

# Memorandum



**Date:** July 21, 2021

**To:** Members, Cultural Affairs Council

**From:** Michael Spring 

**Subject:** FY 2021-2022 International Cultural Partnerships (ICP) Grants Program Recommendations

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Considering the uncertainty surrounding the long-term impact of Covid-19 on public programs scheduled to begin after October 1, 2021, staff advised the International Cultural Partnerships Program Panel at the panel's orientation to review and score each proposal based upon both the quality of the application and the ability to satisfactorily address each of the evaluation criteria, as stated in the program's guidelines. The award recommendations will be computed using the established funding formula for this program. The program's FY 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 budget numbers are received.

Final grant awards are contingent upon the availability of funds in the Department's FY 2021-2022 budget, which is subject to the County's Budget as adopted in September 2021. At that time, the Department will assess the grantee's feasibility of presenting public programs in traditional venues and performing spaces; if necessary, the Department is prepared to exercise appropriate contractual flexibility to include virtual programs and other program delivery strategies, as may be necessary.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council approve the funding of 10 grants for the FY 2021-2022 International Cultural Partnerships Grants Program.

## **BACKGROUND**

The FY 2021-2022 International Cultural Partnerships Program Panel, chaired by Rosa Sugrañes, convened on Wednesday, July 7, 2021 to review 10 applications requesting a total of \$320,000. The Panel recommended funding all 10 applications.

The International Cultural Partnerships Program is designed to provide grants to professional Miami-Dade County based cultural organizations to support significant artistic partnerships, partnerships or collaborations with artists, arts professionals and/or organizations abroad. The principal objectives of the program are: 1) to elevate Miami-Dade County's image abroad; and 2) to support the efforts of Miami-Dade's artists and cultural organizations to improve their work by engaging in meaningful arts activities with artists, arts professionals (such as curators, historians, designers) and/or organizations abroad. Priority consideration is extended to projects that develop reciprocal relationships with another city, country or region, either as a component of the project for which application is being made, or as an anticipated extension of that project over a specified period of time. Additionally, projects are encouraged to demonstrate artistic excellence and originality within the organization's overall programming and goals.

The Panel specifically evaluated each applicant organization based on the following competitive review criteria: 1) artistic and cultural merit; 2) efforts leading to long-term cultural enrichment of Miami-Dade

County; and 3) management capability. As set forth in the published guidelines, the panel's deliberations reflected the program's emphasized, targeted outcome to fund a selected group of projects at the highest possible percentage of their requests, thereby enabling the most significant opportunities for meaningful, long-term and developing cultural Partnerships.

Funding for the International Cultural Partnerships Grants Program is derived from departmental proprietary revenues. All funding recommendations are contingent upon approval of the Department of Cultural Affairs' FY 2021-2022 budget by the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners and Mayor and are subject to the availability of funds.

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
FY 2021-2022 INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROGRAM**

**1. Arca Images, Inc.**

***Award to be calculated based on funding formula***

***Abismo – A Miami/Madrid Exchange***

Funds are requested for the creation and presentation in Miami and Madrid of *Abismo*, a new exchange between Arca Images and Spain's Teatro Lagrada. Award-winning Spanish-Cuban playwright and director Abel González Melo, in collaboration with Arca Images' Alexa Kuve, Teatro Lagrada's Miguel Torres, along with the actors, will be the key artists in both countries. The story will bring to life the #MeToo movement and its effects on a group of characters. Performances will take place at Miami-Dade County Auditorium and Madrid's Teatro Lagrada, with residences taking place in both countries.

**2. Ballet Flamenco La Rosa, Inc**

***Award to be calculated based on funding formula***

***Aguas Amargas***

Funds are requested to support the second phase of collaboration between Ballet Flamenco La Rosa (BFLR) and Javier Martos, Artistic Director of The Flamenco Ballet of Granada, to create an original, evening length flamenco ballet inspired by the classic American play *A Long Day's Journey into Night*, written by Eugene O'Neil. There will be two performances in Miami in the 2021-2022 season and two in Granada, Spain the following year. In addition, three master classes will be offered at BFLR Studios to complement this exchange.

**3. Delou Africa, Inc.**

***Award to be calculated based on funding formula***

***Revealing Our Oral Traditions***

Funds are requested to support *Revealing Our Oral Traditions* in the Gambia (ROOT in the Gambia) project, an international exchange between Delou Africa, the National Center for Arts and Culture the Gambia, Gambia National Troup and Samsu Cultural Band/Tallending Cultural Compound. Delou Africa will collaborate with partners on a new work that reveals the intersection of African retentions in music, dance, and folktale.

**4. Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator, Inc.**

***Award to be calculated based on funding formula***

***Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator (DVCAI) ICP Program***

Funds are requested to support the second convening of *Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator (DVCAI) ICP Program* to Belize, Central America in Spring of 2022. Traveling with 12 emerging contemporary Miami artists working in various artistic disciplines, artists will converge to further explore the concept of "Under the Shade: Without a Shadow" through workshops, studio visits, and cross-cultural dialog, culminating in a virtual exhibition of Miami and Belize artists from May to June 2022.

**5. Edge Zones, Inc.**

***Award to be calculated based on funding formula***

***Art of Uncertainty, Index – Miami/Santo Domingo***

Funds are requested to support *Art of Uncertainty - Index –Miami/Santo Domingo*, the 14th edition of Edge Zones' annual cultural exchange between noted Florida and Dominican artists. The focal point of the exchange program is for Florida artists to collaborate and experience creating art under different conditions, connect with peers and curators from other cultures and countries, and enrich their curriculum by exhibiting alongside the top artists of a country and in museums.

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
FY 2021-2022 INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROGRAM**

**6. El Ingenio, Inc.  
*Celia, A Gift from the Soul***

***Award to be calculated based on funding formula***

Funds are requested to support the creation and world premiere of the performance *Celia, a Gift from the Soul*. The project is a collaboration between artists in Canada and the United States to develop and produce a multidisciplinary bilingual play incorporating actors, live music, theatrical installation, and multimedia images on the subject of the unique Cuban African artist Celia Cruz. The play will be presented in both countries and will be recorded and viewed as a movie on the YouTube, and Quick Movie platforms.

**7. FUNDarte, Inc.  
*Sharing Grandmothers (Phase 2)***

***Award to be calculated based on funding formula***

Funds are requested to support phase two of the theatrical presentation of *Sharing Grandmothers* by FUNDarte and AfriCan Connection, featuring Inez Barlatier (Miami) and LORNOAR (Cameroon) and directed by Carlos Caballero (Miami). This will incorporate all of the findings obtained in researching Haitian and Cameroonian culture that includes original music, dance, poetry and visual arts developed and performed by multiple artists during Phase 1.

**8. Miami Music Chamber Society, Inc.  
*ASMF / MCMS International Exchange Project - Miami / London***

***Award to be calculated based on funding formula***

Funds are requested to support *ASMF / MCMS International Exchange Project - Miami / London* - a collaborative partnership between MCMS and Academy of St. Martin in the Fields chamber orchestra. The residency will incorporate an innovative multi-genre performance, rooted in classical music and adding stunning elements of original choreography and storytelling to the mix, it will explore the themes of rebirth, on stage and in life, and the joy of coming back together through arts.

**9. The Dance NOW! Ensemble, Inc.  
*Anusim: What is Hidden is Never Lost***

***Award to be calculated based on funding formula***

Funds are requested to support phase two of *Anusim: What is Hidden is Never Lost*, a two-year cultural exchange between Dance NOW! Miami and Dança Em Diálogos in Braga, Portugal. Phase two includes Dança Em Diálogo's ten-day residency in Miami in March 2022, with the presentation of a new contemporary dance work blending the voices of four choreographers and 13 dancers from two countries addressing themes of cultural annihilation, assimilation and forced diaspora.

**10. The Opera Atelier, Inc.  
*Miami Transfer***

***Award to be calculated based on funding formula***

Funds are requested to support the creation and production of *Miami Transfer*, a bilingual opera inspired by the novel *Manhattan Transfer* by Dos Passos and the subjects of his contemporary, artist Edward Hopper. With an international creative team and cast, the work will explore contemporary issues and incorporate dance and film. The international partner will be Provisional Danza from Spain. The performances will take place in Spain in July 2022, and in Miami Dade in September 2022.