultural Affairs' and Art in Public Places' budget. In the proposed budget the Mayor found the resources to sustain the current budget year increases for the FY 2023-2024 Departmental budget.

The proposed budget also includes renewal of direct allocations to cultural organizations managing buildings that are County-owned or has had a stake in building, such as the

Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, the Pérez Art Museum Miami and Vizcaya Museum and Gardens. Chairman May reminded Councilors of the importance of engaging with Commissioners during the budget process. Mr. Spring noted that Deputy Director Marialaura Leslie is working on a short video that highlights the impact of the arts in our community which will be a useful tool to make the case for arts funding. Ms. Leslie and the team will also soon have the results for the Arts and Economic Prosperity Study which will provide updated figures for the financial impact of the arts. The study was last conducted five years ago.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Spring reported that he had the opportunity to review the County Code regarding the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council and noted that the appointment for a Director for the Department is jointly made by the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Cultural Affairs Council. He noted the Mayor has appointed Deputy Director Marialaura Leslie as Interim Director.
- Mr. Spring reported that when he announced his retirement, he noted the importance of beginning the recruitment process for a new Deputy Director as soon as possible, to assist Ms. Leslie through the transition. The goal is to have a candidate selected and submitted to the Mayor before Mr. Spring leaves his post. Staff will update the Council on the recommendation at the next Cultural Affairs Council meeting in October.
- Mr. Spring noted he is working closely on transition issues with Ms. Leslie. He expects it to be a smooth handoff.
- Mr. Spring expressed feeling much gratitude for the attendance of the former Cultural Affairs Council Chairs present at his final Council meeting. He noted they made many important contributions to the work.

Council Motion Regarding the Appointment of Marialaura Leslie as Department Director

Councilor Al Dotson made a motion for the Cultural Affairs Council to concur with Mayor Daniella Levine Cava's appointment of Marialaura Leslie as Interim Director, following Director Michael Spring's retirement on October 2, 2023. Councilor Dotson accepted an amendment by Chairman May to support Ms. Leslie as the permanent Director. The motion to support the appointment of Marialaura Leslie as the new, permanent Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs passed unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Dotson; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

Chairman Brian May invited the former Cultural Affairs Council Chairpersons in attendance to address the Council and Director Spring.

- Ms. Pauline Winick stated she is proud of her service as Chairperson. She is impressed and very proud of all that the Cultural Affairs Council has accomplished since the time she worked closely with Mr. Spring and the team. She expressed great

personal pride that the Council's work now has surpassed her expectations. Mr. Spring noted that at the time Ms. Winick served as Council Chair she was also the first woman executive vice president of a National Basketball Association team, the Miami Heat.

- Mayor Don Slesnick stated he is proud to be back after 25 years since his service as Council member and Chairman. He is delighted to find that he continues to have much in common with current Council members and staff. He noted that working closely with Mr. Spring taught him about good government, and how to get results ethically and courageously and has served as an example and guiding light of how to handle oneself in the public sector. He added that his late wife Jeannette Slesnick would have been delighted to attend the meeting in support. Mr. Spring noted he worked with Kathleen Slesnick Kauffman, Mr. Slesnick's daughter, for many years. She led the County's work in the area of historic preservation.
- Mr. Xavier Cortada stated that the arts matter and throughout history have allowed humanity to communicate and engage with one another. He thanked Mr. Spring because the arts and culture are currently thriving in our County due to his vision, integrity and leadership for the last 40 years. As a former Chairman and also a practicing artist Mr. Cortada remembers applying for grants and also advocating for funding for the arts in Tallahassee and noted it was an impressive time for Mr. Spring to pass the baton, with a strong Department budget, a talented team to ensure succession and a thriving cultural community. He presented Mr. Spring with a blank canvas for the next phase of his life. Mr. Spring noted that every Chair of the Cultural Affairs Council has left their mark and Mr. Cortada in particular led the Department's efforts to address sustainability, climate change and resiliency issues which are now a major area of the work.

Council Motion Regarding the Renaming of the Major Cultural Institutions Grants Program

Mr. Dotson stated as he reflects on the magnitude of Michael's contributions to arts and culture, he is just struck by the immensity of what has occurred here over the last 40 years. Mr. Dotson has known Mr. Spring for a long time, most of the time from afar, until recently joining the Cultural Affairs Council. In addition to being a class act, Mr. Spring has an impeccable reputation for always doing the right thing. He is a wizard at problem solving. He is a man of his word. And he is the embodiment of integrity.

Mr. Spring has won the confidence of our elected leaders and the trust of our artists and arts groups. With that confidence and trust he has established a reputation of excellence, transparency and fairness, carefully built over 4 decades. He has staked his hard-earned reputation on the cultural life of this community. In fact, Mr. Spring has been our Cultural Developer in Chief, drawing for us the strategic map to creating a successful arts landscape for Miami. In addition, to cultivating Miami's individual artists and arts organizations, he has been instrumental in helping to develop flagship cultural institutions for us and for future generations.

Mr. Dotson noted that Michael will be the first to tell you that he didn't do it alone. Together, with enlightened elected officials, board members, civic leaders, artists and cultural leaders, Michael Spring led the way to a world-renowned, vibrant and diverse arts community, second to none. That kind of enduring commitment and relentless dedication to putting Miami on the map as an international cultural center deserves to be memorialized.

In honor of Michael Spring's visionary leadership, Mr. Dotson moved, and the Council unanimously approved that the Cultural Affairs Council forever rename the Major Cultural Institutions Grants Program to the "Michael Spring Major Cultural Institutions Grants Program." (Motion by Mr. Dotson; seconded by Mr. Bierman)

Council Motion Regarding the Establishment of Michael Spring as Director Emeritus

Chairman May spoke about the culture of the Department of Cultural Affairs and noted that Mr. Spring's tenure as Director of the Department has been transformative on a large scale for Miami-Dade County. Integrity, empathy, respect, innovative work and a grand vision of what allows a cultural community to develop have been central to the Department and Mr. Spring's leadership during the last 40 years. Chairman May added that after basically building an entire cultural landscape from the ground up - the Arsht Center, the Moss Center and soon the Coconut Grove Playhouse – and given Mr. Spring's perseverance and commitment to the cultural community, it is only fitting that the Council mark this momentous occasion with a gesture that echoes the tremendous and long-lasting impact of his extraordinary legacy.

Chairman May made a motion and the Council unanimously approved that the Council bestow upon Mr. Spring the honorary title of "Director Emeritus" of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs in perpetuity in recognition of his unprecedented leadership. The title will always be a physical representation for the Department and the staff of the once-in-a-lifetime commitment, and visionary leadership which forever transformed Miami's artists and cultural institutions. (Motion by Mr. May; seconded by Ms. St. George)

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Councilor Bierman noted that according to the Talmud it is forbidden to live in a town that does not have a teacher. The notion made him develop a list as a young man of the requirements a town would need to meet to live there. In a condensed amount of time Miami developed a cultural community very quickly that allowed him to make Miami his home. He credits Mr. Spring's leadership with making this city a place where one can live a complete and well-rounded life and thanks him for that.
- Mr. Trainer is proud to be a member of the Cultural Affairs Council and to work closely with Mr. Spring and the Department. He noted that historically there's low

staff turnover and this is a testament to his leadership and commitment to the work. It has been an honor for him to chair panels and be part of the process to support the cultural community. He has witnessed firsthand cultural organizations grow and thrive, becoming very qualified and competitive through the years. The growth of the cultural community and the steadying of the Art in Public Places program are Mr. Spring's legacy.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Liliana Hernandez-Constenla". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "L".

Liliana Hernandez-Constenla