

**MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
December 15, 2021**

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 Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Second Vice Chair Sandra Curbelo Jorge Plasencia Cheryl Rees Janá Sigars-Malina, First Vice Chair Monty Trainer Justin Trieger</p>	<p><u>Members Not Present</u> Alejandro Aguirre Adolfo Henriques, Immediate Past Chair Rosa Sugrañes</p> <p><u>Others Present</u></p>
<p><u>Staff</u> Michael Spring, Director Marialaura Leslie, Deputy Director Carolina Alfonso Kelly Allocco Francine Andersen Patricia Arbelaez Roxana Barba Stefania Barigelli Nikenna Benjamin Mary-Margaret Dale Marie Denis Ivette Dominguez Eric Fliss Teddy Harrell</p>	<p><u>Staff (continued)</u> Liliana Hernandez-Constenla Ana Meza Gilda Mooney Alex Peraza Adriana Perez Dana Pezoldt Katherine Revell Pablo Rincon Alexia Robotham Javier Siut Christina Tassy-Beauvoir Pamela Valles Graham Winick</p>

Chairman Brian May called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for December 15, 2021

Requests for excused absences were submitted by Councilor Alejandro Aguirre, Councilor Adolfo Henriques and Councilor Rosa Sagrañes. (Motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

Approval of October 21, 2021 Minutes

The minutes of the October 21, 2021 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

FY2021-2022 Community Grants (CG) Program Panel Recommendations – 2nd Quarter

Mr. Graham Winick reported that the FY 2021-2022 Community Grants program panel, chaired by Councilor Janá Sigars-Malina, convened on November 4, 2021, to review 26 applications requesting \$227,500.00 for the Second Quarter of the program. The Panel recommended funding 26 applicants for a total of \$185,000.00. Mr. Winick reported that 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.

The following Council members declared a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on the following:

Mitchell Bierman – Florida International University Board of Trustees for the benefit of the Miami Urban Studios and the Village of Pinecrest

Monty Trainer – Rotary Foundation of South Miami, Inc.

A motion was made to fund all the of the panel's recommendations subject to Councilors with conflicts abstaining from voting on the applications affected. The Councilors with the above-mentioned conflicts of interest abstained from the voting. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Mr. Bierman)

A Reflection of Me, Inc.	\$6,920
Across Missions, Inc. a/f/a Beatriz Valdes Studio, Inc.	\$3,692
Across Missions, Inc. a/f/a Hand2HandTeam Corp	\$6,920
Brazilian Voices, Inc.	\$6,920
Brevo Theatre Inc.	\$4,614
Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education, Inc.	\$13,840
Dimensions Variable, Inc.	\$4,614
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Parade and Festivities Committee, Inc.	\$13,840
Encantus Music Inc.	\$6,920
Foundation for Emerging Technologies and Arts, Inc. a/f/a The Last Hundred	\$6,920
Fundarte, Inc. a/f/a Antiheroes Projects	\$6,920
Miami Dance Futures, Inc.	\$6,920
Miami International Ballet Competition, Inc.	\$6,920
Miami Light Project, Inc. a/f/a Maya Billig	\$6,920
Miami Light Project, Inc. a/f/a Natasha Tsakos	\$6,920
Miami Light Project, Inc. a/f/a Xavier Cortada Foundation, Inc.	\$6,920
Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc.	\$6,920
Miami Shores Village	\$4,614

Para Bajitos Inc.	\$6,920
Power Access, Inc.	\$6,920
Ruta Teatral Inc.	\$4,614
The EATN Project Inc.	\$5,998
The Miami Foundation, Inc. a/f/a Susan Caraballo	\$6,920

The Panel's recommendations to fund the following organizations, for which there are the above-mentioned conflicts of interest and abstentions from voting, were voted on and passed unanimously as follows: (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of the	
Miami Beach Urban Studios	\$6,920
Village of Pinecrest	\$9,227
Rotary Foundation of South Miami, Inc.	\$9,227

Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grant Program Panel

Mr. Spring presented the grant panel list for the Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grant Program. It was approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Trainer; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Spring reported that he joined Chairman May for a presentation at the Dade Delegation's public hearing on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, in support of full funding for state art grants in the upcoming legislative session. The state arts grants have an enormous impact on Miami-Dade County. If fully funded \$13 million in funds will be granted 168 local non-profit arts organizations. Last year the State of Florida funded nearly \$27 million.
- Mr. Spring announced that the National Endowment for the Arts awarded full funding of \$500,000 to the Department from its American Rescue Plan allocation. The funds will be used to provide stipends for Miami-Dade County based individual artists. Staff will work quickly to launch the program in January 2022 with awards being made in the first part of 2022. The announcement of the new program will be issued in the coming weeks.
- The Department will relaunch the Arts Resilient 305 initiative to engage and mobilize the public and the arts community around the issues of climate change and sea level rise. Mayor Levine Cava has asked the Department to work and coordinate with the Aspen Institute for the conference exploring climate change that will be held locally March 2022. The Department will commission temporary public art works from visual and performing artists themed around the issue of climate change in conjunction with the conference. The City of Miami Beach has expressed interest in partnering with the Department and matching the money to commission the artworks.
- The Department's cultural facilities – Miami-Dade County Auditorium, South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center and the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center were successful in securing Shuttered Venues Operator Grants from the Small Business Administration. The grants are federal funds granted to facilities that had to close during the pandemic. The three facilities were granted nearly \$1.9 million in funds combined which are unbudgeted monies for the Department, which staff would like to redeploy to use to address pressing and staffing issues at the facilities and to work on new initiatives which the Mayor would like the Department to address.
- Mr. Spring reported the County has achieved the certificate of occupancy for the Westchester Cultural Arts Center. The contractor is currently putting the finishing touches on the building. All the equipment systems for the building are on order, delivery pending the resolution of the supply chain issues currently faced across the nation. Roxy Theatre Group is managing the facility and renting equipment to be able to host public events.

Work has begun on the outdoor performance park adjacent to the Center which is expected to be completed in March 2022.

Councilor Reports

- Ms. Sigars-Malina suggested a bazaar or event with emerging artists artworks could also be a way to engage the public around the issue of climate change. In addition, Ms. Sigars-Malina reported that the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden has the Night Garden event happening this winter.
- Mr. Trainer reported there will be a Coconut Grove Arts Festival in 2022 and Dade Days will take place in February 2022.
- Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez attended a wonderful event at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center. She was delighted with the number of people in attendance.
- Mr. Trieger thanked Miami-Dade County Auditorium production team for a job well done in a production he participated in. Mr. Trieger reported that there is a unique opportunity to see Vizcaya and the New World Symphony Fellows at a night garden event.
- Mr. Plasencia reported that he will be representing the arts and the Miami-Dade community now that he has joined the board of PBS.
- Mr. Bierman reported that Pinecrest Gardens commissioned a site-specific installation by light artist Bruce Monroe. They had a successful opening event that was part of Art Basel. Mr. Bierman attended GableStage memorial and celebration of life of the late Joe Adler, who was a leader and influential in the Miami-Dade theater community.
- Ms. Rees attended the Red Dot Fair.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Liliana Hernandez-Constenla