

Centrally Located in Westchester

The Westchester Cultural Arts Center located west of the main entrance to Tropical Park and facing Bird Road (S. W. 40th Street). Tropical Park is a regional park featuring facilities for a variety of sporting events such as track and field meets, professional soccer games, football, lacrosse, baseball, softball, tennis, basketball, racquetball, boxing and equestrian events. It offers ample opportunities for passive recreational activities in trails, paths, picnic areas and non-programmed open spaces, and also houses equestrian facilities and events. Located within Miami-Dade's Commission District 10 represented by Senator Javier D. Souto, this regional park is often enjoyed by residents throughout Miami-Dade County.

A Distinctive Multidisciplinary Arts Center

The Westchester Cultural Arts Center expands the park's ability to serve the citizens of Miami-Dade County, especially those in the Westchester area, by offering a multi-purpose building for a variety of cultural, educational, and community activities.

The facility will provide cultural programming and instruction focusing on Hispanic arts and culture in the following main spaces:

- Studio Theater (200 seats) – a flexible space designed to accommodate a wide range of performing arts and community activities, along with a complement of front-of-house and back-of-house support spaces;
- Lobby Space – serving also as an art gallery for rotating exhibitions;
- Office and Storage Spaces - accommodating staff, teachers, and storage of materials and equipment.

The project's scope includes site features and infrastructure improvements (right-of-way improvements, lighted parking lots with pedestrian and vehicular circulation, etc.) necessary for the successful integration of the cultural center within the existing park.

This project has been completed with the out-most care for the environment and it is scheduled to receive Two Green Globes certification, for the low impact site design, native and adapted landscape, energy efficiency systems, energy systems commissioning, water use efficiency, interior environmental quality, electric vehicle charging stations, and construction waste reduction, are a few of the items incorporated into this project.

From Concept to Reality

The development of the Westchester Cultural Arts Center has been a long-time goal for Senator Javier D. Souto and residents of District 10. In 2004, Miami-Dade County voters approved the Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond program, which included funds for the project. On June 17, 2008, the Board of County Commissioners determined that Tropical Park was the most appropriate location for this project and found that the construction of a community arts center will benefit the community and add to the quality of life of the citizens of Miami-Dade County. Later that year, a special election was held and a referendum approved by a majority vote for the construction of a community arts center at Tropical Park. The program for the facility was refined between the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department and the Department of Cultural Affairs. In July 2015, a professional services contract for architectural, engineering and specialty consultants' services was awarded to Zyscovich Architects, Inc., and in February 2020, TGSV Enterprises Inc, was awarded the construction of this much anticipated project.



Westchester Cultural Arts Center, view from Bird Road