

**MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
November 19, 2024**

A meeting of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council was held at the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 111 NW 1st Street, 6th Floor Conference Room and online via Zoom.

<p><u>Members Present</u> Brian May, Chairman Mitchell Bierman Kareem Brantley Sandra Curbelo Al Dotson, Jr. Adolfo Henriques, Immediate Past Chair Councilwoman Linda Julien Cheryl Rees Janá Sigars-Malina, First Vice Chair Zaba St. George Castro Monty Trainer</p>	<p><u>Members Not Present</u> Commissioner Daniela Jean Rosa Sugañes</p>
<p><u>Staff</u> Marialaura Leslie, Director Ashlee K. Thomas, Deputy Director Graham Winick, Assistant Director Carolina L. Alfonso Stephanie Antequera Patricia Arbelaez Roxana Barba Stefania Barigelli Rodriguez Nikenna Benjamin Nicole Campbell Tania Centeno Nicole Chaplin Marshall Davis Marie Denis Eric Fliss Stephanie Garcia Teddy Harrell Liliana Hernandez Latoya Hightower Christine Jefferson Regla Lee David Martinez-Delgado Ana Meza</p>	<p><u>Staff (continued)</u> Valentine Medina Gilda Mooney Carmen Morris Steven Padilla Ricardo Palenzuela Paula Parra Alex Peraza Adriana Perez Dana Pezoldt Katherine Revell Pablo Rincon Gisella Rivas-Diaz Amanda Sanfilippo Javier Siut Christina Tassy Geraldine Toussaint Jane Thayer Pamela Valles Andrea Valencia Eduardo Vivas</p> <p><u>Guests Present</u> Mark Burns, Coconut Grove Business Improvement District (BID)</p>

Cultural Affairs Council Chairman Brian May called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Approval of the October 23, 2024, Minutes

The minutes of the October 23, 2024 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Dotson, Jr.; seconded by Mr. Brantley)

Requests for Excused Absences for November 19, 2024

Requests for excused absences for Councilors Commissioner Daniela Jean and Rosa Sugrañes were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Dotson, Jr.; seconded by Councilwoman Julien)

FY 2024-2025 Community Grants (CG) Program Panel Recommendations – Second Quarter

Ms. Geraldine Toussaint, Cultural Projects Administrator, presented the grant recommendations for the FY 2024-2025 Community Grants Program – Second Quarter. The Panel, which was chaired by Councilor Sandra Curbelo, convened on August 8, 2024, to review 33 applications requesting \$277,500 for the Second Quarter of the program (supporting projects taking place between January 1, 2025, and March 31, 2025). Of which, 10 were first-time applicants to the Community Grants Program. The Panel recommended funding 33 applicants for a total of \$180,000.00. The projects recommended for funding represent a diversified range of activities and demographic locations. In its deliberations, the Panel carefully considered and applied the Community Grants guidelines as outlined below. 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 program is particularly sensitive to the needs of 1) indigenous cultural neighborhood activities and projects encouraging the preservation of heritage, traditions, and culture; and 2) social service organizations and cultural groups developing collaborative intervention projects.

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

Mitchell Bierman, Adolfo Henriques, and Janá Sigars-Malina - Florida International University (FIU) Board of Trustees, for the benefit of the Miami Beach Urban Studios
Monty Trainer - Rotary Foundation of South Miami, Inc.
Mitchell Bierman - Village of Pinecrest

The Panel's recommendations to fund the remaining organizations were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Dotson, Jr.; seconded by Mr. Brantley)

Armonia, Inc.	\$5,162
Beaux Arts of the Lowe Art Museum of the University of Miami, Inc.	\$5,162
Brazilian Voices, Inc.	\$5,162
Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education, Inc.	\$10,322
CodeArt, Inc.	\$5,162
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Parade and Festivities Committee, Inc.	\$10,322
Fine Arts Ceramic Center, Inc.	\$5,162
Fine Arts of Miami Corp	\$1,500
First United Methodist Church of Miami, Inc.	\$3,000
Foundation for Emerging Technologies and Arts, Inc. a/f/a Juraj Kojs	\$5,162
Global Arts Project, Inc.	\$5,162

Havfama, Inc.	\$5,162
Maiaca, Inc.	\$5,162
Main Street Players, Inc. a/f/a Sefanja R. Galon	\$5,162
Miami Beach Arts Trust, Inc.	\$5,162
Miami Center for Architecture & Design, Inc.	\$5,162
Miami Dance Futures, Inc.	\$5,162
Miami International Ballet Competition, Inc.	\$5,162
Power Access, Inc.	\$10,322
Power2Voice, Corp.	\$5,162
Shakespeare Troupe, Inc.	\$3,441
Sol E Lua Cultural Arts Center, Inc.	\$5,162
St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc.	\$6,882
The Last Hundred, Inc.	\$5,162
The Road to the Arts, Inc.	\$3,441
Tradisyon Lakou Lakay, Inc.	\$5,162
We Art Foundation, Inc.	\$5,162
What if Works, Inc.	\$5,162
Women in Music Ayo Corp.	\$5,162
Yiddishkayt Initiative, Inc.	\$5,162

The Panel's recommendations to fund the following organizations, for which there are the abovementioned conflicts of interest and abstentions from voting, were voted on and passed unanimously as follows:

Florida International University (FIU) Board of Trustees, for the benefit of the Miami Beach Urban Studios - \$5,162 (Motion by Councilwoman Julien; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

Rotary Foundation of South Miami, Inc. - \$6,882 (Motion by Mr. Dotson, Jr.; seconded by Councilwoman Julien)

Village of Pinecrest - \$5,162 (Motion by Councilwoman Julien; seconded by Mr. Brantley)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Department Facilities Update - Marshall L. Davis Sr., African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Teddy Harrell presented an update on the Marshall L. Davis Sr., African Heritage Cultural Arts Center (newly renamed after the facility's managing director, Marshall L. Davis Sr. Mr. Harrell reported the Marshall L. Davis Sr., African Heritage Cultural Arts Center will continue its partnership with the Miami Children's Museum this year. To date, 500 children have been served through the After School Arts Academy. The After School Arts Academy is designed to provide artistic learning experience during after-school hours, with intake beginning at 2:00 p.m. The program is broken down into five 8-week sessions to monitor a child's development and engagement in the arts.

Upcoming Events:

- **Threads of Resilience: Celebrating Art, Beauty, and Cultural Legacy** – December 1, 2024 – March 23, 2025, Amadlozi Gallery, at the Marshall L. Davis Sr. African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

- **Art, Blues, & Soul Concert** – December 7, 2024, at 6:00 PM, Wendell A. Narcisse Performing Arts Theater at the Marshall L. Davis Sr. African Heritage Cultural Arts Center
- **50th Anniversary Kickoff & Instrumental Start Preview** – December 15, 2024, at 6:00 PM, The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County
- **Heritage Dance Collective Presents: WE ALL “Se wo were fi na wosankofa a yenkyi”** – January 18, 2025, Wendell A. Narcisse Performing Arts Theater at the Marshall L. Davis Sr. African Heritage Cultural Arts Center
- **Crowns by Regina Taylor** – March 6, 2025 – March 23, 2025, Wendell A. Narcisse Performing Arts Theater at the Marshall L. Davis Sr. African Heritage Cultural Arts Center
- **Sankofa Jazz Concert** – April 5, 2025, at 7:00 PM, Wendell A. Narcisse Performing Arts Theater at the Marshall L. Davis Sr. African Heritage Cultural Arts Center
- **Revelations in Rhythm** – May 24, 2025, at 7:00 PM, Lou Rawls Center for the Performing Arts at the Florida Memorial University

Culture Shock Miami

Ms. Christina Tassy provided an update on the Culture Shock Miami program. She reported that, to date, ticket sales for November 2024 surged to 724, bringing the program's total reach (ticket sales and community engagements) for October 2024 and November 2024 to 3,000.

On October 25 and 26, 2024, in partnership with Miami Light Project and Miami Theatre Center, Culture Shock Miami Presents co-presented a performance by local choreographer Gentry George's dance troupe, Zest Collective. The collaboration included seven engagements: five performances (two public performances and three free school shows) and two masterclasses. Over 1,600 students participated, and the public performance attracted more than 250 attendees.

Additionally, Culture Shock Miami Presents will co-present the off-Broadway production of STOMP with the Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center. Culture Shock Miami ticket allotment has sold out (150 tickets) for the performance Culture Shock Miami has also begun selling tickets for holiday events, such as The Nutcracker at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County.

Art in Public Places

Ms. Amanda Sanfilippo, Curator and Artists Manager, provided an update on the Art in Public Places program. The Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida project at the Jackson Memorial Campus aims to house families and children in need of long-term care at Jackson Memorial Hospital. A private nonprofit organization is developing this project on county-owned land through a public-private partnership. The Art in Public Places team is working with artists to create engaging interior designs that are welcoming for children and families staying for extended periods. The artists shortlisted to submit proposals for this project include Phil Lique, Gabriella Noelle, Karen Rifas, Hermes Berrio, Jillian Mayer, Michelle Weinberg, Beatrice Chachamovitz, and Carolina Sardi, with Marie Penfen as an alternate.

The Homage to Cielito Lindo project at the new Civil and Probate Courthouse will honor the historic Miami-Dade County Courthouse. The design will incorporate historical images, documents, artifacts, and design elements from the original courthouse. Artists interviewed for

this opportunity, and local artist and South Florida Cultural Consortium recipient Laura Tanner was selected.

The Department of Cultural Affairs is slated to receive a donation of signed photographs by Christo and Jeanne-Claude from the Christo and Jeanne-Claude Foundation. The photographs depicting the Surrounded Islands in Biscayne Bay will be used in the Civic and Probate Courthouse. The Christo and Jeanne-Claude Foundation is also donating long-term licenses to print and display a selection of the photographs, which cannot be sold to the general public. Additionally, the department is collaborating with the Art in Public Places division to create didactic materials for archival and narrative purposes.

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Art in Public Places, a selection of artworks are on display at Miami International Airport, including an exhibition by Monica McGivern at the North Terminal, Gate D31 Galleries, running through August 2025, hosted by the MIA Art Division. On November 6, 2024, Art in Public Places celebrated its 50th anniversary with a panel discussion and reception at Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) which was sponsored by the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Panel featured artists Michele Oka Doner, Edouard Duval-Carrié, Rosario Marquart, Roberto Behar (R & R Studios), Cristina Lei Rodriguez, Magnus Sodamin, and GeoVanna Gonzalez, and was moderated by Jennifer Inacio, Associate Curator at Pérez Art Museum Miami, Marie Vickles, Senior Director of Education at Pérez Art Museum Miami and member of the Art in Public Places Professional Advisory Committee. Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and Franklin Sermons delivered remarks.

On December 6, 2024, Art in Public Places will be hosting tours of River Parc in conjunction with Art Basel Miami Beach. Art in Public Places is working on making wayfinding signage for the public art bigger at Miami International Airport. Lastly, Phase II of the Art in Public Places website will feature an interactive map showcasing all of Miami-Dade County Public Art Collection. The new website will also be compatible with a QR code. Currently, the website displays artworks organized by location.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

Chairman May congratulated Councilwoman Linda Julien on her re-election to the City of Miami Gardens Council and also acknowledged that it was the birthday of fellow Councilor Monty Trainer. He further noted that the City of Miami had named a street in Coconut Grove in his honor. The Board of County Commissioners is slated to formally approve the street name at the Board of County Commissioners meeting on November 20, 2024.

Councilor Janá Sigars-Malina reported that the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden will host A Festival of Chocolate in January 2025. Additionally, the garden has several upcoming events, including Night at the Garden Miami (ongoing through January 12, 2025), A Very Merry Garden (December 2, 2024 – January 5, 2025), Splendor in the Garden (January 23, 2025), and Gala in the Garden (February 1, 2025).

Councilor Janá Sigars-Malina recommended contacting the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden for plant donations for the Coconut Grove Playhouse.

Councilor Sandra Curbelo reported that Give Miami Day is November 21, 2024.

Councilor Monty Trainer recommended the department increase its engagement with the Dade League Cities.

Councilor Mitchell Bierman shared his experience attending the Florida Grand Opera's performance of The Magic Flute. The final Miami performance is November 19, 2024, at 8:00 p.m. afterward the show will be performed in Broward.

Councilwoman Linda Julien reported that the City of Miami Gardens will host LOUD: Love of Urban Design from December 4 to December 7, 2024. The event will include a fashion show, artist activations, and a revival. In addition, the City of Miami Gardens is planning the construction of a new performing arts center.

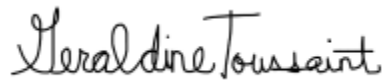
DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Director Leslie commended Amanda Sanfilippo, Patricia Romeu, Michael Spring, Director Emeritus and the Art in Public Places team for their role in the 50th anniversary events.
- Director Leslie welcomed Andrea Valencia as the new Senior Executive Secretary. Andrea is a Miami native. Before joining the Department, she worked in the business office at Capitol Grill, where she was part of the sales, marketing, and private events teams. Andrea has strong administrative and program management skills. Before that, she worked at the University of Miami's IVIS clinic as a behavioral therapist, working with children on the autism spectrum. Andrea holds a Master of Science in Applied Behavioral Psychology from the University of Miami and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Young University in Idaho.
- Director Leslie reported that this year, Mayor Levine Cava introduced a new program to recognize outstanding county employees through the Employee of the Year process. The program includes two awards, and each Department can nominate two employees. Patricia Arbelaez, Miami-Dade County Auditorium Theatre Director, was nominated for the Sean McCracken Above and Beyond Award. This award is named in honor of Sean McCracken, a longtime county employee who sadly passed away this year and is given to individuals who demonstrate exceptional dedication. Patricia's incredible work and her consistent commitment to going above and beyond every day made her a deserving nominee. Teddy Harrell, Marshall L. Davis Sr., African Heritage Cultural Arts Center Assistant Center Director, was nominated for the No Wrong Door Award. The No Wrong Door initiative ensures that any Miami-Dade County resident can easily access the services they need, no matter where they begin their search. Teddy has been instrumental in helping people connect to the right services, making him an excellent nominee for this award.
- Director Leslie reported that Mayor Daniella Levine Cava appointed Edouard Duval-Carrié as the new County Artist and Caridad Moro-Gronlier as the new Poet Laureate of Miami-Dade County. They succeed Xavier Cortada, the former County Artist, and Richard Blanco, the former Poet Laureate.
- Director Leslie reported that on December 7, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. in the Steven P. Clark Government Center lobby, there will be a portrait unveiling of Merrett R. Stierheim.
- Director Leslie reported that the Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center received a \$15,000 grant from South Arts for their Way of Water project.

- Director Leslie reported that Mayor Daniella Levine Cava's re-election installation ceremony will take place at Arsht Center in the Knight Concert Hall on November 20, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
- Director Leslie reported that the litigation on the Coconut Grove Playhouse was resolved as of October 4, 2024. The Department of Cultural Affairs Capital Team is preparing to relaunch the project and has been meeting with Arquitectonica staff and City of Miami personnel. The project was initially delayed during the demolition permit application process, but staff have resumed the demolition permit application process.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Geraldine Toussaint".

Geraldine Toussaint