

# MIAMI BEACH SISTER CITIES

## COMMITTEE MEETING

November 18, 2024 – 12 noon Minutes (Rum Room)

### 1. Call to order

Chairwoman Moni called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm

Liaison Heather Shaw indicated the Members present: Moni Cohen (Chair), Laura Levey (Vice Chair), Brittne Bassant, Allison Buttacavoli, John Ospitia, Janinha Piazzetta, Marffa Amezcua, and Blanca Villarello.

### 2. Old Business

#### a. Events:

##### i. Art Week – Switzerland Chamber of Commerce

Member Blanca, event lead, shared the details of the Tuesday, December 3, 2024 Sister Cities Reception honoring Sister City Basel, Switzerland and the Consulate of Switzerland in the Rum Room. Member Blanca shared:

- Confirmation received from Switzerland Honorary Consul Riedi and the Swiss American Chamber of Commerce
- Need to invite elected/MB Chamber of Commerce Pillar Board (Blanca)
- Rum Room confirmed
- Invitation is being finalized with new logo
- Draft Run of Show - drafting
- Decorations – Moni (Vases), Laura (flowers) / Heather (Signage/Flags/Banner/Name Tags)
- Food & Beverage Invoice – Blanca/Luis
- Photographer (Blanca)
- Press Release is being drafted w/ quotes from Mayor and Consulate
- Business Card (Heather to explore)

Member Brittne mentioned that the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual meeting on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and that unfortunately, the Chamber leadership will not be in attendance.

##### ii. Cascais, Portugal Dance Now

Hannah Baumgarten, Director of Dance Now, shared that the Dance Now dance group will be collaborating with the Cascais, Portugal dance group for a cultural exchange. Dance

Now will be traveling to Cascais in March and will perform there. In 2025, the Cascais dance group will be coming to Miami/Miami Beach to perform with Dance Now.

Hannah would like the Sister Cities Committee to host a launch event in February to celebrate the cultural exchange with a sampling for two (2) dances that will be performed in Portugal. The event would be only 2 hours and invite Dance Now supporters and city leaders to observe what will be performed and applaud the dancers.

The members shared that a previous launch was held at the Jewish Museum with a short performance, by Dance Now, to kick off the traveling team.

Member Janinha shared the importance of the launch during the pandemic and how wonderful the event was for the dancers and community.

The members suggested Presidents Day (Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>) in either the Rum Room or Venue. Hannah suggested Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> as an alternate and shared she was trying to secure the Jewish Museum, when the previous launch was held. The members also suggested that it be during the day between 2-4pm.

Hannah shared the Sister Cities Committee is welcome to join Dance Now in March for the Cascais performance and that she would like to work with the Sister Cities Committee to plan an event in 2026, when the Cascais performers will be in Miami/Miami Beach.

**3. Good and Welfare**

**4. Adjournment** - Next meeting is December 2, 2025