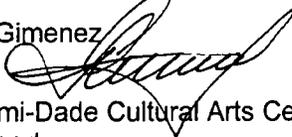


Memorandum



Date: October 24, 2011

To: Honorable Javier D. Souto and Members
Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 

Subject: South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center
Status Report

RCA
Agenda Item No. 6(B)

OPERATIONS

The Grand Opening Celebration for the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC) was highlighted by a multidisciplinary show featuring international artists, as well as some of Miami's highest caliber performers. The show took place on Saturday, October 1 at 8pm and Sunday, October 2 at 3pm. On both days, the Center offered additional FREE pre-show outdoor activities, for all to enjoy. Pre-show events began at 6:45pm on Saturday and 2pm on Sunday and took place in the center's plaza. The pre-show events provided the opportunity for a variety of community performing artists and arts organizations to display their talents under the direction of critically acclaimed New York choreographer Ronald K. Brown. These free opening activities successfully incorporated the community into the Grand Opening, exposed our local artists to world class professionals, and helped to create an atmosphere of inclusiveness. An official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony also took place on Saturday night bringing together residents, community leaders, and government officials to commemorate the opening of the facility. Representatives from the County Commission, local municipalities and the public school system participated in these ceremonies.

Immediately following the Grand Opening events, the Center began its first full inaugural season of shows on October 12 with Asolo Repertory Theatre's production of *Hamlet Redux*, which included Shadow Performances for the hearing impaired. The next show will be *A Night In Treme*, October 21st, featuring the Soul Rebel Brass Band with special guest artists from New Orleans. For information on upcoming events, visit www.smdcac.org.

The first module of the Center's ticketing software platform, Theater Management System, was successfully installed in early September. This module allowed us to begin selling tickets on September 1, 2011. Additional modules for Marketing and Facility Management are scheduled to be installed in November.

On September 6th, Brazz Dance under the direction of Augusto Soledade began a 10-week residency in the Activities Building of the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center. During this residency, Brazz Dance is providing weekly classes for the dance students of Mays Conservatory for the Arts (grades 6-12) introducing them to the unique Afro-Brazilian movement that is the hallmark of this company. The residency will conclude with two weeks of performances in the Lab Theater prior to traveling to Birmingham, Alabama and Tampa, Florida.

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION / CONTRACT CLOSE-OUT

The Tower Group, Inc. (TTG), the contractor for the construction of the SMDCAC, is continuing to address punch list and warranty items. TTG and the Department of Cultural Affairs continue to work

towards reaching a comprehensive, fair and amicable close-out of the construction project within the terms of the contract.

The Department has engaged Arquitectonica (ARQ), the Center's architect, to select fixture, furnishing, & equipment (FF&E) items such as lobby benches, waste receptacles, and additional wayfinding signage for the Center in order to maintain the design aesthetic throughout the project.

ARQ is also working on a phased landscape and hardscape plan for the main access road on the east side of the Center. A series of proposed landscape 'walls' planted with fragrant vegetation will address the noise and odor caused by the garbage truck wash facility adjacent to the Center. Public Works is also developing a plan to add a crosswalk and additional traffic signalization on SW 211 Street. Subject to identifying funding for implementation, these enhancements reinforce The Moss Plan by developing pedestrian-friendly streets with connectivity to the canal-edge walk and the greenways trail across the Black Creek Canal.

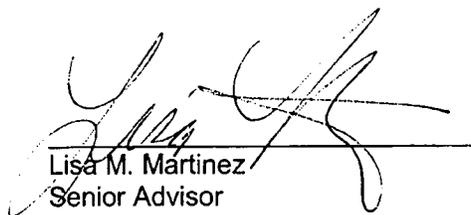
BACKGROUND

The South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center is located on S.W. 211 Street in Cutler Bay and is a multidisciplinary arts center designed to showcase the performing arts. The design team was led by architectural and engineering firm Arquitectonica International, Inc, and also included: theater consultant Fisher Dachs Associates, Inc.; acoustical and sound and communications consultant Artec Consultants, Inc.; and arts management consultant AMS Planning & Research Corp.

The Center's 966-seat state-of-the-art Theater Building includes a fly tower, orchestra pit, front of house spaces (box office, lobby, restrooms, concessions, etc.), back of house support spaces (dressing rooms, storage and work areas, administrative offices, etc.) and a multi-purpose rehearsal space. The separate Activities Building of the Center houses an informal performance space, and smaller multi-purpose spaces for lectures, classes, or community gatherings. The Center's two buildings are joined by an outdoor promenade leading to a gently-sloping lawn for outdoor concerts and festivals along the Black Creek Canal.

Through Miami-Dade County's Art in Public Places Program, the Center has major public art works created by Miami artist Robert Chambers. An innovative light piece illuminates the translucent inner lobby wall with changing light designs created by computer-programmed LED fixtures. In addition, the lobby features two marble sculptures also created by Robert Chambers.

A contract with The Tower Group, Inc. (TTG) for the construction of the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center was approved in July 2005 and the Department of Cultural Affairs issued the Notice to Proceed to the Contractor on December 29, 2005. The final certificate of occupancy was issued on April 15, 2011. The Department was responsible for managing the construction of the Center and is now operating the completed facilities.


Lisa M. Martinez
Senior Advisor