

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MEDIA CONTACT:
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305-375-5829/ LilianH@miamidade.gov**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
WINS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD FOR ITS “GOING TO THE MUSEUM” GUIDE**

(Miami – August 28, 2014) The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs has won a 2014 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award which recognizes innovative county government programs that modernize government and increase services to county residents. The Department was honored for its [“Going to the Museum”](#) guide for new audiences: a free tri-lingual online resource, printed guide and classroom poster designed to help prepare new visitors for a museum experience.

The Department of Cultural Affairs created [“Going to the Museum”](#) as a companion to its award winning [“Going to the Show”](#) guide. The guides were created using the principles of [Universal Design](#) and keeping children with Sensory Processing and Autism Spectrum Disorders in mind, but can also be used as an effective tool to teach all children museum etiquette and help prepare them for what to expect when visiting a museum.

Depicted in comic book style with easy-to-understand language and accompanied by delightful “anime-like” illustrations of friendly animals, [“Going to the Museum”](#) explains what to expect when visiting a museum such as an art, history, science or children’s museum. The story highlights key events and situations that visitors are likely to encounter along the way, such as unfamiliar people, waiting in line, darkened spaces, and unexpected or sometimes loud sounds. The guide also includes an introduction with brief instructions on how readers can personalize the story with additional dialogue and descriptions in order to create their own version of [“Going to the Museum.”](#)

Parents, educators and organizations working with children can view [“Going to the Museum”](#) online and request free printed copies or classroom posters by visiting the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs [“Going to the Museum”](#) webpage at www.miamidadearts.org/education/going-museum. The guide is available in English, Spanish and Creole.

[“Going to the Museum”](#) was developed by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs as part of its [“All Kids Included - Accessible Arts Experiences for Kids”](#) (AKI) program. AKI creates inclusive arts and cultural programs so that kids of all abilities and their families can participate fully in the arts. AKI is an initiative of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, made possible with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, and in part through grant funding provided by The Children’s Trust. The Children’s Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County by making strategic investments in their future.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) represents county governments in the United States and provides essential services to the nation’s counties. NACo advances issues before the federal government, improves the public’s understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information and a comprehensive list of winning programs please visit NACo’s website at www.naco.org.

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The Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council develop cultural excellence, diversity and participation throughout Miami-Dade County by strategically creating and promoting opportunities for artists and cultural organizations, and our residents and visitors who are their audiences. The Department directs the Art in Public Places program and serves its board, the Art in Public Places Trust, commissioning, curating, maintaining and promoting the County’s art collection. The Department also manages, programs and operates the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, a campus of state-of-the-art cultural facilities in Cutler Bay, as well as Miami-Dade County Auditorium, Joseph Caleb Auditorium and the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, all dedicated to presenting and supporting excellence in the arts for the entire community. Through staff, board and programmatic resources, the Department, the Council and the Trust promote, coordinate and support Miami-Dade County’s more than 1,000 not-for-profit cultural organizations as well as thousands of resident artists through grants, technical assistance, public information and interactive community planning. The Department receives funding through the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, The Children’s Trust, the National Endowment for the Arts, the State of Florida through the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Other support and services are provided by TicketWeb for the Culture Shock Miami program, the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, the South Florida Cultural Consortium and the Tourist Development Council.