

**MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
ANNUAL PLANNING AND BUDGET RETREAT**

March 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> Mitchell Bierman Kareem Brantley Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Second Vice Chair Al Dotson, Jr. Adolfo Henriques, Immediate Past Chair Brian May, Chairman Cheryl Rees Janá Sigars-Malina, First Vice Chair Zaba St. George Rosa Sugrañes</p>	<p><u>Members Not Present</u> Councilwoman Linda Julien Jorge Plasencia Monty Trainer</p> <p><u>Guests Present</u> Laura Bruney Kisha Murray Mario Santana Sheila Womble</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. Mr. May commended former Councilor Alejandro Aguirre for having served over 30 years as a Council member and at one point as Chair of the Cultural Affairs Council. Mr. May welcomed and introduced new Council member Zaba St. George.

Ms. St. George stated she is happy to be a new Council member. In the past she served as a Legislative Director for a County Commissioner and is now practicing law in private practice. She is deeply interested in the arts and is looking forward to supporting the Department of Cultural Affairs as a member of the Cultural Affairs Council representing District 6.

Ms. Spring welcomed all Council members present and noted Councilor Henriques joined via Zoom. He recognized Kisha Murray representing the Office of Chief Morris Copeland in the Office of the Mayor; Mario Santana, from the Office of Management and Budget; Laura Bruney from the Arts and Business Council of Miami; and Sheila Womble from Arts for Learning. They all attended the meeting via Zoom.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Approval of February 15, 2023 Minutes

The minutes of the February 15, 2023 Council meeting were approved. (Motion by Ms. Sagrañes; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

Requests for Excused Absences for March 15, 2023

Requests for an excused absence were submitted by Councilwoman Linda Julien, Councilor Al Dotson Jr., Councilor Jorge Plasencia and Councilor Monty Trainer.

(Motion by Mr. Bierman; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

FY 2022-2023 Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grant Program Panel Recommendations

Mr. Spring presented the grant recommendations from the FY 2022-2023 Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grants Panel which was chaired by Councilor Monty Trainer. Councilor Kareem Brantley also served on the panel which convened on February 23, 2023 to review 40 applications requesting a total of \$1,484,855. The Panel recommended funding 35 applications for a total of \$900,000. Five applications scored below the threshold established by the Panel and were not recommended for funding. Department staff is working to identify alternative funding sources for the cultural organizations that were not funded.

The Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grants Program was created as a joint initiative of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and The Children's Trust. The objective of the SAS-C Grants Program is to grant funding to nonprofit organizations that will provide underserved children in Miami-Dade County with opportunities to attend high quality cultural arts or science summer camp programs at little or no cost. The program is almost fully funded by the Trust, but this year \$75,000 in Department funds were allocated to the program due to increased demand.

Councilor Brantley found his first experience serving on a panel rewarding. He was impressed with the level of programming for many of the organizations and thinks it is important that organizations that scored highly receive adequate and meaningful grant awards.

The following Councilors declared conflicts of interest and abstained from voting on the associated organizations:

Mitchell Bierman - Florida International University Board of Trustees, Museum of Contemporary Arts, Inc.

Adolfo Henriques - Florida International University Board of Trustees

Brian May - Area Performance Gallery, Inc. d/b/a Area Stage Company

Janá Sigars-Malina - Florida International University Board of Trustees

A motion was made to fund all the of the Panel's recommendations subject to Councilors with conflicts abstaining from voting on the applications affected. The Councilors with the above-mentioned conflicts of interest abstained from the voting. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sagrañes; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

Adrienne Arshat Center Trust, Inc. d/b/a Adrienne Arshat Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County	\$40,000
Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, Inc.	\$24,690
ArtSouth, A Not-for-Profit Corporation	\$40,000
Dibia DREAM, Inc.	\$24,784
Diva Arts & Entertainment, Inc.	\$24,223
El Ingenio Inc.	\$24,308
enFAMILIA, Inc.	\$24,682
Fantasy Theatre Factory, Inc.	\$40,000
Friends of the Bass Museum, Inc.	\$24,648
Homestead Youth Arts Center, Inc.	\$24,886
IFCM Corp.	\$12,785
Locust Projects, Inc.	\$11,627
Mahogany Youth Corporation	\$40,000
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, Inc.	\$40,000

Miami City Ballet, Inc.	\$24,180
Miami Music Festival, Inc.	\$23,670
Miami Stage Company / Miami Children's Theater, Inc.	\$23,500
Miami Theater Center, Inc.	\$24,775
Moonlighter FabLab, Inc.	\$20,079
Page and Friends Helping Hands Inc.	\$23,202
PARA BAJITOS INC	\$20,659
PATH: Preserving, Archiving & Teaching Hiphop, Inc.	\$24,784
S.E.E.K Foundation, Inc.	\$23,866
South Florida Youth Symphony, Inc.	\$23,330
South Temple Empowerment Project, Inc.	\$23,840
The Children's Voice Chorus, Inc.	\$40,000
The Florida City Foundation, Inc.	\$40,000
The Opera Atelier, Inc.	\$24,580
The Salvation Army, a Georgia Corporation for the Miami Area Command	\$17,674
The Trayvon Martin Foundation, Inc.	\$23,100
University of Miami	\$23,190
Voices of Miami, Inc.	\$23,254

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

Area Performance Gallery, Inc. d/b/a Area Stage Company (Motion by Ms. St. George; seconded by Ms. Sugrañes)	\$24,733
Florida International University Board of Trustees (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Rees)	\$6,048
Museum of Contemporary Art, Inc. (Motion by Ms. Sugrañes; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)	\$24,903

Mr. May stated it is important that Council Members connect with Commissioners to familiarize them with the Department's competitive grants process. It is important to dispel misconceptions and it is incumbent on the Board to be able to deliver the message that organizations serve the public from all districts, in addition to the Commission district in which they are located. Mr. Bierman stated zip code analysis of arts patrons often supports the broad impact organizations have across Commission districts. Mr. Brantley noted the importance of data collection to support the argument and to advocate for resources.

Ms. Marialaura Leslie noted at 10:15 am that Councilor Al Dotson, Jr. joined the meeting via Zoom.

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. In addition, there is less Carryover available for 2023-24. It is currently early for the County to issue revenue projections, but in general, tourism revenue and property taxes have increased. Department staff led two preliminary Council budget briefings on March 8 and March 9 to review budget submission details. Mr. Spring reported the Department needs \$5.2 million to maintain a status quo budget to cover the current level of grants, staffing and services. Mr. Spring noted that the Department has been meeting with cultural organizations in informal focus groups and the feedback from the sector points to hardships still being endured due to the economy. Organizations are faced with increased inflation costs, a tight job market and continue to find difficulty with earned revenue. The internal budget submission highlighted areas where the Department is requesting additional resources to help address those issues. Mr. Spring noted that an additional \$8.859 million in funds are needed for the coming budget year for budget enhancements. The enhancement funds include an additional \$7 million in grants to keep cultural organizations healthy, over \$1 million to address staffing needs, and \$831,000 to address increased overhead operating and programming costs at the four cultural facilities directly managed by the Department of Cultural Affairs. In total the Department needs \$14 million to maintain the status quo budget and address growth for the 2023-2024 budget year. The Council's advocacy and support of the Department's budget is critically important as the Mayor determines funding priorities for the County. The Mayor will release the proposed budget and the Commission will set the millage rates in July as part of the budget process.

Council Motion Regarding the FY 2023-2024 Budget

Councilor Adolfo Henriques noted the information in the budget briefings was detailed and clearly support the need for budget enhancements. Mr. Henriques made a motion for the Council to approve the staff budget recommendation and advocate for a total of \$14.059 million Department budget increase and for the Council to engage in a structured effort to meet with the Mayor and with the Miami-Dade County Commission. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sagrañes)

There was a discussion regarding the funding of cultural capital projects. Mr. Spring noted that Miami-Dade County does not have a revenue source to fund these types of projects. The Building Better Communities Bond Program in 2004 was the last time a major funding source was approved for cultural capital projects and today the needs have grown. The arts community led the effort to pass the \$3 billion dollar bond program. Currently there is an overall need for a referendum to fund new County capital projects. Staff will present an updated analysis of the scope of capital needs in the cultural sector for the next Council meeting. Mr. Spring added that it may be 3 to 5 years before a new bond referendum is

introduced for public vote. Ms. Sugrañes noted it is important to develop appropriate messaging regarding taxation levels.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Spring reported that regarding the Coconut Grove Playhouse, the City of Miami staff has approved the County's submission of a demolition waiver, which exclusively addresses the issue of trees on the property. City staff reported that there was an appeal filed with the City regarding the demolition waiver for the Coconut Grove Playhouse which is scheduled to be reviewed by the City's Planning, Zoning and Appeals Board (PZAB) later tonight, 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 City staff, and that none of the issues raised in the appeal are relevant. County attorneys advise that the appeal should be dismissed by PZAB if they follow the standard as the appeal is without merit.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Councilor Chancy-Gonzalez attended a performance by the New World School of the Arts at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium.
- Councilor Sigars-Malina reported that Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens will host the Sip and Stroll: Brazilian Carnival event. Ms. Sigars-Malina also noted that she will discuss the possibility of adding signage for Fairchild events on the outside, so the public is aware of events going on.
- Councilor Bierman reported that he visited the Historic Hampton House located in Brownsville, which is one of the last standing Green Book hotels that welcomed minorities during segregation. It now functions as a museum and performance site, where he saw a performance by the Urban Bush Women Dance Co. He considers the site a treasure in need of more cultural funding. GableStage is hosting a Hurricane Party event at the Biltmore in the Al Capone Suite, to coincide with its next theater production "El Huracan" written by a Miami native about Hurricane Andrew.
- Councilor Henriques reported that he went to see the production of "Wicked." Attendance has yet to go back to pre-pandemic levels and he noticed patrons are still more conscious about keeping social distance.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Liliana Hernandez-Constenla