

# Memorandum



**Date:**

**To:** Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**From:** George M. Burgess  
County Manager

**Subject:** Transfer of Projects and Funding to Tropical Park

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approve the attached resolution authorizing the relocation of the Westchester Arts Center project from Tamiami Park to Tropical Park. It is further recommended that the Board approve the relocation of the Hispanic Heritage Cultural Arts Center project and accompanying studio "black box" theater program space from Miami-Dade County Auditorium (MDCA) to Tropical Park. Both the aforementioned projects are funded through the Building Better Communities (BBC) Bond Program. The purpose of the transfers is to create one multi-disciplinary arts programming facility to better serve the community.

## BACKGROUND

Tropical Park is centrally located to provide resident access and County-wide outreach to all Park and Recreation Department (Department) parks for arts programming. In order to provide a more comprehensive, centralized and efficient arts programming facility, it is in the best interest of the County to combine two smaller arts programming spaces into a larger facility.

The Department's African Heritage Cultural Arts Center is a multi-purpose facility providing arts programming, instruction, and rehearsal space to both youths and adults. Classes are offered in the performing, visual and media arts. Seasonal classes offer many types of instruction in dance, music, drama, arts and crafts, graphic arts, and band. The Department's goal is to create a comparable Hispanic Heritage Cultural Arts Center at Tropical Park by combining multiple parks programming functions into one facility. The proposed facility will also combine the Raíces, Community Arts, and Arts In The Parks programs and support staff into one centrally located facility that will more efficiently serve all County residents.

The BBC Bond Program allocated \$4,000,000 under project #286 for the design and construction of the Westchester Arts Center to be located in Tamiami Park. Also, \$8,000,000 in funding was allocated under BBC Bond Program project #292 for the design and construction of a Hispanic Heritage Cultural Arts Center and a studio "black box" theater directly adjacent to MDCA, along with acoustical, theater, sound, and communications upgrades for MDCA.

In order to accomplish these objectives, Board action is needed to approve the relocation of the Westchester Arts Center project from Tamiami Park to Tropical Park, along with the \$4,000,000 in funds from BBC Bond Program project #286; and to relocate the Hispanic Heritage Cultural Arts Center and studio "black box" theater project from Miami-Dade County Auditorium to Tropical Park, along with \$4,000,000 in funds from BBC Bond Program Project #292. As part of this recommendation, \$4,000,000 from BBC Bond Program Project #292 will stay at MDCA for acoustical, theater, sound, and communications upgrades, as listed in the original BBC Bond Program ordinance.

Attachments

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Alex Muñoz  
Assistant County Manager

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Bill Johnson  
Assistant County Manager