

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

SUBJECT: FOLKLORIC MUSIC AND DANCE FOR OUR STUDENTS

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION, & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Folklife programs in schools allow students to be in touch with their communities, their ethnic identities, the authentic cultural expressions of their own families and others through direct participation and experiences in this form of art. Folkloric music and dance is a collective term for traditional dances and music that emphasize local folk culture.

Students have a multitude of opportunities in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) to expand their knowledge on music and dance, however many students in our community may have never been exposed to folkloric culture, music and dance. Currently, M-DCPS has a Cultural Passport Program, an educational initiative designed to provide Miami-Dade County Public Schools students in grades K-12 with cultural field experiences. This sequential program ensures equal access to arts and culture for every child, many of whom would not otherwise have this breadth of opportunities. M-DCPS's Cultural Passport program is entering its tenth year as an innovative educational initiative designed to provide students in grades K-12 with cultural experiences throughout the school year. The program partners with South Florida's finest cultural organizations and venues and ensures equal access to arts and culture for every child. Since its inception, Cultural Passport has provided more than 700,000 opportunities for students to engage in experiential learning with 54 cultural institutions throughout the community. Partners include the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, Miami Children's Museum, Fantasy Theater Factory, Perez Art Museum Miami, Barnacle Historic State Park, History Miami, the Holocaust Memorial, Gables Stage, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, Institute of Contemporary Art, and many more. The program is funded by the Foundation for New Education Initiatives, Inc. through individual and corporate contributions, including grants from John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Target, National Endowment for the Arts, Pearson, and Community Blood Centers. The program would not be possible without generous in-kind contributions from Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and M-DCPS's cultural partners, many of whom are providing free and reduced-price admission to venues and events.

Providing students with the ability to learn about folkloric music and dance, in addition to the current Cultural Passport Program, is a great opportunity for students to learn about their Cultural *roots/raíces* through this expression of art amongst the myriad of nationalities and ethnic cultures in our community.

Additionally, the State of Florida, under the Florida Division of Historical Resources, has a Florida Folklife Program (FFP). The FFP has an education component through the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources that documents and presents the folklife, folklore, and folk arts of the state. The FFP also, coordinates a wide range of activities and projects designed to increase the awareness of Floridians, families and educators about Florida's traditional culture.

Moreover, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and its volunteer advisory board, the Cultural Affairs Council, developed cultural excellence, diversity and participation throughout Miami-Dade County by creating and promoting opportunities for our community's thousands of artists and not-for-profit cultural organizations.

The opportunity to continue to provide students with rich cultural programs in our schools has been a long standing tradition in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

This item has been approved by the School Board Attorney's Office as to form and legal sufficiency

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

- 1) explore the feasibility of integrating folkloric music and dance, in addition to M-DCPS' *Cultural Passport* program, through building local partnerships with the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and other cultural organizations and stakeholders, to increase the exposure of folkloric music and dance in grades pre-kindergarten through fifth grade and report back to the board by November 21, 2018; and
- 2) seek grant funding opportunities to establish, if feasible, the folkloric music and dance program.