

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

**SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 15-074 OF
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING OMAIRA AMAYA**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS &
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED
STAKEHOLDERS**

Omayra Amaya is the daughter of flamenco dancers Olga and Curro Amaya and grandniece of Carmen Amaya. Carmen Amaya has been called "the greatest Spanish gypsy dancer of her generation" and "the most extraordinary personality of all time in flamenco dance".

Ms. Amaya first appeared on stage with her parent's company, often interrupting their performances. Her first choreographed role came at age twelve, when she performed as her father's partner. By the time Omayra Amaya was fifteen years old, she was touring and performing internationally with her parents and other dance companies. She attended the Boston Conservatory where she received a BFA in Dance and Choreography.

Omayra Amaya founded the Omayra Amaya Flamenco Dance Company, Inc. Audience members and critics alike raved about the program which mixed modern Spanish and World Beat music with traditional Flamenco dance forms. Her electrifying presence, lightning-fast footwork and non-traditional attire mirrored her great-aunt's revolutionary style and attitude.

As a faculty member of the Boston Conservatory, the Boston Ballet, Harvard University Dance Department and Walnut Hill Performing Arts School, Ms. Amaya also taught and operated her own dance academy. She received national media attention and inspired a PBS documentary about Omayra and a film, Gypsy Heart. Omayra Amaya was also an integral part of the award-winning documentary Queen of the Gypsies, the most comprehensive video portrait, to date, of Omayra's legendary great-aunt, Carmen Amaya.

In 2004 Omayra Amaya worked on the off Broadway project, Deep Song. In 2006-2007, she was invited to work as a choreographer for the Musical Carmen, and also in 2007, Omayra Amaya performed at The Lincoln Center Summer Arts Festival.

Omayra Amaya has appeared in motion pictures including The Pink Panther II where she performed a duet with Steve Martin which premiered in January 2009. In 2008, Omayra Amaya created “La Sobremesa,” a show that transformed the traditional setting of flamenco. The show received various awards including proclamations from Miami-Dade County and the City of Miami Beach.

Omayra Amaya is a resident of Miami Dade County. Her dance company is based in Miami and New York City. Omayra cherishes her legacy and continues to push the boundaries of flamenco by creating a unique repertoire.

As Hispanic Heritage month commences, this resolution seeks to recognize Omayra Amaya, a resident of Miami-Dade County, for her achievements in the field of dance.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-074 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Omayra Amaya. } Revised

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-074
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING Omayra Amaya**

WHEREAS, Omayra Amaya is a world-renowned flamenco dancer, grand-niece of the legendary Carmen Amaya.

WHEREAS, Omayra Amaya founded the Omayra Amaya Flamenco Dance Company, Inc.

WHEREAS, Ms. Amaya was a faculty member of the Boston Conservatory, the Boston Ballet, Harvard University Dance Department and Walnut Hill Performing Arts School.

WHEREAS, Ms. Amaya is an accomplished dancer, instructor and choreographer who has greatly contributed to the world of flamenco dance and the arts.

WHEREAS, Omayra Amaya is recognized for her life-long passion and dedication to the arts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 15-074 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida recognizing Omayra Amaya.

A copy of this resolution is placed in the permanent records of this Board.

Presented this ninth day of September, A.D. 2015

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary