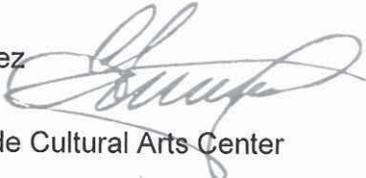


Memorandum



Date: November 13, 2012

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

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 

Subject: South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center
Status Report

RCA
Agenda Item No. 7(B)

Since its opening on October 1, 2011, the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC) has hosted 120 events and seen approximately 42,000 people come through its doors. The Center continues to emphasize its goals of presenting artistically excellent work and developing strong community outreach components in everything that it does.

The month of October marked the beginning of the performing arts season at SMDCAC. The Center held a series of successful shows including: *Latin Blues* with Pedro Alfonso and Friends as part of the new Cabaret Series (October 5-6); two schools shows of Asolo Repertory Theatre's contemporary production of *Macbeth* with Shadow Interpretation for the deaf or hard of hearing with an additional public evening show of the production (October 11-12); a black box theater production of *The Sunshine Boys* by Miami Acting Company (October 11-21); a show by Haiti's acclaimed dance troupe Compagnie De Danse, Jean René Delsoin (October 20); the Hispanic Art Exhibition (October 25-26); a special community project in collaboration with Urban Bush Women and MDC Live Arts called *We Are Democracy* (October 27); and a production by the bilingual indie-rock band Moona Luna (October 28) as part of the new Family Series.

South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center received excellent coverage in *The Miami Herald* and *El Nuevo Herald's* Season of the Arts Section including recognition as a top pick in both Music and Dance.

Several education and outreach projects also took place in October including a week-long series of workshops and rehearsals between community participants, which included local students and migrant workers who collaborated with dancers from the famed modern dance company Urban Bush Women. The project, *We Are Democracy*, was a residency project using the arts to explore issues of civil engagement surrounding the upcoming Presidential election. The non-partisan project culminated in a FREE public performance on October 27. SMDCAC also held two FREE dance workshops with Compagnie de Danse, Jean René Delsoin for the community at the Little Haiti Cultural Center (October 18) and at SMDCAC (October 20). In addition, SMDCAC arranged for a master class for Compagnie de Danse performers in the Martha Graham modern dance technique with former Graham dancer Peter London.

The new Cabaret Series and Family Series are designed to provide new, affordable opportunities at the Center to introduce audiences to the wide variety of performances offered. SMDCAC was able to secure sponsorship from Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay for the Cabaret Series.

Attached are pictures from another recent outreach project, a series of FREE acting classes for youth that took place at the end of September with JQ Studios and White Rose Miami.

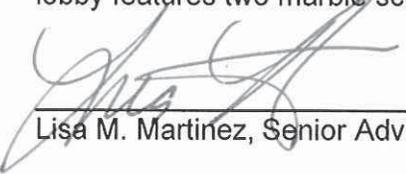
For a complete listing of upcoming events, please visit the Center's website, www.smdcac.org.

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.



Lisa M. Martinez, Senior Advisor to the Mayor

**FREE Youth Acting Classes at South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center
JQ Studios and White Rose Miami
September 2012**

