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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **City of Miami Beach Awards \$1M to Sustain Local Cultural Institutions**

– *Investing \$1M in Art & Culture to Support Long-term Community Viability* —

**Miami Beach, FL** –The COVID-19 pandemic is resulting in unprecedented financial loss to cultural organizations nationwide. To date, Miami Beach based cultural organizations are collectively reporting over \$7M in lost revenue in the first four months of closures.

In an effort to address the extraordinary need in the Miami Beach arts community and to support the very institutions that promote, encourage and protect the history, spirit and ethos of Miami Beach, the Miami Beach Mayor and City Commission in partnership with the Cultural Arts Council approved \$1M in funding to support 13 Miami Beach-based cultural organizations in the current fiscal year. They have also announced the use of an additional \$1M from the emergency reserve fund, established in 1998, to launch the second Miami Beach Cultural Arts COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund (the “Fund”) in the upcoming fiscal year.

Miami Beach based organizations receiving the first \$1M in emergency relief include: The Bass, Holocaust Memorial, Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU, Miami Beach Botanical Garden, Miami Beach Urban Studios-FIU, Miami City Ballet, Miami Design Preservation League, Miami New Drama, New World Symphony, O’Cinema, O, Miami, The Rhythm Foundation and Wolfsonian-FIU. The cultural organizations were eligible for funding in segments up to \$50,000 for institutions with annual organizational budgets below \$750,000, up to \$75,000 for institutions with annual organizational budgets between \$750,000 and 3.5M, and up to \$100,000 for institutions with annual organizational budgets at or above \$3.5M. The funding criteria for the second Fund disbursement will be assessed by the Cultural Arts Council in \$500,000 increments beginning October 2020.

“Supporting our cultural community, as they face the unknown, is important to the fabric of Miami Beach. We are hopeful that by providing these grants, the City can be a bridge of support to the artistic community during the challenging months and year ahead,” shared Mayor Dan Gelber. “Financially supporting our art and culture sector, from a fund reserve designed for such difficult times, makes economic sense. The cultural community contributes to Miami Beach’s economic productivity, tourism, quality of life and community development.”

“Cultural anchors and presenters are challenged now, but in six or nine months, the impact may be even greater,” added Commissioner David Richardson. “Continued investment in our cultural institutions is vital, and long-term funding solutions to support our arts and cultural community is more crucial than ever.”

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**About the Miami Beach Cultural Arts Council**

The Cultural Arts Council (CAC) is an eleven-member council created in 1997 for the purpose of developing, coordinating and promoting the performing and visual arts in the City of Miami Beach. The CAC serves as arts advocates before governmental bodies, coordinates collective marketing initiatives for the local arts community and funds not-for-profit arts organizations. Since the program's inception, the CAC has awarded approximately \$18 million in cultural arts grants, supporting thousands of performances, exhibits, and other cultural activities in Miami Beach. Please visit [www.mbartsculture.org](http://www.mbartsculture.org) for additional information.

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