

**Meyers, Robert (COE)**

JUG 05-138

**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 19, 2005 3:22 PM  
**To:** Cabrera, Rem (CUA)  
**Subject:** RE: question re: new board member

Rem,

It is a bit confusing, but I believe I have sorted it out. As I understand it, Mr. Cortada sits on the Cultural Affairs Council and may wish to apply for a grant from the South Florida Cultural Consortium Fellowship Program for Visual and Media Artists. Fellowships are reviewed by a national panel of judges, and once the selections are made by the panel, its recommendations are forwarded to the Executive Committee of the South Florida Cultural Consortium for ratification purposes only. The County's Cultural Affairs Council does not play a role in the ratification process – only the Chair and the Executive Director. The final relevant fact is that employees of participating County governments, including Miami-Dade County, are not eligible to participate in the program.

First of all, members of the County's Cultural Affairs Council are not County employees. Therefore, sitting on the Council would not prohibit Mr. Cortada from applying for a fellowship. Secondly, due to the fact the Cultural Affairs Council takes no official position regarding the local artists who are selected by the national panel of judges for award, there is no conflict of interest for Mr. Cortada to continue to serve as a board member of the Cultural Affairs Council and simultaneously seek a fellowship from the South Florida Cultural Consortium Fellowship Program.

If you have any questions concerning the above, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert

---

**From:** Cabrera, Rem (CUA)  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2005 11:22 AM  
**To:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Subject:** question re: new board member

Good morning, Bob.

I'm writing to ask you for advice/guidance regarding a new member of the board of the Cultural Affairs Council, who was appointed by Commissioner Barreiro.

Xavier Cortada is a well-known local artist and activist. He has previously applied to one of our programs as an artist and wishes to know if his membership on our board will prohibit him from applying to the program.

The program is called the South Florida Cultural Consortium Fellowship for Visual and Media Artists.

The South Florida Cultural Consortium is an alliance of the local arts agencies of Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. The Consortium's Fellowship Program assists eligible visual and media artists living in the South Florida region through direct grants awarded solely on the basis of creative excellence, to improve artistic skills and encourage career development.

Non-matching fellowships of \$15,000 and \$7,500 are awarded annually at the discretion of a panel of national judges to selected visual and media artists from Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Monroe, and Martin Counties.

All South Florida professional artists (those residing in Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade or Monroe County) are eligible to apply. A professional artist is defined as a person who has created a recognized body of original works of art within an artistic discipline over a sustained period of time, and who is pursuing this work as a means of livelihood and/or a way to achieve the highest level of professional recognition.

The guidelines for the program stipulate that "employees of the participating County governments or the South Florida Cultural Consortium's member local arts agencies are *not* eligible."

When the panel of national judges makes its selections of the artists who will receive the fellowships, the recommendations go to the Executive Committee of the South Florida Cultural Consortium---which consists of the Board Chairs and the Executive Directors of each of the five agencies---for ratification. Our board of directors is not involved in the selection process of the judges or the artists in any way, nor are they involved in the acceptance of the judges' selections.

Incidentally, the national panel makes its selections "blindly," that is, they are initially not aware of the identity of the artists. Files with support materials such as resumes and artist statements are provided to them towards the end of the selection process, right before they finalize their recommendations.

I administer the program on behalf of the five agencies. I conduct workshops in the five counties annually and work with museums in the other counties on the annual exhibit that is produced featuring the recipients' work.

If any of this seems too confusing, please feel free to give me a call.

Thanks for your time.

Rem

**Rem Cabrera, Senior Cultural Administrator**  
**Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs**

111 N.W. First Street • Suite 625 • Miami, FL 33128

305-375-4634 Phone 305-375-3068 Fax

[www.miamidadearts.org](http://www.miamidadearts.org)

[www.miamidade.gov](http://www.miamidade.gov)

*"Delivering Excellence Every Day"*

*Miami-Dade County is a public entity subject to Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes concerning public records. E-mail messages are covered under such laws and thus subject to disclosure.*