

Ana Saruski
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Miami Beach, FL 33140
786-853-8299
asaruski@gmail.com

May 30, 2018

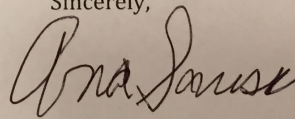
Miami Children's Museum
980 Mac Arthur Causeway
Miami, FL 33132

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing about my son Jordan Saruski, who has been worked as an Intern during Summer Camp in 2017, and has been working as a Volunteer for the MCM Players since September 2017. Jordan is 22 years old and is in the autism spectrum. He has obtained an immense benefit from his work at the Miami Children's Museum. From the beginning, the staff has been both inclusive and accommodating. Jordan greatly enjoys the work he does at the Museum, and has learned invaluable life skills in including traveling throughout the community independently to and from work, learning the responsibility of being part of a team, and improving his social interaction with peers and supervisors. None of this would have happened without the programs offered by the Miami Children's Museum.

Please feel free to contact me if I can answer any additional questions you might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ana Saruski', written in a cursive style.

Ana Saruski

Feedback from parents of recipients of full scholarships provided by Miami-Dade County Summer Arts and Sciences Grant SAS-C for 2016 Explorers Summer Camp at Miami Children's Museum.

From: Jacqueline Guardia <jguardia84@gmail.com>
Date: October 1, 2016 at 5:50:33 AM EDT
To: Madalyn Lesman <mlesman@miamichildrensmuseum.org>
Subject: Re: Summer Feedback Needed

Here is my feedback for the scholarship report.

Dear Explorers Camp,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the priceless opportunity you gave Jared this past summer. Thanks to the generosity of your scholarship program, Jared was able to spend the best summer of his life! I can still remember him waking up bright and early, anticipating the fun and excitement.

During that time, Jared was exposed to so many positive interactions, cultural diversity and learning experiences which benefited him in so many ways. Jared was physically and mentally active, he improved his self-confidence and social skills, and was expected to a structured schedule.

The benefits of participating in this summer camp program didn't only impacted Jared but myself as well. During that time, I was able to go back to school to obtain my Director's Credential which gave the opportunity to be considered for a position as a director assistant in a local preschool center.

Thank you and your team of caring and passionate professionals for providing a safe place for Jared to spend the summer.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Guardia
Jared's Mom

From: Jennifer Suarez <js.clerville@gmail.com>
Date: September 30, 2016 at 2:43:27 PM EDT
To: Madalyn Lesman <mlesman@miamichildrensmuseum.org>
Subject: Re: Summer Camp Feedback Needed

Miami Children's Museum explorer's summer camp 2016 was absolutely amazing! The experience was above and beyond what we could of ever expected. Zaron loved his teachers and, all the activities they had lined up for him on a daily. The field trips where so much fun and memorable. He recognizes landmarks from his trips and loves pointing out that he past by here on his field trips at camp. He learned so much about different countries and cultures. We all loved the MCM facilities, very clean and friendly staff. Security was very tight and efficient. Zaron and I both felt safe leaving him at camp. He can not wait for next summer so he can attend Miami Children's Museum explorer's summer camp again!

From: Mabel Sleeper <mabelsleeper13@gmail.com>
Date: September 29, 2016 at 11:05:43 AM EDT
To: Madalyn Lesman <mlesman@miamichildrensmuseum.org>
Subject: Agradecimiento al Programa de Summer Camp

A quien corresponda:

Hago llegar esta misiva con el fin de agradecer al programa de Summer Camp que tuvo mi menor hijo Peter Sleeper.

Mi hijo no sólo llegaba muy contento y motivado por todo lo que le esperaba por aprender día a día, sino que nunca quería irse. Esta señal me indicaba que era muy bien motivado.

Aprendió mucho de diferentes países, costumbres y culturas que no sólo quedaba en el salón sino que el llegaba a casa con el afán de saber más y compartir conmigo y demás de esos conocimiento que había de alguna forma aprendido y para el era un descubrimiento.

Mi niño tiene ADHA, y recibió toda atención y dedicación de parte de todo el personal muy calificado. Mi niño estuvo muy feliz como nunca lo había visto antes.

Además, quiero agregar que no sólo el programa hace feliz a los niños sino esto se extiende hasta los padres porque yo puedo decirles que estoy agradecida por todo ello porque mi situación económica no me permite pagarle ese programa. Y como comprenderán la felicidad de nuestros hijos es nuestra felicidad.

Nuevamente les agradezco y que Dios bendiga a cada persona que trabaja en este hermoso programa.

Atentamente,
Mabel Sleeper
[786 355 4997](tel:7863554997)

Translated to English

From: Mabel Sleeper <mabelsleeper13@gmail.com>
Date: September 29, 2016 at 11:05:43 AM EDT
To: Madalyn Lesman <mlesman@miamichildrensmuseum.org>
Subject: Appreciation Program Summer Camp

To whom it May concern:

I send you this letter in order to thank the Summer Camp program that took my youngest son Peter Sleeper.

My son not only came out very happy and motivated by everything that was waiting to learn every day, but never wanted to leave. This signal told me that was very well motivated.

He learned a lot from different countries, customs and cultures that not only was in the hall but that came home with the desire to learn more and share with me and others of those knowledge he had somehow learned way and he was a discovery.

My child has ADHA, and received full attention and dedication from all staff highly qualified. My child was very happy as I had never seen before.

I also want to add that not only the program makes children happy but this extends to parents because I can say that I am grateful for all because my financial situation does not allow me to pay that program. And understand the happiness of our children is our happiness.

I again thank you and God bless each person who works in this beautiful program.

Sincerely,
Mabel Sleeper
[786 355 4997](tel:7863554997)



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Dear Grant Panelists:

On behalf of the children of Miami-Dade County, I am pleased to support Miami Children's Museum and their request for a General Programming Support grant from the State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs. Our community benefits greatly from the arts and cultural programming at the Museum which provides youth in Miami access to high-quality, hands-on, arts-based educational opportunities.

As an arts and cultural educational institution, the Museum serves thousands of children annually who benefit from the Museum's programs, many of which are provided free to low-income South Florida families through the Museum's VIP (Very Important Potential) program. The Museum is a cultural and educational gem in our community and plays an important role in the lives of our children, families and schools. The Museum often serves as a child's first introduction to museums and is highly regarded as an expert in early childhood learning. As such, the Museum and its programming is a valuable resource for preparing children for school using the arts as a foundation for learning and building skills such as early communication and literacy need to succeed in school.

David Lawrence Jr.
Founding Chair

James R. Haj
President & CEO

County Attorney's Office
Legal Counsel

At The Children's Trust we are very familiar with the high-quality work and staff at the Museum. Since 2008, the Museum has successfully bid, through a tremendously rigorous vetting process, to be a contractor of out-of-school programming supported by The Children's Trust. The free after school programs at the Museum and those they provide at two Title 1 schools in Miami serve more than 200 children throughout the entire calendar year. The Museum continuously receives scores in the high 90's through our careful periodic monitoring. The Children's Trust has just approved a contract renewal for The Museum's afterschool program which will continue to serve low-income children attending Title 1 schools in Miami-Dade County for the next five years.

Each year, the Museum proves its commitment to bringing world-class travelling educational exhibitions to Miami-Dade County which continually attract tourists from all over the world. The Museum serves more than 450,000 visitors annually, which not only has a positive impact on our local economy and increases the visibility for our area as a family destination, but has also established the institution as one of the premier arts and culture institutions in Florida.

I believe in the work of the Museum that provides exceptional arts and culture experiences and opportunities for the children and families of Miami-Dade County and South Florida. I encourage your favorable consideration for support of the Museum's request for funding. The funding provided through the Division of Cultural Affairs grants program provides vital income to arts and culture organizations, such as the Museum, that depend on contributions to support their programming. The funds approved by the Legislature also help the organization secure matching contributions.

Sincerely,



James R. Haj
President and CEO



The Florida House of Representatives

Representative David Richardson

113th District

May 29, 2018

General Program Support Grant Panel
Florida Division of Cultural Affairs
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Grant Panelists:

On behalf of the citizens of South Florida in the 113th District, I am pleased to support Miami Children's Museum and their request for a General Programming Support grant from the State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs. Our South Florida community and Floridians from across the state who visit Miami and the Museum, benefit greatly from the arts and cultural programming at the Museum, which provides access to high-quality, hands-on, arts-based educational opportunities for young children and their families.

As an arts and cultural educational institution, the Museum serves thousands of children annually who benefit from the Museum's programs, many of which are provided free to low-income South Florida families through the Museum's VIP (Very Important Potential) program. The Museum is a cultural and educational gem in our community and plays an important role in the lives of our children, families and schools. The Museum often serves as a child's first introduction to museums and is highly regarded as an expert in early childhood learning. As such, the Museum and its programming is a valuable resource for preparing children for school using the arts as a foundation for learning and building skills such as early communication and literacy need to succeed in school.

Each year, the Museum proves its commitment to bringing world-class travelling hands-on interactive educational exhibitions to Miami-Dade County, which continually attract tourists from all over the world. The Museum serves more than 450,000 visitors annually, which not only has a positive impact on our local economy and increases the visibility for our area as a family destination, but has also established the institution as one of the premier arts and culture institutions in Florida.

I believe in the work of the Museum that provides exceptional arts and culture experiences and opportunities for the children and families of Miami-Dade County and South Florida. I encourage your favorable consideration for support of the Museum's request for funding. The funding provided through the Division of Cultural Affairs grants program provides vital income to arts and culture organizations, such as the Museum, that depend on contributions to support their programming. The funds approved by the Legislature also help the organization secure matching contributions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Richardson".

David Richardson
State Representative, District 113

*Appropriations Committee, Public Integrity & Ethics Committee,
Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee, Criminal Justice Subcommittee, Rules & Policy Committee*

REPLY TO:

- ☒ 1701 Meridian Avenue, Suite 402A, Miami Beach, FL 33139 (305) 535-5426
☐ 200 House Office Building, 402 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300, (850) 717-5113

Legislature's Website: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>

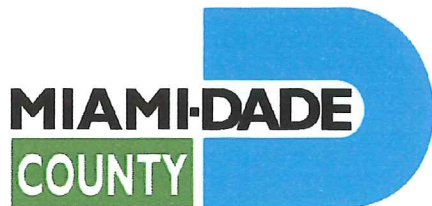
Richard Corcoran
Speaker

Jeanette Nunez
Speaker Pro Tempore

Janet Cruz
Democratic Leader

Portia Palmer
Clerk

Russell Hosford
Sergeant at Arms



Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor

Cultural Affairs
111 NW 1st Street • Suite 625
Miami, FL 33128-1994
T 305-375-4634 F 305-375-3068
miamidadearts.org

miamidade.gov

May 25, 2018

Members, General Program Support Panel
Florida Department of State
Division of Cultural Affairs
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Panelists:

On behalf of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Miami Children's Museum and their request for a General Programming Support grant. Our community benefits greatly from the arts and cultural programming at the Museum which provides youth in Miami access to high-quality, hands-on, arts-based educational opportunities. Miami-Dade County and the Department of Cultural Affairs has been supportive of the Museum through a long history of financial and community support. The Museum has a history of exceeding performance expectations set forth in their grant proposals.

As an arts and cultural educational institution, the Museum serves hundreds of thousands of children annually who benefit from the Museum's programs, many of which are provided free to low-income South Florida families through the Museum's VIP (Very Important Potential) program. The Museum is a cultural and educational gem in our community and plays an important role in the lives of our children, families and schools often serving as a child's first introduction to museums. As such, the Museum is highly regarded as an expert in early childhood learning with its programming providing a valuable resource for preparing children for school using the arts as a foundation for learning and building skills such as early communication and literacy need to succeed in school.

Moreover, the Museum has proven that it is committed to bringing world-class travelling educational exhibitions to Miami-Dade County which continually attract tourists from all over the world. The Museum serves more than 450,000 visitors annually, which not only has a positive impact on our local economy and increases the visibility for our area as a family destination, but also establishes the institution as one of the premier family and tourist attractions in the State of Florida.

Thank you for the support that the Division has provided to Miami Children's Museum in previous years and for your leadership on behalf of Florida's cultural development. We appreciate your consideration of MCM's application in its endeavor to secure these important State grant dollars which will help MCM continue providing high quality arts programming in Miami-Dade County.

Sincerely,

Michael Spring, Director
Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs
Senior Advisor, Office of the Mayor



City of Miami, Florida

KEN RUSSELL
COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT 2



CITY HALL
3500 PAN AMERICAN DRIVE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33133
(305) 250-5333

May 29, 2018

State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs
General Program Support Panelists

Dear Grant Panelists:

On behalf of citizens of Miami's 2nd District, I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Miami Children's Museum and their request for a General Programming Support grant. Our city benefits greatly from the arts and cultural programming at the Museum which provides youth in Miami access to high-quality, hands-on, arts-based educational opportunities.

As an arts and cultural educational institution, the Museum serves hundreds of thousands of children annually who benefit from the Museum's programs, many of which are provided free to low-income South Florida families through the Museum's VIP (Very Important Potential) program. MCM is a cultural and educational gem in our community and plays an important role in the lives of our children, families and schools. MCM often serves as a child's first introduction to museums and is highly regarded as an expert in early childhood learning. As such, the Museum and its programming is a valuable resource for preparing children for school using the arts as a foundation for learning and building skills such as early communication and literacy need to succeed in school.

Moreover, the Museum has proven that it is committed to bringing world-class travelling interactive and hands-on arts learning exhibitions to Miami-Dade County which continually attract tourists from all over the world. The Museum serves more than 450,000 visitors annually, which not only has a positive impact on our local economy and increases the visibility for our area as a family destination, but also establishes the institution as one of the premier family arts and culture institutions in the State of Florida.

I believe in the work that Miami Children's Museum is doing to provide exceptional arts and culture experiences and opportunities for the children and families of Miami-Dade County and South Florida. I encourage your favorable consideration for support of the Museum's request for funding. The funding provided through the Division of Cultural Affairs grants program provides vital income to arts and culture organizations, such as the Museum, that depend on contributions to support their programming. The funds approved by the Legislature also help the organization secure matching contributions.

Sincerely,

Ken Russell
City Commissioner, 2nd District