



Board of Directors Meeting

April 17, 2023

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
(IN PERSON QUORUM WITH SOME VIRTUAL ATTENDANTS)

MEETING MINUTES

The MDC Children's Trust Meeting, Board of Directors Meeting was held on April 17, 2023, commencing at 4:15 p.m., at 3250 Southwest 3rd Avenue, United Way, Ryder Room, Miami, Florida 33129. The meeting was called to order by Kenneth Hoffman, Chair.

**CERTIFIED
ORIGINAL**

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

BOARD MEMBER APPEARANCES:

KENNETH HOFFMAN, Chair

PAMELA HOLLIGSWORTH, Vice Chair

DR. EDWARD ABRAHAM

MATTHEW ARSENAULT

1 BOARD MEMBER APPEARANCES, Cont.:

2

3 DR. DANIEL BAGNER

4 TA'MYAH BYARS

5 MORRIS COPELAND

6 LOURDES DIAZ

7 MARY DONWORTH

8 REV. RICHARD DUNN II

9 GILDA FERRADAZ

10 HON. NORMAN GERSTEIN

11 LOURDES GIMENEZ

12 NICOLE GOMEZ

13 HON. KEON HARDEMON

14 NELSON HINCAPIE

15 ANNIE NEASMAN

16 DR. CLARA LORA OSPINA

17 JAVIER REYES

18 SHANIKA GRAVES

19

20 STAFF MEMBER APPEARANCES:

21

22 AMANDA GORSKI

23 BEVONE RITCHIE

24 CAROL BROGAN

25 DANIELLE BARRERAS

1 STAFF MEMBER APPEARANCES, Cont.:

2

3 FELIX BECERRA

4 GARNET ESTERS

5 GRETTEL SUAREZ

6 IMRAN ALI

7 JACQUES BENTOLILA

8 JAMES HAJ

9 JENNIFER MORENO

10 JUANA LEON

11 JULIETTE FABIEN

12 LISANNE GAGE

13 LISETE YERO

14 LORI HANSON

15 MARIANA HERNANDEZ

16 NATALIA ZEA

17 RACHEL SPECTOR

18 SEBASTIAN DEL MARMOL

19 SUSAN MARIAN

20 TATIANA CANELAS

21 WENDY DUNCOMBE

22 WILLIAM KIRTLAND

23 XIMENA NUNEZ

24 YULIET ALFONSO

25

1 GUEST APPEARANCES:

2

3 CAMILA GIL

4 JANICE GRAHAM

5 SHAWNEAQUA EDWARDS

6 VERONICA WARD

7 JOES JACOBI

8 JENICE ROSADO

9 JUDIT WILLIAM

10 MAPI GARCIA

11 BRANDEN LOPEZ

12 JOSE MARTINEZ

13 SANTIANA LEWIS

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (Thereupon, the following proceedings commenced
3 at 4:15 p.m.)

4 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. We're still waiting
5 for one more director, but I think before the
6 director arrives, we will go through the
7 administrative and announcements part of the
8 meeting. First of all, I'd like to remind
9 everyone, make sure and turn on your microphones
10 when you speak and off when you're not speaking.
11 In addition, if you need to recuse -- recuse
12 yourself from a resolution, please make sure and
13 state your name, agency, and the reason for
14 recusal.

15 Looks like -- just stepped out of the room.
16 Tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m., I just want to
17 announce there will be a community announcement
18 and press conference regarding our youth funding
19 development awards. All board members are enti
20 -- are invited and welcome to attend. It will
21 take place at 10:00 a.m. at the Belafonte
22 Tacolcy Community Center, which is at 6161
23 Northwest 9th Avenue.

24 Earlier this month -- I just want to tell
25 you about the youth development -- I'm sorry --

1 the soccer foundation initiatives. Earlier this
2 month, the Children's Trust joined the US Soccer
3 Foundation, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella
4 Levine Cava, County Commissioner Chairman Oliver
5 Gilbert, and CEO Kenneth Griffin of Citadel,
6 LLC, among others, to announce the launch of the
7 Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative.

8 Citadel founder and CEO Kenneth Griffin
9 provided \$5,000,000 to fund the development of
10 50 new mini-pitches in Miami-Dade County by
11 2026. And the Children's Trust is going to
12 support the US Soccer Foundation's initiative
13 through the creation of a local Just Ball
14 League, which is something that the US Soccer
15 Foundation has successfully implemented in a few
16 other cities.

17 And this league uses mini-pitches and other
18 community hubs to create opportunities for
19 league play at the neighborhood level while
20 removing barriers, such as transportation and
21 costs, that often prohibit children in under-
22 served communities from playing the game.
23 Several of our board officers were present at
24 the conference. I think Pam, Karen, and Mark; I
25 don't know if you have anything you'd like to

1 add?

2 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Ken. I just
3 thought it was a great experience. It was very
4 exciting and look forward to the future,
5 providing so many opportunities for children to
6 enjoy the game.

7 MR. HOFFMAN: Terrific. After our last
8 board meeting, staff surveyed all of our
9 directors on the meeting time, and I just wanted
10 to let you know that this time, or the time we
11 were scheduled to start at 4:00 p.m., was the --
12 was the winning time on Mondays for our board
13 meetings. So, thank you all for your input. In
14 your board packets in front of you there are two
15 op-eds in there, right? So --

16 MR. HAJ: In the media packet.

17 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. In the media packet,
18 sorry. The first, which is co-authored by
19 David Lawrence, our CEO Jim Hodge, and yours
20 truly, celebrates the Children's Trust's 20
21 years of accomplishments. The second, written
22 by a member of the community, advocates for
23 renaming the Children's Trust in honor of David
24 Lawrence. This is not being presented to the
25 board, nor is

1 David Lawrence in favor of having the Children's
2 Trust renamed in his honor. So, I just wanted
3 you to know that in case you saw that at
4 editorial.

5 I wanted to take this opportunity to
6 welcome to our board Commissioner Keon Hardemon
7 as a representative of the Miami-Dade Board of
8 County Commissioners, as appointed by the
9 commission chair. Welcome, Commissioner. He is
10 currently, not only the -- on the Miami-Dade
11 County Board of Commissioners, he also serves on
12 the Miami-Dade County Aviation and Economic
13 Development Committee and chairman of the Tour -
14 - Tourist Development Council. Welcome; we look
15 forward to your input, and you're welcome to say
16 something as well.

17 MR. HARDEMON: Well, of course, thank you,
18 Mr. Chairman. I -- I appreciate your greetings,
19 and I just want to get some clarity on what you
20 just said. So, the Children's Trust is not in
21 favor of naming it after --

22 MR. HOFFMAN: We haven't brought the matter
23 before the board. It was -- it was mentioned in
24 an editorial, and again, I just wanted to
25 mention it to the board because, I mean, it was

1 not an initiative of this board, and Dave has
2 him -- himself expressed that he's not in favor
3 of that.

4 MR. HARDEMON: Okay. Thank you very much.

5 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. With that, I think we
6 will move to public -- I have several for this
7 meeting. I'd first like to call on Camila Gil
8 of the Armour Dance Theatre.

9 MS. GRAVES: Mr. Chair, we should wait
10 until we have a quorum.

11 MR. HOFFMAN: I'm sorry?

12 MS. GRAVES: Quorum.

13 MR. HOFFMAN: Oh, we don't have a quorum?
14 I thought we do. I saw our director joined,
15 yeah. Is Ms. Gil --

16 MS. GIL: Good afternoon. Can you hear me?

17 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

18 MS. GIL: Good. Thank you, members of the
19 board and Mr. Hodge. My name is Camila Gil, and
20 I am the executive director of Armour Dance
21 Theatre. For over three decades, Armour Dance
22 has used dance as a vehicle for success. Even
23 though the words dance and theater may bring an
24 image of pink fluffy tutus, our goal is to
25 empower students with life skills that help them

1 reach their full potential, regardless of the
2 career path they choose.

3 Since 2011, the Children's Trust has
4 supported our organization and has made it
5 possible for us to expand our four community
6 programs to include academic, social-emotional
7 learning, homework assistance, and parenting
8 components. Through this comprehensive arts
9 education model, students develop skills like
10 resilience, delayed gratification, and a growth
11 mindset to help them master their craft, do well
12 academically, and succeed in life through high
13 school and beyond.

14 With the help of the Children's Trust, we
15 have seen thousands of students gain placement
16 into magnet schools, graduate high school, and
17 pursue careers in a vast variety of fields. One
18 of the many examples is Destiny Delancy, whose
19 story was featured in the Children's Trust 20th
20 anniversary campaign.

21 This new round of funding will allow us to
22 continue using the art of dance as a tool for
23 social transformation. It will allow us to
24 expand our reach by 75 students, offer
25 additional academic support, hire a social

1 worker to further assist our families in need of
2 access to the resources they deserve, and
3 continue to employ over 60 staff members. We
4 are grateful to be a part of the wonderful
5 Children's Trust community and look forward to
6 many more years of partnership. Thank you.

7 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Thank you for
8 your comment.

9 Next, we have Jonathan Spikes from
10 Affirming YOUTH Foundation, Inc. And when you
11 address, please state your address as well as
12 the organization for the record. Okay --

13 MR. SPIKES: Okay. Sorry about that. I
14 was looking for the mute -- unmute. Thank you,
15 Children's Trust board and Mr. Hodge. Since
16 2011, Affirming YOUTH Foundation has been
17 delivering social-ecological services to
18 children within the Liberty City corridor. And
19 20 -- and Affirming YOUTH was also part of the
20 small community-based program that was funded by
21 the trust that allowed us to become an
22 accredited agency and CARF for mental health
23 services and case management services.

24 And so, being awarded -- or being
25 recommended for this award for this program that

1 we're speaking of today, the Youth Development
2 Program, shows that the investment that the
3 Children's Trust has put into this organization
4 has been beneficial and has allowed us to grow
5 our capacity and our reach in order to provide
6 evidence-based services to the children and
7 families of Liberty City and hopefully within
8 Miami Gardens. Thank you for that.

9 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Next, we have
10 Janice Graham.

11 MS. GRAHAM: Can you hear me?

12 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

13 MS. GRAHAM: Hi. Good afternoon, everyone.
14 It's such a pleasure to see all of you. My name
15 is Janice Graham. I am the executive director
16 for a nonprofit, Casa Valentina. We pride
17 ourselves on helping youth who have aged out of
18 foster care and have nowhere to go. We pride
19 ourselves on the residential program that we
20 have that exposes them to, you know, the -- the
21 adulthood that they need
22 -- or the adulating that they need in order to be
23 responsible people in our community. We deliver
24 life skills in the areas of financial literacy,
25 in the area of education, and all that requires

1 -- or is required for youth who have reached
2 that ripe age, I guess, of 18 and need some
3 help.

4 In our storied partnership with the
5 Children's Trust, we found ourselves fitting
6 into a predetermined template within this
7 nonprofit world, where the focus is typically,
8 of course, on young children. Casa Valentina's
9 program is a little bit different in that we
10 work with youth who have aged out of foster care
11 and have reached that age of 18. So, our
12 category is typically in that 18- to 23-year-old
13 range. Because of that target population, it's
14 been a little difficult in the past to -- but
15 still successful, to fit into that template.

16 But this particular RFP has made us feel
17 quite seen. It expanded the parameters to
18 better include the full range of the work that
19 we do with our youth, to include providing
20 mental health resources and, of course, academic
21 support. I'm so happy to report that we now fit
22 in a lot more comfortably, and that's thanks to
23 all of you. As we gear up for this new cycle,
24 we now feel that our mission and our scope is
25 better aligned with the work that we do here at

1 Casa Valentina. Thank you, and I mean this,
2 thank you for listening to our needs, and I am
3 confident that moving forward, this change will
4 allow us to better serve the unique needs of the
5 system-involved youth. Thank you.

6 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Next up is
7 Shaniqua Edwards (phonetic).

8 MS. EDWARDS: Hello, board of directors and
9 Mr. Chairperson. My name is Shaniqua Edwards,
10 and I am an evaluation associate at Behavioral
11 Science Research Institute, better known as BSRI
12 in the community. I participated as a community
13 reviewer for the youth development grant, and I
14 just want to say thanks to you guys for taking
15 the time out of this meeting to hear about my
16 overall experience as a grant reviewer. I think
17 before I provide my overall experience, I think
18 it's best that I provide some brief context on
19 the process onto becoming a community reviewer.

20 So, upon the request to become a community
21 volunteer reviewer, I submitted an application
22 and after being accepted as a reviewer, there
23 was a required training, in addition to a
24 virtual training that was two-and-a-half hours
25 long going over guidelines for community

1 reviewers, the reviewer process, as well as the
2 scoring guidelines. We were assigned an
3 internal reviewer, sort of as a group leader,
4 from inside the trust who answered questions
5 concerning the RFP.

6 At the end of the individual review process
7 for the grant reviewer meeting, we went through
8 a debriefing process that went through the
9 scoring, and we had discussions on reviewer
10 scores and the basis of that -- of that score
11 for scores that varied over 0.5 difference. I
12 thought the debriefing process was very
13 informative and detailed for applicants to hear
14 and understand the reasoning behind certain
15 scores, as well as being able to hear reviewers
16 coming to agreeance or non-agreeance on some of
17 the scoring processes.

18 So, overall the process prior to reviewing
19 the application was thorough. I felt well
20 equipped to review applications after reviewing
21 the RFP and going through the training process.
22 I would also add there was a level of integrity
23 that was expected, and it was communicated that
24 reviewers maintained and operated in that level
25 of integrity while reviewing applications.

1 I really did enjoy being a community
2 reviewer. I found it to be very rewarding -- a
3 rewarding process, and I really felt that the --
4 the process was very streamlined and thorough,
5 which made it thus more rewarding for me. So,
6 I'm just thankful for the opportunity to
7 volunteer, and thank you again for taking the
8 time out for me to share my experience as a
9 community grant reviewer.

10 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. We -- we
11 appreciate both your service and your feedback,
12 thanks. Finally, we have a Veronica Ward.

13 MS. WARD: Yes. Good afternoon. My name
14 is Veronica Ward. I am the owner and director
15 of Promised Land Academy. Promised Land Academy
16 is a specialized school that serves a very
17 specific population, children with special
18 needs. Our main core value is to provide
19 exceptional education, doing everything with
20 excellence. This also means that we love,
21 teach, guide, and educate students with various
22 exceptionalities.

23 We serve students with autism, Down
24 syndrome, cerebral palsy, seizures and anxiety
25 disorders, varied learning disabilities, and

1 more. Our ratio is three to one, including
2 therapists, teachers, and assistants. Our
3 system, or our methodology of teaching, is one-
4 on-one, specifically in the areas of reading,
5 language, and math, and most importantly, life
6 skills, living skills, and socialization.

7 We begin teaching the students at the level
8 where they are, and we continue building and
9 encouraging with an incessant goal of bringing
10 our kids to the level they could be compared to
11 their peers or reaching a safe level of
12 independence. To be able to accomplish our miss
13 -- mission and stay true to our core values, is
14 for our students and teachers to be on campus.

15 Our students learn best when they have a
16 close relationship with their teachers and
17 therapists. We're not willing to compromise our
18 standards in the face of adversity. This is
19 when we press on as a school and as a ministry.
20 We have safely navigated the seriousness of the
21 pandemic by being safe, resourceful, and
22 creative. We have served the Goulds, Princeton,
23 and Homestead areas since 2007.

24 We began as a speech and occupational
25 therapy center and rapidly grew into a

1 specialized school. The need in our community
2 is great and continues to grow, leaving special
3 needs students left out of specialized programs.
4 A large number of our students are greatly
5 affected by their diagnosis. Many wear diapers
6 into their teen years.

7 They're non-verbal, with major levels of
8 frustration and behavior challenges like biting,
9 pulling hair, self-harm, throwing furniture,
10 hitting their head on the wall or the floor.
11 For this reason, we work with a very small
12 teacher to student ratio to preserve a safe,
13 secure environment for our students and
14 teachers.

15 We have highly qualified and experienced
16 teachers, assistants, and therapists that guide,
17 love, train, and treat their students with
18 dignity and respect. Promised Land Academy
19 already offers a quality after school and summer
20 camp program that is intentionally designed to
21 provide engaging activities that are sequenced,
22 aligned with program goals, and are taught by
23 trained, dedicated program staff who work
24 effectively with all children.

25 Our summer camp goal is for all kids within

1 the same family to attend camp together with
2 their special needs family member. This reduces
3 the stress of parents and finding transportation
4 to different camps. Whe -- when children attend
5 regularly, quality after school programs and
6 summer camps, it increases school attendance,
7 improved academic performance, decreases risky
8 behavior, prevents summer learning loss, and
9 supports working families.

10 However, summer programs and after school
11 care are not included in the scholarships the
12 students normally receive, and some families
13 already have to pay out of pocket for tuition as
14 the scholarships are not enough. With the
15 children's trust grant, it is going to
16 specifically sp -- help those families that,
17 until now, were not able to afford these
18 specialized programs. And we are very grateful
19 for this opportunity, very grateful what you
20 will offer in our community.

21 We extend an invitation to you to come and
22 visit our school where we can fali -- facilitate
23 a tour and answer all your questions. Our
24 community would be blessed to receive the
25 children's trust grant in order to serve more

1 families. And we thank you for this
2 opportunity.

3 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you for your comments.
4 With that, we'll move to the formal part of the
5 meeting. I'm going to turn it over to
6 Karen Weller, our secretary for the approval of
7 the March 13 Board of Directors minutes.
8 Karen's not here? Okay. The minutes are in
9 your packet. Has everybody had an opportunity
10 to review them? Is there a motion to approve
11 the minutes? Second?

12 MR. BAGNER: Dr. Bagner.

13 MR. HOFFMAN: Second, Dr. Bagner. All
14 those in favor, aye. Any opposed? Motion
15 carries. And I'll turn it over to the Chair of
16 our Program Services and Childhood Health
17 Committee.

18 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Ken. Good
19 afternoon, everyone. The Program Services and
20 Childhood Health Committee met on Thursday,
21 March 30, to consider the resolutions brought
22 before you today. And for the reading of the
23 first resolution, I'm going to pass the mic to
24 Mary Donworth. Please.

25 MS. DONWORTH: Thank you. Resolution 2023-

1 38. Authorization to negotiate and execute
2 contracts with 143 providers identified herein
3 to, one, deliver high quality after school
4 programming for 17,413 elementary, middle, high
5 school age children and youth, and two, summer
6 programming for 18,597 elementary middle and
7 high school age children and youth in a total
8 amount not to exceed \$76,662,000.

9 For year-round and school year programs,
10 the contract term will be 12 months, commencing
11 August 15th, 2023, and ending August 14th, 2024.
12 And for summer only programs, the contract term
13 will be a term of six months, commencing March
14 1st, 2024, and ending August 31st, 2024. Each
15 with four remaining annual renewals subject to
16 annual funding appropriations.

17 Is there a motion to approve? Thank you.
18 Is there a second? Thank you. Are there any
19 recusals?

20 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Recusal. Recusal,
21 Hollingsworth. My daughter works for the Arsht
22 Center.

23 MR. BAGNER: Recusal. Bagner, employed by
24 FIU.

25 MS. DONWORTH: Any others?

1 MR. HARDEMON: Can we state the recusal
2 policy so that I'm aware.

3 MS. GRAVES: Commissioner -- the Commission
4 on Ethics gives the recusal policy. I would say
5 looking at the reason that
6 Ms. Hollingsworth recused, and it came from the
7 Ethics Commission, that in an abundance of
8 caution, that you should recuse from this one,
9 and then the Ethics Commission will issue an
10 opinion for each subsequent item.

11 MR. HARDEMON: Recusal. Keon Hardemon.

12 MS. DONWORTH: Thank you. Question? Oh,
13 recu -- okay. All right. So, before I turn it
14 over to Jim (phonetic), who's going to give us a
15 brief presentation, I also want to point out
16 that this resolution was also taken to both the
17 finance and program committees for their
18 approval as well. So, Jim?

19 MR. HODGE: Mary, thank you. A quick
20 presentation. I know we went through this
21 presentation at committee meetings. I kind of
22 condensed it somewhat. But I just want to give
23 you a brief -- a -- a brief background. So,
24 it's been two years in the making that we've got
25 to this point. So, this is really huge for the

1 trust and to this community.

2 So, upon -- if the board approves, this is
3 a five-year supporting 36,000 children and --
4 and summer and after school programs throughout
5 Miami-Dade. So, as you know, the last three
6 board retreats have been talking about this
7 initiative and -- and other initiatives as well
8 as we reached out to all the stakeholders. We
9 had a parent survey with over 2,000 parents
10 involved. We had a provider input session with
11 over 500 providers giving us input.

12 We had 27 focus groups with parents and
13 youth. And we also -- this new initiative with
14 our at-risk youth, opportunity youth, we've had
15 a focus group with that as well. So, we plan
16 for two years and then prior -- I know this has
17 been a commitment to the trust the last six or
18 seven years is, they get out to the community
19 and let them know that the RFP is coming. So,
20 if we can go to the next slide.

21 So, we had -- we had 37 different
22 collaborator meetings with the community to let
23 them know we're coming. Anyone who wanted to
24 speak to us, anyone who had an audience for us,
25 we made it a point for the last two years to get

1 out there and let them know that it was coming.
2 And we did our best bef
3 -- prior to the cone of silence being issued to
4 get out and speak to anyone who wanted to speak
5 to us.

6 We also put a media blast through eBlast,
7 ads -- ads in the Herald, the Global Herald,
8 Miami Times, Love Floridian, and our radio,
9 WLRN, BSS, WMBM. Next slide, please.

10 And this is special. They -- one -- one of
11 our publi -- public speakers spoke to this.

12 This

13 -- this -- we've talked about this for years,
14 that our program's exceptional. We meet the
15 kids where they're at, but there are kids that
16 are in and out of the juvenile justice system or
17 foster care, the welfare system.

18 And we wanted to meet tho -- those
19 children's needs, those youth's need and give
20 the providers flexibility that they don't
21 necessarily fit into our box, but that we can
22 great -- create flexibility and meet those kids
23 where they're at. We met with an army of
24 parents, teens, experts in the juvenile system,
25 psychologists, DCF, and experts with foster care

1 youth for the last year, prior to re --
2 releasing this RFP. The listening sessions
3 really informed it. Again, I think the -- the
4 public speaker spoke to that we are listening
5 and met the needs of this community. Next
6 slide, please.

7 In the solicitation process, it has been
8 quite a bit of lift from this board, from staff,
9 and from our external reviewers. We have -- so,
10 for every individual organization who puts in
11 for the RFP, there was two internal reviewers
12 and one external reviewers. So, we had an
13 enhanced training system. As we know, the last
14 five years, we also had a turnover of staff.

15 So, we had a -- the last six months,
16 training for our team with internal/external
17 reviewer training, six sessions for our internal
18 reviewers over three months, training videos,
19 in-person sessions with homework assignments,
20 and practice sessions, as well as evaluations.
21 We have more than 460 separate reviews and
22 conducted -- were conducted over the 154
23 applications that were submitted.

24 And we trained our entire staff. Because
25 youth development is one RFP that's in front of

1 you. But as you know, with the cone of silence
2 being issued to you, we have ten RFPs on the
3 street. So, there's going to be other RFPs and
4 other reviewers. So, we are working with our
5 internal and external reviewers to develop a
6 pool that will serve us well for the next six
7 months.

8 So, here are some of the highlights.
9 Agencies with a successful history of delivering
10 trust programming continue to have a strong
11 success rate. Many years ago when we -- when we
12 started this to look at the success of getting a
13 children's trust application, it wasn't a -- yet
14 a grant writer, it wasn't small or large. What
15 it was is, the barrier to entry was being new to
16 the initiative. So, we pushed to -- to develop
17 our CBO capacity building and to let -- to help
18 others become subcontractors and to become
19 contractors with our initiative.

20 So, our success rate. This cycle, we had a
21 78 percent success rate, 24 new programs into
22 our ecosystem. That is up from 59 percent the
23 last cycle and 8 percent prior to that. In
24 addition, we -- we increase success by new
25 agencies as lead applicants. We know that 88

1 percent of applicants that were se -- previously
2 funded through subcontractors as a subcontractor
3 are now successful applicants to the trust
4 system. And finally note, it was mentioned
5 about our small CBO by Jonathan Spikes, those
6 who -- from the CBO who applied, had 100 percent
7 success rate getting into this youth development
8 cycle.

9 And then the geographic expansion. Part of
10 our YD planning included geographic analysis of
11 where kids live, where they are experiencing
12 poverty, and where our current program slots are
13 distributed. As a result, the RFP called out
14 several census designated places for expansion.

15 Our goal through the -- station to ensure
16 services are being available throughout Miami-
17 Dade -- Dade County. And if you can see -- I
18 know we just lost a slide, but there is a map of
19 where we are and the huge footprint we have from
20 Florida City to the county line, and from the --
21 from the Everglades to -- to the ocean.

22 The recommendation before you represents an
23 overall increase of total programming for after
24 school and summer sites from 484 programs last
25 cycle to 682. That's including a 41 percent

1 expansion to the identified priority areas. And
2 the maps -- and you see the dots, this -- this -
3 - the dots are correlated to the number of slots
4 being recommended at those sites.

5 And just a thank you to all those involved.
6 Again, it's been two years in the making. Upo -
7 - upon this approval -- if the Board approves
8 these recommendations, we have a provider
9 meeting on
10 May 3rd, to start going over contracting
11 supports and process to get new contracts in
12 place. And giving the high number of new
13 agencies being recommended, we're also going to
14 be providing additional support for the new
15 agencies.

16 And a couple of quick facts. This is the
17 largest investment in youth development in the
18 Children's Trust history. We have over 36,000
19 slots that will be for after school and summer
20 programs for the next five years. And I want to
21 thank the board, staff, and external reviewers.
22 The reason why we've had such great success and
23 great public support for this youth development
24 is transparency, honesty, and openness of the
25 staff.

1 We have met for the last three or four
2 months with all organizations. Not have been --
3 we're releasing -- we're asking for 76 million
4 approval; we had close to 150 million in ask.
5 So, not everybody received what they wanted.
6 Not everybody was happy. But we did meet with
7 everybody to explain our process, to explain
8 where we're at. And I think that is what has
9 brought -- brought us to this point where we
10 hope that we can execute contracts and support
11 this community for the next five years. Thank
12 you, Mr. Chair -- or thank you, Mary.

13 MS. DONWORTH: Thank you, Jim. Before we
14 move to a vote, is there any discussion? Thank
15 you. Any other comments? Okay. We have a
16 motion to approve and a second. All those in
17 favor say aye. Aye. All those opposed. So,
18 the ayes have it. The motion carries. Thank
19 you.

20 MS. FERRADAZ: Thank you, Mary. Resolution
21 2023-39. Authorization to negotiate and execute
22 a final contract renewal with Florida
23 International University Board of Trustees, FIU,
24 for reading enhancement services, in a total
25 amount not to exceed \$945,752 for a term of 12

1 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending
2 September 30, 2024. May I have a motion,
3 please. Thank you. And a second. Are there
4 any recusals?

5 MR. BAGNER: Recusal, Bagner, employed by
6 FIU.

7 MS. FERRADAZ: Further recusals? Hearing
8 none. Moving to discussion. Reading Explorers
9 serves existing Trust-funded after-school and
10 summer programs along with Trust-affiliated
11 early education programs, delivering literacy
12 interventions directly to young children during
13 the summer and on -- during the summer, and on-
14 site coaching and support during the school
15 year, with summer services being the most
16 intensive. This contract renewal considers the
17 additional funding added in the 2022-2023
18 contract by way of an amendment to support
19 increased staffing costs and teacher quality.
20 Discussion, comments from directors, please?
21 Hearing none. All those in favor? Are there
22 any opposed? The resolution carries.

23 And our final resolution for today,
24 Resolution 2023-40. Authorization to negotiate
25 and execute a contract with Florida Introduces

1 Physical Activity and Nutrition to Youth,
2 FLIPANY, for after-school snacks and meals in a
3 total amount not to exceed \$600,000 for a term
4 of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and
5 ending September 30, 2024, with two remaining
6 contract renewals.

7 May I have a motion, please? Thank you.
8 And a second? Thank you. Are there any
9 recusals? Hearing none, let's move into
10 discussion.

11 You will note that the Trust requires all
12 after school and summer programs to provide
13 participating children with food that meets USDA
14 nutritional program requirements. FLIPANY is
15 the after school snack and meal provider for
16 programs not located in a Miami-Dade County
17 public school or a licensed childcare center
18 since those locations are already served through
19 separate programs.

20 FLIPANY does provide nutritious lunches,
21 snacks, and suppers to 91 Trust-funded after
22 school sites for children and youth in grades K-
23 12 and also offers administrative services to
24 these agencies to help them meet the
25 requirements of the after school meals program

1 funded by the Florida Department of Agriculture
2 and administered by the Florida Department --
3 oh.

4 Comments, feedback from the Board? Hearing
5 none. All those in favor? Are there any
6 opposed? This resolution also carries. Back to
7 you.

8 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. The committee met
9 and reviewed the -- we -- we're handing it out
10 now to the folks at Marcum, Brandon Lopez, and
11 will -- to go over the comprehensive annual
12 financial report.

13 MR. BILL: I guess I'll just jump in and
14 add some context before kicking it over to
15 Brandon Lopez, who is the assigned managing
16 accountant, I should say our auditor on our job
17 with associated through Marcum this year. I
18 just wanted to add some context to the entire
19 report that Brandon's going to provide more of a
20 summary overview of, because I'm sure everybody
21 reviewed all 139 pages of this report when we
22 sent it out last week, right?

23 So I just wanted to say that we have -- in
24 our previous board meeting, we mentioned that we
25 submitted this -- the annual comprehensive

1 financial report last year and received
2 notification that it was an awarded report for
3 10 years consecutive. And now that this
4 report's been issued, it meets similar standards
5 to reports that we've issued in the previous 10
6 years where there's been no material findings or
7 concerns or management letter comments.

8 And we've submitted the financials as of
9 September 30th, 2022, for the same consideration
10 for the Certificate of Achievement, which is
11 issued by the Government Finance Officers
12 Association. So, I was just going to mention
13 that about this report before -- now, Brandon,
14 you can add some of the details. And I might
15 circle around for a couple more comments when
16 you're done.

17 MR. LOPEZ: -- So, I'm going to stick to
18 some of the highlights. -- We're going to start
19 off with independent audit, which is link Page
20 1, and on PDF Page 123. The independent audit,
21 it looks a little bit different this year, when
22 you compare that to the previous, that was
23 really the change in the accounting and auditing
24 standards. The extension the most important
25 part of this report is that maybe in the past --

1 unmodified. There you go. Unmodified, clean
2 opinion. Like Bill mentioned, there were no
3 significant deficiencies, no material weaknesses
4 identified based on the procedures performed.

5 The next section I just want to touch on is
6 what's called management's discussion and
7 analysis. That's on PDF Page 27, printed Page
8 4. So, if there's one section you're going to
9 read of this entire document, I always mention
10 this part of it management's discussion analysis
11 is a great overview. Because what it does is it
12 gives the reader information of the current year
13 compared to the prior year. And it lets them
14 know what some of those changes, what some of
15 those variances were, what caused them. It
16 gives you a really good overview of the entire
17 year in general. So, it's about 15 to 20 pages
18 of this entire document, which is about 130.
19 That gives you a really good overview of the
20 year. So, if there's one section you read, I
21 always mention this is a good one to start with.

22 We're going to continue along and go to
23 printed Page 22, which is PDF Page 46. And here
24 we get into the statement of net position. So,
25 this is where the actual financial statements

1 start. Right? The numbers. And one thing I
2 just want to mention and highlight is there are
3 no significant auditor adjustments during the
4 audit. So, the numbers that you see here are
5 consistent with those that are being presented
6 in the monthly meeting. So, no auditor
7 adjustments were presented and identified.
8 There was one accounting standard that was
9 implemented during the year that changed a
10 little bit in regards to how to record and
11 present leases but no true significant impact on
12 the Trust. Nothing that would alter the opinion
13 or the reading of these financial statements.

14 So, we continue along, and we're going to
15 go to the compliance section, which is PDF Page
16 125, printed Page 98. So, one thing I always
17 like to mention as part of the audit, it's kind
18 of a two-fold audit. We're doing a financial
19 statement audit, we're looking at the numbers,
20 but because the entity is a governmental entity,
21 it's required to be audited under what's called
22 Government Auditing Standards, Yellow Book. And
23 that brings in another component of it, which is
24 the compliance part of this audit.

25 So, this report here is the independent

1 auditor's report on internal controls or
2 financial reporting in accordance with
3 government auditing standards. And essentially,
4 if we were based on our procedures performed, we
5 identified any significant deficiencies, any
6 issues with internal control over financial
7 reporting, we would have to disclose that in
8 writing. It couldn't be done verbally, it
9 couldn't be done during a discussion, and it had
10 to be recorded in writing. And this report on
11 the following page, it lets the reader know that
12 based on the procedures we performed, there were
13 no such issues identified.

14 The next compliance report, which is on PDF
15 Page 127, is the management letter in accordance
16 with the rules of the Auditor General of the
17 State of Florida. Not only do we have to follow
18 Yellow Book, but we also have to follow Florida
19 Statutes. And in this letter, there's certain
20 things that the audit general requires us to
21 disclose. If there was any prior year audit
22 findings.

23 What's the follow up? There were no such
24 findings, so there is no follow up there. Were
25 there any issues with the financial condition

1 and management, right? During this process, we
2 have to take a look at the entity, the health of
3 that entity, and we not only compare it on a
4 five-year trend, but historically, but we also
5 compare it to your peers, right? The other
6 CSCs. And based on the procedures we performed,
7 there were no such issues that we would have to
8 disclose in this letter. Any going concerns,
9 nothing like that.

10 The last part of that report is on Page --
11 printed Page 102 which is exactly followed down.
12 And it's just some information that needs to be
13 disclosed in that letter that talks about the
14 millage rate, talks about the ad valorem taxes
15 collected, things of that nature which are
16 consistent with the financial statements. And
17 then the last compliance report is on PDF Page
18 130, printed Page 103. And this one is a
19 compliance report in accordance with Section
20 218415 of the Florida Statute, which essentially
21 is in regards to the investments. As we're well
22 aware, the money of the organization isn't money
23 that can be invested in any types of
24 investments.

25 At the end of the day, these are the money

1 from, right, the constituents, the people that
2 live in the city, in the county, to be spent for
3 programs and things of that nature. So, there's
4 very strict guidelines on what types of
5 investments governmental entities can invest in.
6 So, as part of our testing, we take a look at
7 the investment policy to ensure that the
8 organization is following those procedures. And
9 we were required to report any issues if they
10 were identified. But this letter states no such
11 issues were identified when taking a look at the
12 investment and the investment policies.

13 One thing I want to mention, it's -- this
14 is our fifth year auditing on the entity, it's
15 our last year of the contract, and it's just
16 been a pleasure being a service to the trust.
17 We're here today because of the hard work that
18 Bill, Wendy, and their team put into this. It's
19 -- this relationship that we have isn't just you
20 know, a couple of months during the audit and I
21 see you next year. It's really an ongoing
22 relationship.

23 Whenever there's a new standard that's
24 going in to be implemented, there's a new
25 transaction that just looks a little bit

1 different. They do a great job of reaching out
2 to us, just getting our opinion, because at the
3 end of the day, we want to be on the same page.
4 The more information we have ahead of time, when
5 it comes time for your audit, it's a lot
6 smoother process. So, the hard work that they
7 put in deserves credit, so I want to make sure I
8 mentioned that.

9 So, that covers the highlights of the
10 report. I don't know if there are any specific
11 questions that the board had for myself. All
12 right. Thank you very much.

13 MR. BILL: Thank you, Brandon. I was just
14 going to --

15 MR. LOPEZ: Go ahead, Bill.

16 MR. BILL: All right. I just wanted to
17 piggy back up what Brandon was saying because
18 of, as he mentioned, per our bylaws, we are
19 required to consider auditor rotation every five
20 years. So, alongside the programs that we're
21 considering for that have been released through
22 solicitation, and we're going into a new five-
23 year cycle considering all of our Program Ag
24 services, we're also having to engage in the
25 same type of RFP process for a new audit firm.

1 So, we are sadly saying goodbye to Marcum.
2 It has been a, honestly, a very quick five
3 years. It felt like we were just doing this
4 recently. So, we've had a very beneficial
5 relationship working with Marcum and their team.
6 Brandon has been assigned to this audit all five
7 years. And like he mentioned, we have ongoing
8 calls throughout the year how to better our
9 process and how to consider better accounting
10 practices and operational practices so that we
11 can have this kind of result every year with the
12 audit report.

13 So, I just wanted to thank Marcum, Brandon,
14 and the team. I know we've seen many faces
15 throughout the years, but we've always seen
16 Brandon. I wanted to thank the board and the
17 committees that support the culture that help us
18 do our job and ensuring compliance and accurate
19 financial reporting. And the staff as well.
20 Everybody's bought in to supporting this report
21 through all of the operations that we engage in
22 throughout the year. So, I just wanted to thank
23 everybody really in the room, I suppose. Thank
24 you.

25 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Brandon.

1 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you very much.

2 MR. HOFFMAN: And we do appreciate the
3 collaborative effort you've had with the Trust
4 staff to give us this excellent report and --
5 turn it back to you.

6 MR. HODGE: Brandon, I just want to thank
7 you and Marcum. It has been a great five years,
8 great partnership. I also want to thank Bill
9 and the team. Ten years, we've had the GFOA
10 Certificate of Achievement. It's hard one year,
11 10 years reoccurring and, Bill, just that we're
12 submitting, part of your performance plan is
13 getting it for the 11th straight year. But it
14 is -- and also with just the finance committee
15 and their leadership of the finance committee
16 and this board, we are stewards of taxpayer
17 money. We take it very seriously and the work
18 that we have done and will continue to do. It
19 really is impressive, the work at the finance
20 and that I mentioned Bill, but it really is all
21 the execs and all the individuals at the Trust
22 who make this happen day in and day out. Thank
23 you.

24 MR. KIRTLAND: Echoing that. Well, Wendy,
25 control, I don't know if Wendy's here but

1 congratulations and, Brandon, thank you for the
2 service of Marcum. With that, I'm going to
3 entertain us for a motion of acceptance of the
4 annual comprehensive financial report for the
5 fiscal year ended September 30th, 2022, and the
6 unmodified opinion of the external auditors
7 that's contained therein.

8 Any discussion? Okay. All in favor say
9 aye. -- Aye -- Opposed? Okay, the aye's have
10 it. Thank you.

11 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Thanks. I'll
12 turn it over now to Gilder Ferradaz to give us a
13 Human Resources Committee report.

14 MS. FERRADAZ: Good afternoon, everyone.
15 The Human Resources Committee met on April 5th
16 to discuss revisions to the employee handbook.
17 There's a number of revisions with -- I think
18 you received. The committee discussed at length
19 the revisions and also made a couple of minor
20 recommendations to add to the revisions that
21 were there. And the committee passed the
22 revisions that were recommended and amended.

23 And so I will ask for a motion to accept
24 the revisions to the employee handbook. Thank
25 you. Any discussion or questions? Hearing

1 none. All those in favor, aye. -- Aye -- Any
2 opposed? The motion carries. Thank you.

3 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. And over to Jim,
4 the CEO, for your report.

5 MR. HODGE: Mr. Chair, thank you.
6 Quarterly CEO reports on Page 27, 28. You have
7 immediate highlights which Ken mentioned we have
8 three out beds that are in front of you, but we
9 send you the electronic version because it has
10 the links of all the stuff that's happening in
11 the community each month. So, please, when we
12 send you immediate highlight, there's a lot of
13 great work going on in the community. Lot of
14 great things that we do that we're -- we are a
15 part of in the community. So, we attach the
16 live links when we do e-mail it to you.

17 Financial disclosure forms are due by
18 July 1st. Champions for Children, April 27.
19 I'm proud to say we are sold out. We are at
20 1,200 and we have to stop sales, so we shut it
21 down except to the board. I think we still have
22 a couple of board members who are not RSVPed,
23 please do so because it is that time of the --
24 as we lead up to the next two weeks, everybody's
25 calling for a seat and so we want to know how

1 many seats we have available. And then Young
2 Talent, Big Dreams, where we showcase the talent
3 of students throughout Miami-Dade County. The
4 finals are on Saturday, May 13th, at 7:00 at the
5 Miracle Theater. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, everybody here,
7 for helping approve the youth development
8 resolutions. I think the community has been
9 waiting for this anxiously and look forward to
10 seeing those of you who can attend the press
11 conference tomorrow. With that, we're
12 adjourned. Thank you.

13 (Thereupon, the meeting was concluded at 5:04
14 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTION

2
3 The above and foregoing transcript is a true and
4 correct typed copy of the contents of the file, which
5 was digitally recorded in the proceeding identified
6 at the beginning of the transcript, to the best of my
7 ability, knowledge and belief.

8
9 Cecil Clark

10 Cecil Clark, Transcriber

11 April 18, 2023
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