

Memorandum



Date: January 20, 2016

To: Members, Cultural Affairs Council

From: Michael Spring, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Spring". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Subject: Facilities Updates: African Heritage Cultural Arts Center
Joseph Caleb Auditorium
Miami-Dade County Auditorium
South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

As a result of Mayor Gimenez' re-organization of County government and beginning in 2012, the Department of Cultural Affairs has been responsible for managing the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, Joseph Caleb Auditorium, and Miami-Dade County Auditorium. The Department managed the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center through design and construction and has programmed and operated the Center since its opening in 2011.

The management and operation of these cultural facilities supports the overall mission of the Department, specifically to:

- 1) Strengthen and advance the work of our local non-profit cultural organizations and artists; and
- 2) Increase audience participation in the arts.

Assessment of the Facilities Capital Needs

Since taking on the responsibility of managing the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, Joseph Caleb Auditorium, and Miami-Dade County Auditorium, the Department has focused on assessing the capital needs of each facility and launching new mission-driven programming initiatives. These three facilities need significant work to repair and/or replace basic functional building systems, upgrade theater and sound and communications equipment, and modernize its architecture, including building signage, facades and audience and performer accommodations. To this end, the Department worked with the Internal Services Department to implement a competitive process to select a team of architects, engineers (A/E) and specialty consultants to conduct a comprehensive assessment of these items and to prioritize and cost the recommendations to improve each facility. While this work is expected to take some time to accomplish, modest upgrades and routine maintenance are being performed with the goal of improving the staff, user, and patron experience.

The competitive selection process concluded in the hiring of Rodriguez and Quiroga Architects Chartered, who have now completed their findings for the first phase of the work including the assessment of each facility and an order of magnitude cost estimate for the improvements. The Department has provided comments and has prioritized the list of work. Life safety issues and major building systems such as HVAC, roofing, and electrical systems are being prioritized. The scope of work is being further refined to align with current facility needs, budget limitations, and potential grant opportunities. The A/E team is currently working on the design development documents, which are scheduled to be completed in February 2016.

It should be noted that each facility has Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond (BBC-GOB) funds available to begin this work, but costs for the planned improvements exceed the BBC-GOB funds currently allocated. Improvements will be phased while additional funding is sought. The Department has been awarded a \$500,000 grant for the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center for the FY 15-16 grant cycle of

the State Cultural Facilities Grant Program, and has submitted an application for Miami-Dade County Auditorium for the FY 16-17 grant cycle.

- African Heritage Cultural Arts Center: \$1.0 million + \$500,000 State Cultural Facilities Grant
- Joseph Caleb Auditorium: \$1.4 million (balance remaining)
- Miami-Dade County Auditorium: \$4.0 million

African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center (AHCAC) complex includes a black box theater, a music building with a concert hall, piano lab and several practice rooms, a dance studio that is accessible to individuals with disabilities, an art gallery, several studio spaces, a print shop and classrooms. It has a distinguished history of providing instruction in the arts in all artistic disciplines to youth through after school, school break academies and summer school programs. Its work continues to develop the next generation of artists and arts supporters. In addition, the Center serves as an incubator for supporting and developing the work of African-American arts groups and artists through its black-box theater, rehearsal spaces and art gallery. The Center also serves as a welcoming place to the surrounding community, hosting evening classes and civic meetings.

The following is a summary of activity at the AHCAC:

	FY 2015-2016 to-date	December
Total number of students registered:	131	20
Number of arts production rentals:	47	14
Number of community rentals:	53	16
Number of arts groups using the Center:	47	13
Number of civic meetings:	54	14
Number of tours and outreach:	13	4

Program highlights for December included:

- The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center continues to provide artistic training in the performing and visual arts for children ages 6 through 16 via the After School Arts Program, Saturday Arts Program, as well as its Winter Kuumba Arts Workshop.
- District 3 Commissioner Audrey Edmonson held her annual toy give-away at the Center on December 21st, bringing much joy to the community’s children during the holidays.
- The FAMU, one of the Center’s civic resident organizations, rented the theater and the music hall for their annual and highly successful Kwanzaa Gala.
- The marketing staff of the Miami Marlins surprised the Center by having several teams visit on one day and making donations to the educational arts program totaling \$550.00.
- The Center was also visited by medical doctor Emile Powe and his wife Dr. Jeanette Thornton, a psychiatrist, who also made a donation of \$100.00 to the Center’s educational trust fund.

Sankofa: Celebrating 40 Years of Service

The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center concluded its 40th Sankofa Anniversary celebration with the re-emergence of the Calabash Visual Arts Festival.

- The Calabash Visual Arts Festival included a special gallery exhibition entitled “Dragonfly” curated by Bayunga Kialeuka and Robert McKnight. “Dragonfly” featured the works of Overstreet Ducasse; OMM Sistas: Loni Johnson and Hattie Mae Williams; Tavaré Hill; Rafael Van Troi Santana Vargas; Robert Gilbert; Purvis Young; Tomas Essons; Marjaries Marmolejos;

and Joe Chirichigno. The festival included dance and music performances by Plinio Sanchez and his live Band and took place during Art Basel days.

Upcoming Events

- Soul In the City Comedy Club Night – Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 8:00pm featuring Chello Davis, Big Sean Larkins and Lawrence Owens
- Keepers of the Dream – Student Art Exhibition: January 14, 2016 – January 29, 2016
- *Simply Simone – the Music of Nina Simone*, opening on February 19, 2016. A musical revue based on the turbulent life and rich legacy of an American musical icon featuring Sarah Gracel Anderson, Toddra Brunson, Deana Butler-Rahming and AHCAC alumnus, Ja’Nia Harden. Nina Simone was a singer, pianist, arranger, civil rights activist, and more. Her music career spanned nearly 50 years and she worked in a broad range of musical styles. The score to *Simply Simone* crosses genres from gospel to blues to Broadway to Rock and Roll, and features such definitive Simone classics as “I Love You Porgy,” “The Look of Love,” “My Baby Just Cares for Me,” “To Be Young, Gifted, and Black,” and “Don’t Let Me Be Misunderstood”

Maintenance Issues

- The installation of exterior security cameras in the courtyard and main parking area, which began in December, was completed in early January. Training on the system’s capabilities and features is being provided to the Center’s staff.

For more information on the Center’s events and offerings, please visit the Center’s website at www.ahcacmiami.org

Joseph Caleb Auditorium

The Joseph Caleb Auditorium is a 962-seat theater that has been the gathering place in the Liberty City community for the performing arts for more than 36 years. The Auditorium has featured concerts, community forums, movie screenings and productions by community arts organizations throughout the year. The parking lot serving the Auditorium and the adjoining Caleb Center office complex is closed for construction of a new parking garage. The public art funds generated by the parking garage project will be used to have an artist design a prominent and attractive “connection” between the new garage and the Auditorium.

With the loss of parking resulting from the ongoing construction of the parking garage for the Caleb Center, the Department has launched a plan that converts the Caleb Auditorium into a venue for school field trip performances. This has the benefits of: 1) providing more students with opportunities to experience the arts; 2) offering opportunities for local arts organizations to develop and present programs designed for children; and 3) introducing arts organizations and artists to the Caleb Auditorium so that when the parking situation is resolved, they can use the theater for evening performances. Ultimately, the goal for the Joseph Caleb Auditorium is to continue the field trip program and also to program the theater proactively with prominent arts groups and artists to re-establish its reputation for artistic excellence, diversity and community outreach.

Awards

The Joseph Caleb Auditorium received the 2015 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for its program titled “Caleb Cultural Passport Program.” The award received was for Best of Category in Arts and Historic Preservation, which honors innovative programs that enhance services for the residents.

Joseph Caleb Auditorium attendance for fiscal year 2015-2016, to date, is 13,303.

Performances for the month of December:

- December 1, 2015 – *The Three Mess-keteers* presented by Fantasy Theatre Factory
- December 2, 2015 – *The Three Mess-keteers* presented by Fantasy Theatre Factory
- December 11, 2015 – Flamenco presented by Hispanic Flamenco Ballet
- December 12, 2015 – Celebration of Our Senses presented By Youth Arts In The Park

Upcoming shows in January:

- January 11, 2016 – Dance Performance by Miami City Ballet
- January 12, 2016 – *Chicken Dance* presented by Arts Power Touring Company
- January 22, 2016 – *Moon Mouse* presented by Kids Entertainment Light Wire Theatre
- January 28, 2016 – *Seussical* presented by Theatreworks USA

Miami-Dade County Auditorium

Miami-Dade County Auditorium (MDCA) offers three dynamic presentation styles:

1. A 2,372-seat theatre that can host major dance, theatre and music performances;
2. A “Mid-Stage” theatre which can accommodate up to 450 patrons is well-suited for small concerts, dance and theatre presentations, giving mid-sized organizations an ideal setting to showcase their work; and
3. A 250-seat “On.Stage Black Box” theatre in which both the audience and performers share the stage of the Auditorium which is adapted into an innovative studio theatre for more intimate and often, cutting edge shows.

Since the theatre opened its doors in 1951, it has served as the center for showcasing the diversity of our cultural life and most recently, as a hub for celebrating the Hispanic arts community.

The Department has launched a program to establish co-presenting partnerships with non-profit cultural organizations that can present performances on the main stage, mid-stage and in the black box configuration and begin to establish an artistic reputation for the theatre which will encourage more use and presentations of higher artistic quality. Partner organizations include Fundarte, the Rhythm Foundation, Tigertail, the Performing Arts Series presented by Miami Dade College and Teatro Avante. This program also has the benefit of helping to develop Hispanic audiences for some of our community’s premiere cultural organizations. In addition, the Auditorium has restructured its staff and policies in order to attract more uses of the facility.

The following is a summary of activity at MDCA:

	<u>FY 2015-2016</u>	<u>November/December</u>
Number of Events:	43	32
Attendance:	36,010	27,325

Program highlights and rentals for November and December included:

- MDCA and Arca Images presented *El Color del Deseo* written and directed by Pulitzer Prize winner Nilo Cruz. The play was performed in Spanish and a live simultaneous translation to English was provided.
- MDCA and FundArte partnered for the third consecutive year to bring the legendary Casa Patas Foundation to the MDCA stage. The group performed *Flamenco Frequencies* to a sold-out crowd in

the mid-stage theatre configuration. This new work was choreographed by acclaimed dancer and choreographer Karen Lugo. As in previous years, a master class was offered free of charge to local dancers.

- Ukulele sensation Jake Shimabukuru, recently performed at MDCA. Jake has single-handedly revitalized the art of playing the ukulele. He has played before thousands, performed in front of the Queen of England, and Rolling Stone Magazine called him the Jimmy Hendrix of the ukulele.
- Thomas Armor Youth Ballet presented *The Nutcracker*, a holiday favorite. Over 6,000 children had the opportunity to experience the show during daytime performances, some of which were Sensory Friendly performances.
- MDCA and Florida Chamber Orchestra presented *Jazz en Christmas*, a selection of old holiday favorites set to jazz and performed by a 35-piece orchestra under the direction of Marlene Urbay with guest star Nathalie Avila. The presentation was held in the mid-stage configuration.
- MDCA and Jose Negroni presented *Ready for Christmas*, featuring over 60 musicians and 7 guest vocalists performing carols from across Latin America and the Caribbean.

MDCA continues to work with Matrix2 on the development of marketing campaigns for selected events.

For more information on MDCA's events and offerings, please visit the website at: www.MiamiDadeCountyAuditorium.org

South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

The South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC) is a multidisciplinary arts center designed by Arquitectonica International, Inc. to showcase the performing arts. The Center's 961-seat state-of-the-art Theater Building includes a fly tower, orchestra pit, front of house spaces (box office, lobby, restrooms, concessions, etc.), back of house support spaces (dressing rooms, storage and work areas, administrative offices, etc.) and a multi-purpose rehearsal space. The separate Activities Building houses an informal performance space, and smaller multi-purpose spaces for lectures, classes, or community gatherings. The Center's two buildings are joined by an outdoor promenade leading to a gently-sloping lawn for outdoor concerts and festivals along the Black Creek Canal.

Through Miami-Dade County's Art in Public Places Program, the Center has major public art works created by Miami artist Robert Chambers. An innovative light piece illuminates the translucent inner lobby wall with changing light designs created by computer-programmed LED fixtures. In addition, the lobby features two marble sculptures also created by Robert Chambers.

The following is a summary of activity at SMDCAC:

	<u>FY 2015-2016 to date</u>	<u>December 2015</u>
SMDCAC Presents:	66	4
Number of rentals:	31	18
Attendance:	21,000	12,232

Events presented by the Center for the month of December included:

- *The Nutcracker* performed by Miami Youth Ballet (December 4 and 5)
- Fancy Nancy Splendiferous Christmas (December 13)
- Seraphic Fire's *Messiah* (December 20)
 - Seraphic Fire School Show (December 15)

Rentals for the month of December included:

- Miami Youth Ballet *The Nutcracker* school shows (December 2-4)
- New Theatre's production of *Two Weekends and a Day* (December 4-13)
- Greater Miami Youth Symphony Holiday Show (December 6)
- Miami-Dade County ITD Meeting (December 7)
- Bridgeprep Academy School Show (December 8)
- St. Brendan High School Show (December 9)
- Pinecrest Academy School Show (December 10)
- New Theatre NNPN Meeting (December 10-13)
- Brideprep Academy School Show (December 12)
- Highpoint Academy School Show (December 13)
- Pinecrest Preparatory Academy School Show (December 14)
- Somerset Academy School Show (December 15 and 16)
- Pinecrest Academy School Show (December 17)
- Somerset Academy by the Bay School Show (December 18)
- CENTI Holiday Show (December 19)
- SMDCAC Dance Classes:
 - Beginning Ballet – ages 5 to 9 years
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00 PM (September 15-December 10)
 - Intermediate Ballet – ages 10 to 14 years
Thursdays at 5:00 PM and Saturdays at 12:30 PM (September 17-December 12)
 - Jazz/Contemporary Dance – ages 8 to 14 years
Tuesdays at 5:00 PM and Saturdays at 1:30 PM (September 15-December 12)
- Pridelines Meeting – every Tuesday

January Highlights include:

- Burlesque Magnifique (January 8 and 9)
- John Pizzarelli Quartet (January 16)
- Arlo Guthrie (January 17)
- Comedy Zone (January 22)
- Sammy Figueroa Latin Jazz Band (January 23)

For the season that began on October 1, 2015, the Center's volunteer program has saved the County \$16,900 to date.

For a complete listing of upcoming shows and events, please visit the Center's website, www.smdcac.org.