

Memorandum



Date: October 17, 2018

To: Members
Cultural Affairs Council

From: Xavier Cortada
Chair

Subject: Our FY 2019-2020 Budget Objective

At our last Planning and Budget Retreat meeting on February 28, 2018, the Council passed the following motion:

“A motion was made to approve the budget and request incremental increases to the Department’s annual budget over the next four years, starting with \$2.5 million for the Department’s FY 2018-2019 budget. The 5-year goal is to rebuild the budget with an additional \$10 million to keep pace with the reality of present-day growing costs and demands for programs and services.”

As you know our budget for FY 2018-2019 increased by approximately \$2 million. This is a successful first step in achieving our 5-year plan. In order to build on this momentum, I am asking Councilors to meet with the Commissioner who appointed them before our February 2019 Planning and Budget Retreat and to accomplish the following two goals:

1. Advocate for a minimum of \$2.5 million in additional funds for our FY 2019-2020 budget; and
2. Invite them to attend – with you – an arts event, preferably in their district.

Our staff will provide you with a fact sheet with contact information for your Commissioner, highlights of the cultural activities that are supported in your Commissioner’s district, and a suggested list of events to attend. You also will have a copy of our “Top 15 Facts About the Arts in Miami-Dade County” as talking points.

At-large Council members can team up with district-appointed Council members wherever they think that they can be helpful. Please remember to insure that our staff publicly calendars any meetings where more than one Councilor is attending.

I plan to meet with Mayor Gimenez about this budget goal. It’s all about developing these personal relationships. Together, we can keep support for this critically needed funding growing for our artists and cultural groups – and ensure that our community’s families and kids continue to have the benefits of an outstanding cultural life.