

Memorandum



Date: June 21, 2023
To: Members
Cultural Affairs Council
From: Michael Spring, Director
Subject: FY 2023-2024 Cultural Development Grants Program Recommendations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Spring", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council approve the funding of 22 grants for the FY 2023-2024 Cultural Development Grant Program.

BACKGROUND

The Cultural Development Grant Program, chaired by Council member Cheryl Rees, convened on May 25, 2023 to review 22 applications requesting a total of \$1,650,000. The panel recommended funding all 22 applications.

The Cultural Development Grant Program provides general operating support grants and technical assistance to a selected group of Miami-Dade County's mid-sized, artistically accomplished and culturally diverse performing, visual, literary, and presenting arts organizations that are defining the cultural and artistic voice of Miami. Qualifying organizations are committed year-round to the creation or presentation of art which demonstrate the potential to achieve regional, national, or international visibility as evidenced by current programs and management structure and many times engage in strategic partnerships for greater artistic success.

The panel specifically evaluated each applicant organization based on the following competitive review criteria: 1) artistic merit; 2) management and financial capability; 3) efforts leading to long-term cultural enrichment for Miami-Dade County; and 4) effective and illuminating education programs and public outreach initiatives to specialized populations.

The award recommendations will be determined at the time a program allocation is finalized. The program's FY 2023-2024 total allocation and the recommended grant award amounts per grantee will be presented to the Council for final review later this summer, after all the Spring cycle grants program panels have convened and preliminary FY 2023-2024 budget numbers are received.

Funding for the Cultural Development Grant Program is derived from departmental proprietary revenues. Final grant awards are contingent upon the availability of funds in the Department's FY 2023-2024 budget, which is subject to the County's Budget as adopted in September 2023.

Attached is a list describing the projects recommended for funding.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS FY 2023-2024 CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM

1. Artists in Residence in Everglades, Inc. *FY 2023-2024 Season*

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the upcoming season of Artists in Residence in Everglades, Inc. (AIRIE). In partnership with Everglades National Park, AIRIE strives to support and enhance the arts and cultural heritage of the Everglades subtropical wilderness by empowering artists to think creatively and critically about their relationship to the environment with a mission of revealing new paths forward.

2. Ballet Flamenco la Rosa, Inc. *FY 2023-2024 Season*

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the upcoming season of Ballet Flamenco la Rosa, a company dedicated to presenting authentic Flamenco dance with live music in theatrical settings and expand the art form beyond traditional limits and appeal to broad based audiences. This season the company will present collaborations of new works as part of their mainstage season at the Colony Theater on Miami Beach. Additionally, the company will continue to present smaller-scale performances at various venues throughout Miami Dade County, and continue its series of educational and outreach performances in collaboration with various community-based organizations.

3. CaFA-Third Horizon, Inc. *FY 2023-2024 Season*

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the programming season of CaFA-Third Horizon, an organization dedicated to developing, producing, exhibiting, and distributing film and other art forms that give voice to stories of the Caribbean its diaspora and other marginalized and underrepresented spaces in the Global South. Program activities include, but are not limited to, the *Third Horizon Forward* fellowship program, a program which nurtures creative expression among a cohort of up-and-coming Caribbean and diaspora filmmakers; the *Caribbean Film Academy*, a hybrid fellowship and film market program that introduces filmmakers and producers from across the region to individuals from cross-Caribbean film industries; and the organization's flagship program, the *Third Horizon Film Festival*, held annually at the Little Haiti Cultural Complex featuring four days of premieres, artist talks, screenings, exhibitions and public television programs.

4. Chopin Foundation of the United States, Inc. *FY 2023-2024 Season*

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the season activities presented by the Chopin Foundation of the United States. Activities include the *Chopin for All* free concert series, Chopin Salon Concerts, and three events presented in collaboration with other organizations. All events will take place within Miami-Dade County at venues such as Granada Presbyterian Church in Coral Gables, the Key Biscayne Community Center and the Chopin Foundation Salon in North Bay Village, among others. The Chopin Foundation of the United States seeks to develop the careers of young American pianists as international concert artists and make the music of Frederic Chopin accessible to all audiences.

5. Coral Gables Congregational Church *FY 2023-2024 Season*

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the Coral Gables Congregational Church Community Arts Program. The program stages its renowned June-August Summer Concert Series of internationally-renowned jazz and classical artists in performances and master classes. The program also offers an August-May Conservatory for the Arts to provide children (ages 5-18) with affordable in-depth music theory classes, one-on-one instrument training, and "active-learning" ensembles.

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6. Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami, Inc.
FY 2023-2024 Season

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the season of Cuban Classical Ballet of Miami. Founded in 2006, the company seeks to promote the art of classical ballet and the Cuban ballet style while developing future career classical dancers. This season's performances will take place at the Lehman Theater at Miami Dade College – North Campus, the Miami Dade County Auditorium and the Seminole Theater in Homestead. Additionally, special presentations of children's classics will be presented for students.

7. Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator, Inc.
FY 2023-2024 Season

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support year round exhibitions and events presented by the Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator (DVCAI). This season, DVCAI will present the annual *Caribbean Crossroads Exhibition Series*, four 'Back-Chat' virtual sessions, three concerts and cultural performances, local studio and artist-in-residence programs, international cultural exchanges, participation in Miami Carnival, and activities that focus on artist support and education. Except for the concert series, DVCAI programs are free and open to the public.

8. Florida International University Board of Trustees, School of Music
FY 2023-2024 Season

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the season of live performances presented by the Florida International University School of Music. The season will continue celebrating over 20 years of performance at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center, featuring many world-renowned musicians. The concert season will include chamber festivals, a chamber series, and orchestral, jazz, chorus, and Latin music performances. A distinguished lecture series exploring the way in which music reaches beyond the music community will also be presented.

9. Juggerknot Theatre Corporation
FY 2023-2024 Season

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the Juggerknot Theatre Corporation annual programs. Juggerknot is a Miami-based theatrical producer dedicated to pushing the boundaries and expectations of its audiences through immersive, site-specific works in and about Miami's culturally diverse communities. The company strives to create thought-provoking and empathetic experiences that connect audiences with the city's past and present, and each other. Performances take place in different communities throughout South Florida using buildings, hotels and motels as its' stages.

10. Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, Inc.
FY 2023-2024 Season

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the annual activities and programs at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center. The center is dedicated to protecting the natural environment by providing environmental educational programs to the private and public-school systems, as well as hosting various cultural arts events and programs that celebrate the environment. Events include rotating art exhibits, outdoor installations and lectures. All events will take place at the Biscayne Nature Center located on Key Biscayne.

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11. Miami Beach Garden Conservancy, Inc.

FY 2023-2024 Season

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the development and execution of horticulture and education programs, arts and culture programs at the Miami Beach Garden Conservancy. The conservancy presents programs that include music, live performance and visual art, lecture series, family programming and film presentations at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden, located across the street from the Miami Beach Convention Center. General access to the garden is free and open to the public.

12. Miami Dade College – Koubek Center

FY 2023-2024 Season

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the Koubek Center's season of multidisciplinary, Hispanic heritage-rooted programs. These programs include *The Little Havana Social Club*, a live music series celebrating Miami's diverse Latin cultures; *Playtime*, a bilingual cultural series for families; and *En Residencia*, an artist-residency program rooted in social practice for Latino artists. Located in Little Havana, the Koubek Center seeks to produce and present multi-disciplinary artistic programs that inspire, inform and entertain as well as build community through the arts.

13. Miami Dade College - Lynn and Louis Wolfson II

Florida Moving Image Archives

FY 2023-2024 Season

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the series of curated screenings and activities which explore the history and culture of Florida, especially South Florida, by means of its moving images, whether film or video, at the Lynn and Louis Wolfson II Florida Moving Archives at the Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus. Since 1960, the Wolfson Archives is dedicated to preserving Florida's moving image history, sharing Florida's moving image history with educators, students, historians and individuals interested in Florida, providing filmmakers valuable visual elements for telling their stories, providing a nurturing training ground for future archivists and becoming a center for excellence and expertise in film preservation.

14. Michael-Ann Russell Jewish Community Center, Inc.

FY 2023-2024 Season

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the season of programs presented by the Cultural Arts Department of the Michael-Ann Russell Jewish Community Center (MARJCC). This season the Department will present a variety of community oriented cultural arts programming designed to appeal to general audiences, including dance programs, theatre presentations, a concerts series, author presentations, film and educational lectures. Programs will take place at the MARJCC and other locations throughout Miami-Dade County.

15. New World School of the Arts - Dance Division

FY 2023-2024 Season

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the New World School of the Arts (NWSA) Dance Division's *Professional Choreographers' Presentation Series*. National and internationally renowned professional choreographers will create and/or stage significant works of dance in collaboration with professional dancers from NWSA. Each work will be premiered for the general public as part of the New World School of the Arts' *Dance Division Concert Series* in the fall and spring. Performances will take place at various locations, including the New World School of the Arts Theater, the Little Haiti Cultural Arts Center and the Aventura Arts and Cultural Center, among others.

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16. Olympia Center, Inc.

FY 2023-2024 Season

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the *Olympia Theater Presents!* series. The series includes performing, visual arts, history, and humanities programming to audiences along the Flagler District corridor in downtown Miami. This season's activities include programs such as *Street Stages*, *Bicycle Theatre* and Street Art Galleries exhibitions.

17. Orchestra Miami, Inc.

FY 2023-2024 Season

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the performing season of Orchestra Miami, whose mission is to provide symphonic music for all residents of South Florida. This season, Orchestra Miami will present several concerts for adults and children, which will take place at various venues throughout Miami-Dade County, including Pinecrest Gardens, the North Beach Bandshell, and Miami Dade County Auditorium, among others. In addition, Orchestra Miami will continue its education and outreach program at various schools throughout Miami-Dade County.

18. Patrons of Exceptional Artists, Inc.

FY 2023-2024 Season

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the Patrons of Exceptional Artists' *Miami International Piano Festival* season. The season includes the *Miami Beach Discovery Series* at the Colony Theatre and the *Aventura Cultural Series* at the Aventura Cultural Arts Center. Outreach initiatives will also be presented at the Betsy Hotel Piano Salon. Both series feature exceptional education opportunities with the artists and noted musicologist, Dr. Frank Cooper. Patrons of Exceptional Artists seeks to discover, promote, support, and document the masters of the keyboard emerging in this generation; rediscover repertoire; serve as a resource to agents, promoters, and orchestras; and build audiences of the future to help ensure the existence of classical music.

19. Pioneer Winter Collective, Inc.

FY 2023-2024 Season

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support programs presented by the Pioneer Winter Collective (PWC), which serves the mission of democratizing performance in public spaces, museums and galleries, stage, and film. PWC's mission is enacted through an annual mainstage contemporary dance and physical theater choreographed by Pioneer Winter, in collaboration with a growing team of artists, that seeks to expand the boundaries of existing movement practices; providing intergenerational arts enrichment, mentoring, education and skill-building activities; and producing the site-specific initiative *Grass Stains* and professional development associate artist program *Creative Connections*.

20. The Dance Now! Ensemble, Inc.

FY 2023-2024 Season

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the Dance Now! Ensemble performing season. This organization seeks to develop contemporary modern dance theatre that articulates the international cultural life of South Florida and reflect the region's multi-ethnicity. This season includes a twenty-four week season with six main stage concerts and four community/site specific performances and educational programs, which include classes, a summer intensive, lecture/demonstrations and open rehearsals at the Little Haiti Cultural Complex. The company will present their mainstage performances at the Colony Theatre on Miami Beach, the Little Haiti Cultural Arts Center and the North Beach Bandshell, among others. Educational and outreach performances will take place at various locations throughout Miami-Dade County.

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21. The Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center, Inc.
FY 2023-2024 Season

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the season of programs presented by the Cultural Arts Department at the Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center in Kendall. The department presents a full series of cultural, performing, literary, fine and visual arts programming at the center and other venues primarily located in central Miami-Dade. This season's programs include, but are not limited to, the annual *Jewish Book Festival*, visual art exhibitions by Sandi Goldman and the *Terra inFirma* exhibition program, and dance performances by local dance companies.

22. The Murray Dranoff Foundation, Inc.
FY 2023-2024 Season

***CDG award to be determined
based upon available allocation***

Funds are requested to support the presentation of the *Dranoff 2 Piano* performance season. The Foundation will present a season of internationally-renowned pianists and top local artists performing in Miami-Dade County's major concert venues, including the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts and the Aventura Arts and Cultural Center. In addition, the Foundation will premiere a 2-piano commission for Miami audiences and present live classical music performances, engaging over 10,000 teens in Miami-Dade County middle and high schools.