

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

September 21, 2022

A meeting of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council was held at the Miami-Dade County Public Library System's Main Library and online via Zoom.

<p><u>Members Present</u> Alejandro Aguirre Kareem Brantley Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez, Second Vice Chair Sandra Curbelo Al Dotson, Jr. Adolfo Henriques, Immediate Past Chair Councilwoman Linda Julien Brian May, Chairman Jorge Plasencia Cheryl Rees Janá Sigars-Malina, First Vice Chair Rosa Sugrañes Monty Trainer</p>	<p><u>Members Not Present</u> Mitchell Bierman</p> <p><u>Others Present</u> Justin Trieiger</p>
<p><u>Staff</u> Michael Spring, Director Marialaura Leslie, Deputy Director Carolina Alfonso Kelly Allocco Francine Andersen Patricia Arbelaez Nikenna Benjamin Mary-Margaret Dale Marie Denis Eric Fliss Bianca Gonzalez Olga Gonzalez Liliana Hernandez-Constenla</p>	<p><u>Staff (continued)</u> Regla Lee Ana Meza Gilda Mooney Steven Padilla Alex Peraza Adriana Perez Katherine Revell Gisella Rivas-Diaz Javier Siut Christina Tassy Loretta Thompson Geraldine Toussaint Pamela Valles Graham Winick</p>

Director Michael Spring called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM on behalf of Chairman May who is expected to arrive shortly. He welcomed the Cultural Affairs Council and staff. Mr. Spring recognized former Council

member Justin Trieger. Mr. Trieger thanked the Cultural Affairs Council and staff for the four years he spent on the Council. He expressed that he learned much, always felt welcomed and was proud to participate and represent and advocate for artists. He is looking forward to the supporting the work of the Council and the Department in the future.

Chairman May joined the meeting introduced and welcomed two new Council members, Mr. Al Dotson, Jr. and Mr. Kareem Brantley. He welcomed and thanked them for agreeing to serve on the Council. The Cultural Affairs Council members present introduced themselves and welcomed the new members.

Mr. Dotson and Mr. Brantley expressed their gratitude at being named to the Council and they are looking forward to working together to support the arts and its impact in the community. Mr. May also introduced Councilwoman Linda Julien who joined the meeting via zoom from an economic development conference. She expressed her commitment to supporting the work of the Council.

ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION

Approval of June 15, 2022 Minutes

The minutes of the June 15, 2022 Council meeting were approved. Councilor Dotson abstained from voting. (Motion by Ms. Rees; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

Approval of the FY 2022-2023 Community Grants (CG) Program Panel

Mr. Spring presented the grant panel for the Community Grants (CG) program. It was approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Rees; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

FY 2022-2023 Capital Development (CAP) Grant Program Panel Recommendations

Mr. Spring reported that the FY 2022-23 Capital Development Grants Program Panel, chaired by Council member Alejandro Aguirre, met on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 to review a total of six applications requesting a total of \$88,431 in cultural facility improvement support funds. The Panel reviewed and recommended funding all six applications. The primary objective of the Capital Development Grants Program is to provide funding support to nonprofit cultural organizations for capital improvement projects that are designed to expand, renovate, construct and/or equip cultural facilities located within Miami-Dade County.

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

Adolfo Henriques – Miami Children’s Museum

Monty Trainer – Museum of Contemporary Art, Inc.

It was noted that grant amounts will be determined based upon final CAP program allocation. 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 Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Ms. Rees)

Edge Zones, Inc.
Friends of the Bass Museum, Inc.
IFCM Corp.
Miami Theater Center, Inc.

The Panel's recommendations to fund the following organizations, for which there is the above-mentioned conflicts of interest and abstentions from voting, were voted on and passed unanimously as follows: (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

Museum of Contemporary Art, Inc.
The Miami Children's Museum, Inc.

FY 2022-2023 Dance Miami Choreographers (DMC) Grant Program Panel Recommendations

Mr. Spring reported that a panel of national dance experts met on June 13, 2022 to review the submissions for the FY 2022-2023 Dance Miami Choreographers Program. The panel was comprised of: James Atkinson, dance faculty member of Alabama State University (Montgomery, AL); Katherine Rose McLaughlin, choreographer for Hadestown on Broadway (New York, NY); and Kathleen Wessel, faculty member of Dance Division at Spelman College (Atlanta, GA). The panel recommended seven \$10,000 awards for outstanding Miami-Dade choreographers. The panel recommended an eighth award be provided if there is additional funding. The program supports the artistic development of Miami-Dade County-based choreographers for the creation of new work in all dance forms, including contemporary, classical and traditional dance. The selection of the recommended award recipients was based primarily on the quality of the choreographers' work as evidenced by the work samples submitted via digital media.

A motion was made to fund all the of the panel's recommendations. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

Omayra Amaya
Luckner Bruno
Gentry George
Lazaro Godoy
Rosie Herrera
Hattie Mae Williams
Pioneer Winter
Yanis Pikieris

FY 2022-2023 Youth Arts Miami (YAM) Grant Program Panel Recommendations

Mr. Spring reported that the FY 2022-2023 Youth Arts Miami (YAM) Grants Panel, chaired by Department of Cultural Affairs staff members Gilda Mooney and Dana Pezoldt, convened on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 to review 34 applications requesting a total of \$2,625,000. The Panel recommended funding all 34 applications. The objective of the Youth Arts Miami (YAM) Grants Program is to provide operational funding support to non-profit youth arts organizations having a year-round presence in Miami-Dade County whose primary mission is to create, present or exhibit cultural programs for children and/or with children.

The following Councilor declared a conflict of interest and abstained from voting on the associated organization:

Brian May - Area Performance Gallery, Inc. dba Area Stage Company

It was noted that grant amounts will be determined based upon the final YAM program allocation. A motion was made to fund all the of the Panel's recommendations subject to the Councilor with conflict abstaining from voting on the application affected. The Councilor with the above-mentioned conflict of interest abstained from the voting. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

All Florida Youth Orchestra, Incorporated dba Florida Youth Orchestra
Alliance for Musical Arts Productions, Inc.
American Children's Orchestras for Peace, Inc.
Armour Dance Theatre, Inc.
Art Creates US Inc. dba ProjectArt
Ballet Etudes of South Florida, Inc.
Bilingual School of Business & Performing Arts Inc.
Diva Arts & Entertainment, Inc.
enFAMILIA, Inc.
Fantasy Theatre Factory, Inc.
Florida Film Institute, Inc.
Friends of South Florida Music, Inc.
Greater Miami Youth Symphony of Dade County, Florida, Inc.
Guitars Over Guns Organization, Inc.
Kinad, Inc.
Mexican American Council, Inc.
Miami Children's Chorus, Inc.
Miami Dance Project, Inc.
Miami Momentum Dance Company, Inc.
Miami Music Festival, Inc.
Miami Music Project, Inc.
Miami Stage Company/ Miami Children's Theater Inc.
Miami Theater Center Inc.
Miami Youth Ballet Inc.
Musical, Inc.
National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, Inc.
PATH: Preserving, Archiving & Teaching Hip Hop, Inc.
South Florida Center for Percussive Arts, Inc.
South Florida Youth Symphony, Inc.
The Children's Voice Chorus, Inc.
The Motivational Edge, Inc.
The Roxy Theatre Group, Inc.
Young Musicians Unite, Inc.

The Panel's recommendation to fund the following organization, for which there is the above-mentioned conflict of interest and abstention from voting, was voted on and passed unanimously as follows: (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Ms. Curbelo)

Area Performance Gallery, Inc. dba Area Stage Company

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Requests for Excused Absences for September 21, 2022

A request for an excused absence was submitted by Councilor Mitchell Bierman. (Motion by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

FY 2022-2023 Youth Arts Enrichment (YEP) Grant Program Panel

Mr. Spring presented the grant panel for the Youth Arts Enrichment (YEP) Grant Program. It was approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez; seconded by Ms. Rees)

FY 2022-2023 Artist Access (ART) Grants Program Guidelines

Mr. Spring reported that there are some modest changes to the guidelines for the Artist Access (ART) grant program. The guidelines provide artists the opportunity to request up to \$2,000, which is an additional \$500 than they can currently request. Artists can apply to in-person or virtual professional development opportunities to advance their practice. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Mr. Dotson; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

FY 2022-2023 Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) Grants Program Guidelines

Mr. Spring reported there are no substantive changes to the guidelines for the Summer Arts & Science Camps for Kids (SAS-C) grants program guidelines. They were approved unanimously. (Motion by Ms. Sigars-Malina; seconded by Mr. Trainer)

FY 2022-2023 Community Grants (CG) Grants Program Panel Recommendations – First Quarter

Mr. Spring reported that the FY 2022-2023 Community Grants program panel, chaired by Councilor Sandra Curbelo, convened on August 25, 2022 to review 27 applications requesting \$209,440.00 for the First Quarter of the program. The Panel recommended funding 27 applicants for a total of \$185,000.00. The Community Grants Program is responsive on a quarterly basis to organizations which develop small and large-scale community-based programs, projects, events, and publications. The program is particularly sensitive to the needs of indigenous cultural neighborhood activities and projects encouraging the preservation of heritage, traditions, and culture; and social service organizations and cultural groups developing collaborative intervention projects

The Panel's recommendations to fund the following organizations were voted on and passed unanimously as follows: (Motion by Ms. Rees; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

AfriKin Foundation, Inc.	\$7,118
Angel Fraser-Logan Dance Company	\$7,118
Art for Us, Inc.	\$7,118
Arts Connection Foundation, Inc.	\$7,118
Brevo Theatre, Inc.	\$7,118
Community Performing Arts Association, Inc.	\$7,118
Cuatrogatos Foundation, Inc.	\$7,118
Due to Arts, Inc.	\$7,118
Florida Dance Education Organization, Inc.	\$7,118
Florida Opera Prima, Inc. a/f/a Afro Borinken Roots Performing Group, Inc.	\$7,118
Giants in the City, Inc.	\$4,271
Indie Pasion Arts & Festivals, Inc.	\$7,118
Key Biscayne Community Foundation, Inc. a/f/a Free Plastic, Inc.	\$7,118
Lemon City Cemetery Community Corporation	\$7,118
Merrick Festival, Incorporated	\$9,480
Miami Beach Arts Trust, Inc.	\$7,118
MJD Wellness and Community Center, Inc.	\$7,118
MUD Foundation, Inc.	\$7,118
Music in Miami, Inc.	\$7,118
Shakespeare Troupe, Incorporated	\$3,796
Sybarite Productions, Inc.	\$7,118
The German School of South Florida, Inc.	\$7,118
TL Tango Lovers Organization, Inc.	\$7,118
Vitrinalab Foundation, Inc.	\$7,061
World Affairs Council of Miami, Inc.	\$3,796
Zunzun Arts & Education, Inc.	\$7,118

FY 2022-2023 Major Cultural Institutions (MCI) Grant Program Panel Recommendations

Mr. Spring reported that the Major Cultural Institutions Program Panel, chaired by Council Member Adolfo Henriques, convened on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, to review 14 applications to the Major Cultural Institutions Grants Program. The Panel recommended funding all 14 applications. It is further recommended that the Council appropriate funding from the FY 2022-2023 Major Cultural Institutions program allocation to facilitate the transition of GableStage, Inc. into the Coconut Grove Playhouse as its theater presenter and operator and for programming support.

Mr. Spring reported that this year the Panel also recommended that the Council approve the addition of two new organizations as “Emerging” Major Cultural Institutions, The Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida, Inc. and Teatro Avante, Inc. Both organizations have a proven track record of artistic excellence and represent the outstanding diversity of Miami-Dade County.

The Major Cultural Institutions program's objective is to help support the annual operations of and programming provided to the community by Miami-Dade's largest, exemplary cultural organizations. In so doing, the program assures the steady provision of outstanding cultural programming throughout Miami-Dade County and contributes to the overall vitality of Miami-Dade County as a community and as an attractive tourist destination.

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

Adolfo Henriques – Florida Grand Opera; Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of Jewish Museum of Florida; Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of The Patricia ad Phillip Frost Art Museum; Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of The Wolfsonian; GableStage, Inc.

Jorge Plascencia - Adrienne Arsht Center Trust, Inc. d/b/a Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County

Cheryl Rees – GableStage, Inc.

Jana Sigars-Malina - Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of Jewish Museum of Florida; Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of The Patricia ad Phillip Frost Art Museum; Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of The Wolfsonian

Monty Trainer – Museum of Contemporary Art; University of Miami Lowe Art Museum

It was noted that grant amounts will be determined based upon the final MCI program allocation. 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 Mr. Aguirre; seconded by Ms. Chancy-Gonzalez)

Actor's Playhouse Productions, Inc.

Friends of the Bass Museum, Inc., for the Bass Museum of Art

Miami City Ballet, Inc.

New World Symphony, Inc.

South Florida Art Center, Inc. d/b/a Oolite Arts

The M Ensemble Company, Inc.

The Miami Symphony Orchestra / Orquesta Sinfonica de Miami, Inc.

Teatro Avante, Inc.

The Black Archives, History and Research Foundation and South Florida, Inc.

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

Adrienne Arsht Center Trust, Inc. d/b/a Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County

(Motion by Mr. Dotson; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

Florida Grand Opera, Inc.

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

Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of Jewish Museum of Florida

Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of The Patricia ad Phillip Frost Art Museum

Florida International University Board of Trustees, for the benefit of The Wolfsonian

(Motion by Ms. Rees; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

Museum of Contemporary Art, Inc.

(Motion by Ms. Rees; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)

University of Miami, Lowe Art Museum

(Motion by Ms. Rees; seconded by Mr. Henriques)

GableStage, Inc. / Coconut Grove Playhouse

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

FY 2022-2023 Youth Arts Enrichment (YEP) Grant Program Panel Recommendations

Mr. Spring reported that the FY 2022-2023 Youth Arts Enrichment Program Grants Panel, chaired by Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez convened on September 8, 2022 to review 32 applications requesting a total of \$615,820.00. The Panel recommended funding 29 applications for a total of \$550,000.00. Three applications scored below the threshold established by the Panel and were not recommended for funding. The 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 Youth Arts Enrichment Program Grants Program is to enrich the lives of children through the arts by making the arts available to more children and families.

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

Alejandro Aguirre – Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Inc.

Sandra Curbelo - The Dance NOW! Ensemble, Inc.

Adolfo Henriques – GableStage, Inc.

Jorge Plascencia - Adrienne Arsht Center Trust, Inc. d/b/a Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County

Janá Sigars-Malina - The Dance NOW! Ensemble, Inc.

Rosa Sugrañes - Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Inc.

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 Mr. Henriques; seconded by Ms. Sigars-Malina)

Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida, Inc.	\$30,000
ArtSouth, A Not-For-Profit Corporation	\$30,000
Brazilian Voices, inc.	\$20,000
Community Arts and Culture	\$10,000
Coral Gables Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), Inc.	\$30,000
El Ingenio Inc.	\$30,000
Friendship Circle of Miami, Inc.	\$20,000
Karen Peterson and Dancers, Inc.	\$10,000
M Ensemble Company, Inc.	\$11,000
Mahogany Youth Corporation	\$10,000
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Bay Nature Center, Inc.	\$10,000
Miami City Ballet, Inc.	\$30,000
Miami New Drama, Inc.	\$30,000
Michael-Ann Russell Jewish Community Center, Inc.	\$10,000
New World Symphony, Inc.	\$10,000
O, Miami, Inc.	\$30,000
Orchestra Miami, Inc.	\$10,000
Saint Martha Concerts and Cultural Affairs, Inc.	\$10,000
Seraphic Fire, Inc.	\$30,000
South Florida Arts & Counseling	\$20,000
South Florida Symphony Orchestra, Inc.	\$10,000
The Deering Estate Foundation, Inc.	\$30,000
The Murray Dranoff Foundation, Inc.	\$10,000
The Opera Atelier, Inc.	\$30,000
Xavier Cortada Foundation, Inc.	\$9,000

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

Adrienne Arsht Center Trust, Inc. d/b/a Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County (Motion by Mr. Henriques; seconded by Mr. Aguirre)	\$20,000
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Inc. (Motion by Ms. Rees; seconded by Mr. Henriques)	\$10,000
GableStage, Inc. (Motion by Ms. Curbelo; seconded by Mr. Trainer)	\$10,000

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on the FY 2022-2023 County Arts Budget

Mr. Spring reported that the Miami-Dade County Commission adopted a FY 2022-2023 budget at the final September 20, 2022 public budget hearing. The Mayor's recommendation for an increase to the Department's grants programs by nearly \$6.9 million was approved. Cultural organizations in the Department's grants programs will be receiving an increase in their FY 2022-2023 grants awards as of October 1st. Mr. Spring reported that staff previously shared the FY2022-2023 grants list details with the Cultural Affairs Council. Mr. Spring noted that the additional support for the cultural organizations is important in light of the ongoing revenue challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic compounded by the escalating costs of inflation. The Department will also continue to work on investing in the work of individual artists and continue to fund the Miami Individual Artists grant program with substantially increased funding. Mr. Spring added that the Mayor's recommendation to increase funding to support the cultural facilities and staffing was also approved. The budget includes \$125,000 for additional marketing expenses to help the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center and the Miami-Dade County Auditorium to continue market and attract audiences back to live events as we continue to emerge from the pandemic. The FY 2022-2023 budget also includes a limited number of additional staff positions, primarily positions part of the Business Unit to provide adequate support to the growing business operations of our facilities and programs. Mr. Spring noted staff would follow up with budget details including grant increases and program details and priorities.

There was a discussion regarding outreach to the Mayor and Miami-Dade County Commission to communicate and thank them on behalf of the Cultural Affairs Council. Councilors noted that the budget increase is a good beginning and it is appropriate continue to build on the momentum. Staff will draft a letter for the Council.

Councilor Dotson inquired about the process how the Department works with artists or organizations that apply but do not receive funding. Mr. Spring noted the Department grants team works closely with applicants to ensure applications can be strengthened and provides feedback. The quarterly grants programs provide additional opportunities for applicants to apply throughout the year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Mr. Spring recognized the Miami-Dade County Auditorium for continuing to host the monthly Cultural Affairs Council meetings. He also recognized the Department's Business Unit led by Chief Regla Lee for a job well done during the budget process.
- Prior to the approval of the County Budget Mayor Levine Cava convened a series of townhalls including an Arts Budget Townhall on Sept 6, 2022. It was the most well-attended budget town meeting. One of the recommendations that emerged was that the Department engage in a campaign to encourage the public to return to experience the live arts. The Department is now working with our marketing firm to develop a mini campaign to be implemented by the arts community.
- The Mayor held a townhall in Spanish hosted by Univision at the Westchester Cultural Arts Center. It was the first time the Mayor visited the new cultural facility located on the grounds of Tropical Park.

- Mr. Spring reported that the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center has been renamed the Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center. The name is being implemented but an initial announcement of the name change will take place at the annual Backyard Bash, a free, outdoor community concert on the grounds of the Center on October 22, 2022. Staff is working with Miami-Dade Commissioner McGee's and Commissioner Cohen-Higgins' offices for the event.
- Mr. Spring noted there has been extensive media coverage regarding the Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Miami New Drama's production of Nilo Cruz's "Anna in the Tropics" play for high school students. The school system has rejected having the students attend the production. There has been editorializing about the decision. Miami New Drama will produce the play in January independently of the school system. The play was the first Pulitzer Prize winning play written by a Cuban American.
- Marshall Davis, Managing Director at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center is being recognized with a Carbonell Award by the South Florida theater community for his years of service.
- Deputy Director Marialaura Leslie leads the Department's efforts in securing federal and state grant funds. The State of Florida just convened a grant panel and the Department received the top score and was rated as #1 in the state.

COUNCILOR REPORTS

- Councilor Monty Trainer reported that he is happy to be back to mostly in-person meetings and programming and welcomed the new members of the Council. Mr. Trainer would like to recognize panel members for all the work and time they dedicate to volunteering.
- Councilor Rees welcomed the new Councilor members and reiterated the importance of recognizing the Panel members who volunteer their time.
- Chairman May congratulated Director Spring and the team for the great job with the budget process and he thanked the Mayor Levine Cava and the County Commission for their support. He believes this is a great baseline budget. He encouraged Council members to continue to connect with philanthropic and business leaders new to the Miami-Dade County.
- Councilor Chancy-Gonzalez welcomed new Council members and inquired about the status of the Public Art Collection. She stated that the regular APP staff updates were a highlight for her and would be nice to bring them back to continue to learn about new commissions and restorations.
- Councilor Dotson thanked the Councilors for the warm welcome. He asked some specific questions he heard at the Mayor's Arts Townhall where Director Spring represented the Department and Council very well. He hopes to continue compassionate advocacy on behalf of the arts community.
- Councilor Brantley thanked the Council and staff for the welcome on his first meeting. He noted that he visited the Miami-Dade County Auditorium as a child and he is interested in receiving links and information on how to access arts events digitally and to share this information with his daughter.
- Councilor Plasencia joined via Zoom in transit. He welcomed the new Council members and added that he was delighted to see Teatro Avante added as an Emerging Major cultural institution.
- Councilor Curbelo recognized staff for a job well done working with the grant panels and welcomed new Council members.
- Councilor Henriques congratulated the staff on the budget increase. He sees the increase as a great beginning to build on. He noted he spent 10 days in France with former Council member Jorge Pérez. They were happy to see the level of support the arts and culture receive there and hopes Miami will provide support at a similar level in the coming 50 years.

- Councilor Sigars-Malina thanked Councilor Curbelo for chairing the Community Grants panel during a personal emergency and reported that Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is hosting Plant Day on October 1st.
- Councilor Aguirre welcomed the new Council members and stated that he believes the fact that staff and Council work with so many citizen volunteers is an important element of the success of the work. He supports recognizing the panelists for their time. He is confident the budget increase will have an enormous impact and set the standard for funding in the future.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liliana Hernandez-Constenla". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liliana Hernandez-Constenla