



## MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND COMMISSION

TO: Members of the City Commission

CC: Raul Aguila, Interim City Manager  
Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

FROM: Mayor Dan Gelber

DATE: January 26, 2021

SUBJECT: Collins Park Cultural Arts Facility

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As part of agenda item R2 A, the Administration has prepared a proposed competitive solicitation for a lease for the Collins Park Cultural Arts Facility.

I urge the City Commission to consider NOT approving the proposed RFP, and to waive the formal competitive bidding requirement to permit the Administration to negotiate terms for a lease with Miami New Drama, for the following reasons:

- We know the universe of established cultural anchors in the City and their bandwidth, as we are already investing in facilities for the Miami City Ballet, the New World Symphony, The Bass Museum.
- A partnership to expand our established relationship with Miami New Drama, a leading theatrical/dramatic arts group, would be the perfect complement to the existing established mix of cultural institutions in the County, given our existing support for the visual arts (the Bass Museum), dance (the Ballet), and classical music (New World Symphony).
- We don't need an RFP to engage quality arts groups.
- In a very brief period, Miami New Drama has re-energized the Colony Theater, with only modest support from the City.
- We have already received a strong proposal from Miami New Drama, and given the time and resources they have spent to date, it would be worthwhile to give Miami New Drama and staff the opportunity to develop a term sheet for the Commission's consideration. If we don't like the terms in the next 60 days, we can still issue an RFP.

I appreciate and am generally supportive when my colleagues propose a competitive bidding process. That said, a bid process for cultural partners is incompatible with our objective to invest in cultural institutions to thrive in Miami Beach. This is a unique opportunity to collaborate with a leading theater company with a successful programming history at the Colony Theater in Miami Beach, and we should give their proposal the fullest consideration. If this Commission deems their proposal to not be worthy of activation, then by all means, let's issue that RFP at that time.

Mayor Dan Gelber