

**MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
February 15, 2023**

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

<p><u>Members Present</u> Alejandro Aguirre Kareem Brantley Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Second Vice Chair Al Dotson, Jr. Councilwoman Linda Julien Brian May, Chairman Cheryl Rees Janá Sigars-Malina, First Vice Chair Rosa Sugrañes Monty Trainer</p>	<p><u>Members Not Present</u> Mitchell Bierman Adolfo Henriques, Immediate Past Chair Jorge Plasencia</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 Tania Centeno Kimberly Chuck Mary-Margaret Dale Marie Denis Ivette Dominguez Eric Fliss Bianca Gonzalez Olga Gonzalez Teddy Harrell</p>	<p><u>Staff (continued)</u> Liliana Hernandez-Constenla Regla Lee David Martinez-Delgado Gilda Mooney Steven Padilla Alex Peraza Adriana Perez Dana Pezoldt Katherine Revell Pablo Rincon Gisella Rivas-Diaz Amanda Sanfilippo 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 and staff.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Approval of January 18, 2023 Minutes

The minutes of the January 18, 2023 Council meeting were approved. (Motion by Ms. Sagrañes; seconded by Ms. Rees)

Requests for Excused Absences for February 15, 2023

Requests for an excused absence were submitted by Councilor Mitchell Bierman, Councilor Adolfo Henriques and Councilor Jorge Plasencia.

(Motion by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez; seconded by Ms. Rees)

FY 2022-2023 Community Grants (CG) Program Panel Recommendations – 3rd Quarter

Mr. Spring presented the grant recommendations for the FY 2022-2023 Community Grants program Panel meeting, chaired by Councilor Janá Sigars-Malina and convened on February 8, 2023, to review 27 applications requesting \$201,000.00 for the Third Quarter of the program. The Panel recommended funding 27 applicants for a total of \$160,000.00. However, Fundarte, Inc. a/f/a Antiheroes Project, Inc. decided to withdraw and decline the Panel's grant recommendation, making the final total recommendation \$155,332.00. Mr. Spring noted that staff is recommending that this applicant move to the Tourist Development Council grant program where they will be eligible for additional funds. Staff is also offering additional resources for the applicant, including grant writers.

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 and is particularly sensitive to the needs of indigenous cultural neighborhood activities and projects encouraging the preservation of heritage, traditions, and culture. Councilor Janá Sigars-Malina noted that the program serves as an incubator for the arts and is the starting and entry point for most arts organizations in Miami-Dade County.

A motion was made to fund all the of the Panel's recommendations. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Julien; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

Artwalk Presents, Inc.	\$6,366
Beatriz Valdes Studio, Inc.	\$6,366
Blue Scholars Initiative, Inc.	\$6,366
Centro Cultural Boliviano Masis, Corp.	\$6,366
Doral Contemporary Art Museum, Inc.	\$6,366

Florida International University - Wolfsonian Public Humanities Lab	\$6,366
Florida L'Opera & Zarzuela Corp	\$6,366
Florida's Singing Sons, Inc.	\$6,366
Gamebred Youth & Families, Inc.	\$3,396
Guataca Nights Foundations, Inc.	\$5,093
Harambee, Inc.	\$3,396
Hued Songs, Inc.	\$5,517
Margi Happenings, Inc.	\$6,336
Miami Chamber Music Society, Inc.	\$6,366
Miami Community Music Center, Inc.	\$6,366
Miami Dance Hub, Inc.	\$6,366
Miami Light Project, Inc. a/f/a Kathy Shorr	\$6,366
NWD Projects, Inc.	\$6,366
Operation Lyric, Inc.	\$6,366
Para Bajitos, Inc.	\$6,366
PATH: Preserving, Archiving & Teaching Hiphop, Inc. a/f/a Spoken Soul Festival	\$6,366
Ruta Teatral, Inc.	\$4,244
Simbios Art Corp	\$6,366
Troop of Actors, Inc.	\$6,366
University of Miami - Department of Theatre Arts	\$6,366
Wynwood Pride, Inc.	\$6,366

FY 2022-2023 Miami Individual Artists (MIA) Grants Programs Guidelines

Mr. Spring reported that now in its second year, the Miami Individual Artists (MIA) Grants Program provides non-matching awards to individual artists of all disciplines in Miami-Dade County. The guidelines reflect an increase in funding for FY 22-23, providing grant program awards of up to \$10,000 to Miami-Dade County-based individual artists of all disciplines, and all backgrounds, on a competitive basis to support their artistic development and practice. This year's guidelines remove many of the Federal requirements that were in place last year to satisfy the NEA's reporting requirements. Staff will host a workshop on February 22nd and will record it to reach as many artists as possible. The guidelines were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on FY 2023-2024 County Arts Budget

Ms. Spring reported the Department has submitted the budget for FY 2023-2024 internally. Every year the Department is asked to submit a status quo budget and from past experience the exercise leaves a revenue gap due to cost increases. It is currently too early for the County to issue revenue projections, but in general, tourism revenue and property taxes have increased. The internal budget submission highlighted areas where the Department is requesting additional resources. The Mayor will release the budget and Commission will set the millage rates in July as part of the budget process. Two public budget hearings will take place in September before a budget is adopted. The Cultural Affairs Council will weigh in and take a position on what the funding levels should be subject to the availability of additional revenues. The Department will provide two Zoom briefing sessions in March and voting will take place at the regular Cultural Affairs Council meeting on March 15, 2023.

Councilor Al Dotson Jr. arrived at the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Spring reported that the County Commission agenda item for the Community Grants 2nd Quarter grant panel recommendations is back on track. The agenda item recently passed Committee hearing and will be on the agenda for the meeting of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners on March 7.
- Department staff has conducted orientations via Zoom with new members of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, including Commissioners Steinberg, Commissioner Cabrera and Commissioner Bermudez. The briefings are going well, and the new members are interested in becoming more acquainted with the Department's work.
- Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners Chairman Oliver Gilbert announced the new committee structure. The Department has been assigned to the Housing, Recreation, Culture and Community Development Committee – chaired by Commissioner Bastien. Other Committee members include Commissioner Higgins, Senator Garcia, Commissioner Gonzalez and Commissioner McGhee. Mr. Spring noted that the Department has working relationships with the other County departments in the Committee and they often collaborate on projects.
- Mr. Spring reported that regarding the Coconut Grove Playhouse, the City of Miami has approved the County's submission of a demolition waiver, which exclusively addresses the issue of trees on the property. As the next step in the process, the County submitted the demolition permit to the City and it is being reviewed now. This permit covers asbestos removal, shoring up the historic front building, extracting the remaining historic architectural elements from the auditorium which will be incorporated in the new theater, and demolishing the auditorium. The City staff reported that there was an appeal filed with the City regarding the demolition waiver for the Coconut Grove Playhouse. This is not delaying the review of the demolition permit which is ongoing. The appeal filed does not address any issues regarding trees and is incorrect in its assertions. As required, the appeal has been scheduled to be reviewed by the City's Planning, Zoning and Appeals Board

(PZAB) on March 15 at 6:30 pm at City Hall. At the hearing City staff will confirm that the demolition waiver only addresses trees, that the demolition waiver was approved by the City, and that none of the issues raised in the appeal are relevant. Our attorneys advise that the appeal should be dismissed by PZAB if they follow the standard.

- Mr. Spring reported that Miami-Dade Mayor Levine Cava and City of Miami Beach Mayor Gelber have collaborated in bringing the Aspen Ideas Conference which deals with the issues of climate change and sea level rise on March 6 through March 9, 2023 in the Miami Beach Convention Center. Our Department commissioned artists for public art interventions during the conference.
- The Department continues to host Miami Emerging Arts Leaders sessions for the next generation of leaders in arts. The next skill building session on February 16th is focused on basic contracting and intellectual property. Deputy Director Marialaura Leslie leads a team working on the program.
- The Department is working on the Arts and Economic Prosperity Study, a research project conducted in partnership with Americans for the Arts every five years. Kelly Allocco on staff is leading a team working on audience surveys. The next step is to collect and analyze organizational surveys. The last time the study was done it documented the arts' major role in the local economy, with an annual \$1.4 billion local economic impact, 41,000 arts jobs, as well as 16 million attendees.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Councilor Monty Trainer reported that this coming President's Day weekend the 59th Coconut Grove Arts Festival will be held and will feature a lot of new artists who have entered the show. The Festival has a robust Emerging Artists program. Mr. Trainer is very excited to hear the report and progress on the Coconut Grove Playhouse project.
- Councilor Sigars-Malina reported that Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens will host the Orchids in Bloom event March 11 and March 12, as well as a birding event. She noted that Fairchild is doing a lot of work to bring back native orchids. Ms. Sigars-Malina also noted that she is happy to hear that the Coconut Grove Playhouse project will use native plants in its green spaces.
- Councilor Dotson reported that he attended the Art + Soul 2023 event at the Pérez Art Museum Miami to celebrate and support the PAMM Fund for Black Art. He was impressed by how much the event has grown and continues to make an impact and cement Miami's place in the arts nationally.
- Councilwoman Linda Julien reported that she joined Chairman Oliver Gilbert in hosting a Valentine's Day dinner for seniors. She saw how active the City's seniors are and wants to engage them by promoting the use of the Golden Ticket Arts Guide to seniors on social media and the public access channel. City of Miami Gardens staff will begin to schedule activities around cultural programs listed in the guide. She also congratulated staff member Geraldine Toussaint for purchasing a home in the City of Miami Gardens and welcomed her to the City.

Deputy Director Marialaura Leslie reported and congratulated Councilor Al Dotson, Jr., for being inducted into the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Hall of Fame.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 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