

**MINUTES OF THE
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

December 18, 2019

A meeting of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council was held at the 6th Floor Conference Room, Stephen P. Clark Government Center, and 111 N.W. 1st Street, Miami, Florida.

<p><u>Members Present</u> Xavier Cortada, Chair Alejandro Aguirre Adolfo Henriques Brian May Cheryl Rees Janá Sigars-Malina, Vice Chair Rosa Sugrañes Justin Trieger</p>	<p><u>Members Not Present</u> Mitchell Bierman Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez Sandra Curbelo Denise Gerson Phyllis Simpkins Monty Trainer</p> <p><u>Others Present:</u> John Copeland</p>
<p><u>Staff</u> Michael Spring, Director Marialaura Leslie, Deputy Director Kelly Allocco Francine Andersen Roxana Barba Sue Camp Tania Centeno Kimberly Chuck Mary-Margaret Dale Marshall Davis Ivette Dominguez Eric Fliss Olga Gonzalez</p>	<p><u>Staff (continued)</u> Liliana Hernandez-Constenla Regla Lee Amanda Sanfilippo Long Gilda Mooney Steven Padilla Alex Peraza Adriana Perez Dana Pezoldt Katherine Revell Pamela Valles Graham Winick</p>

Chairman Xavier Cortada called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. Mr. Cortada recognized and welcomed John Copeland, Director of Cultural Tourism at the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for December 18, 2019

Requests for excused absences for Mitchell Bierman, Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Denise Gerson, Sandra Curbelo and Monty Trainer were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

Approval of November 20, 2019 Minutes

The minutes of the November 20, 2019 Council meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Mr. May)

FY 2019-2020 Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grants Program Panel

The program panel for the Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grants Program was approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sagrañes)

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

State Arts Budget Update

Mr. Spring reported that Chairman Cortada presented at the Dade Delegation meeting where he requested full funding for the cultural grants recommended by the Division of Cultural Affairs. The presentation highlighted the fact that with over 140 cultural grant requests from the area, \$11 million would benefit Miami-Dade County if the grants were to receive full funding. The presentation also noted the leveraging effect: for every \$1 allocated to the arts \$35 are generated.

Culture Shock Miami - Discount Tickets for Youth Program

Ms. Christina Tassy-Beauvoir reported that Culture Shock Miami has sold 40% of the current ticket inventory to date. Ms. Tassy-Beauvoir reported that the program partnered with the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center to present the upcoming Alonzo King Lines Ballet (January 2020), Sin Salida – A Collaboration Between Union Tanguera and Kate Weare Company (February 2020), Peking Acrobats (February 2020), The Color Purple (March 2020), SPEAK: Leela Dance Collective, and the All Kids Included Festival (May 2020). Beber Silverstein Group, the public relations agency of record, worked with Florida International University's student advertising agency BOLD to develop two promotional campaigns for Culture Shock Miami Presents *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom*. Staff is currently exploring implementation of the campaign.

Department Facilities Updates

Joseph Caleb Auditorium

Ms. Pamela Valles reported on the Caleb Cultural Passport Program, which is designed to provide cultural experiences to Miami-Dade County Public Schools students in grades K through 12th. To date the attendance for the 2019-2020 shows has reached 8,972. Program presentations include Arts Power National Touring Theatre's *Judy Moody & Stink*, Fantasy Theatre Factory's *Monster Tales* and Lite Wire Theatre's *Dino Light*. All performances take place at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium.

South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Eric Fliss reported that the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center kicked off the 2019-2020 season with the Backyard Bash featuring Classic Albums Live: Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers joined by Albert Castiglia and DJ Le Spam. Mr. Fliss reported that the Center welcomed over one thousand patrons on the annual Halloween celebration, a spooky carnival-themed night for all ages. One of the Center's highlights was the presentation of Venezuelan singer

Nella, just days after winning a Latin Grammy for Best New Artist. In January 2020 the Center will present The National Ballet Theatre of Odessa, Ukraine and The Naked Magicians on the mainstage.

Westchester Cultural Arts Center

Mr. Spring reported the project went out for construction bids and is currently under the Miami-Dade County Cone of Silence. A total of eight bids were received and are currently under staff review. The Center is a complicated project for its size. The Center, which will be located at the Bird Road entrance to Tropical Park, will feature a black box theatre with 125-150 seats, including a significant lobby that will function as an art gallery and potential meeting space. The public art commissioned is an exterior tile work by Christina Lei Rodriguez.

Coconut Grove Playhouse

Mr. Spring reported that Miami-Dade County submitted a petition to the Appellate Division of the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit on June 16, 2019, appealing the City of Miami Mayor's veto of the County's application for a final Certificate of Appropriateness for the Coconut Grove Playhouse project, along with a motion to expedite the briefing and oral argument to resolve the final approval and to move forward with the project. The City of Miami opposed the County's request to expedite the briefing and filed a motion to dismiss the County's appeal based on their contention that the Mayor's veto is not quasi-judicial. The Court rejected City's appeal to dismiss and was instructed to file by the end of November. County Attorney's Office is filing the Department's response by December 20, 2019. The appeal document and the response are posted on the Department of Cultural Affairs website.

Arts Education, Outreach and Access Update

Ms. Dana Pezoldt reported that the staff has been working closely with The Children's Trust publicist, Lisa Palley, to generate media coverage for various cultural arts groups that receive Department of Cultural Affairs and Trust funding. Media outlets that provided in-depth coverage include The Miami Herald, Artburst, WLRN, CBS 4, NPR and Miami New Times. Staff has also presented and appeared on a variety of internet radio shows including Grant Stern's *Only in Miami*. CBS 4 Miami covered the story of Kyle Tennyson, a local success story for the Young Musicians Unite Program.

Playwright Development Program Update

Ms. Adriana Perez provided an update on the Playwright Development Program which is a professional development program for individual artists that consists of weekend workshops during a two-year cycle. Master playwrights mentor four local playwrights and meet with them for three weekends a year. At the end of the second year of workshops, the playwrights hosted a festival of staged readings at the Sandrell Rivers Theatre. Ms. Perez reported that this season there are four productions that were developed through the program: *American Son* by Christopher Demos-Brown, *Amparo* by Vanessa Garcia, *Gringo Landia* by Hannah Benitez and *Miami Motel Stories* by Juan C. Sanchez. The Master Playwright for the two-year cycle that began for the FY 19-20 and FY 20-21 cycle is Kia Corthon, playwright and novelist known for *Breath, Boom* and *The Castle Cross the Magnet Carter*.

Art in Public Places Update

Ms. Amanda Sanfilippo Long reported that Art in Public Places Program (APP) held a national artist call for the Bombardier new aircraft service center at the Opa-locka Executive Airport. Troy Simmons, a Miami-Dade artist, was awarded the commission. Ms. Sanfilippo provided an update on Art in Public Places led tours and openings that were part of Art Basel Miami Beach, including tours of Hank Willis Thomas and Nekisha Durrett's "I See myself in you..." installation at the Audrey M. Edmonson Transit Village and Fringe Projects' temporary public art works by Joi Minaya, Angel Garcia and Paul Anthony Smith. Ms. Sanfilippo announced that the Fringe Projects initiative was recognized by the Knight Foundation with \$100,000 over the next two years.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

- Mr. Spring introduced new staff members. Kimberly Chuck, Administrative Officer 2, will work on the Community Grants Program. Ms. Chuck has a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences and a Masters of Science Degree in Athletic Training from Florida International University. Ivette Dominguez will work on arts education initiatives. She has a Bachelor's degree in Business from Nova Southeastern University.
- Congress just approved the budget, including the biggest increase in a decade for the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities.
- Francine Andersen, Chief of Arts Education, was recognized with the Sara T. Maddox Support of Arts Education Award from the Dade Art Education Association and the Community Service Institution Corporate Award from the Florida Art Education Association.
- Mayor Carlos Gimenez will deliver his last State of the County Address on January 14, 2020, at the Frost Science Museum at 10 a.m.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Mr. Trieeger reported that Buskerfest took place on December 13 in Downtown Miami and it was a great success. He invited the Council to attend the Holiday Wallcast at the New World Symphony.
- Ms. Jana Sigars-Malina attended the Free Gospel Sunday at the Adrienne Arsht Center and it was phenomenal. She invited the Council to attend Fairchild's popular light event *Night Garden*.
- Mr. May congratulated staff and Council for great work during the year.
- Ms. Rees commented she has enjoyed the Commuter Biennial's temporary public art installation by David Brooks on Blue Lagoon. She has seen and enjoyed it during her drive.
- Ms. Sugrañes enjoyed Miami Art Week and visited the new Rubell Museum as well as Perez' El Espacio 23. She received a letter from the Mayor of Barcelona, Spain regarding a collaboration or exhibition in Miami.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Liliana Hernandez-Constenla