

Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 19-040 OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING “THE AMPARO EXPERIENCE”

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Since 1959, numerous novels, movies, plays, musicals, and nonfiction books have told stories of the Cuban revolution and the historic migration that followed. Countless Cuban families lived their own version of those traumatic times, fleeing their homeland to start over with not much more than hope and a thirst for freedom. The Arechabala family lived one such story and “*The Amparo Experience*” is that story.

“*The Amparo Experience*,” a sophisticated and impactful immersive theater journey produced by the Broadway Factor, written by Vanessa Garcia, and staged by Victoria Collado, has entangled Miami audiences in the history of the family that created and distilled Havana Club Rum in Cuba. The family had their flourishing business confiscated by the Castro government in 1960. Some family members were imprisoned, many fled to Spain or the United States; and Ramon and Amparo Arechabala, the couple at the heart of Garcia’s play, made their way to a new life in Miami, like many thousands of Cubans did.

“*Amparo*” emerges audiences on a journey from 2019 to glamorous pre-revolutionary Cuba, then through the stressful and life-changing days of the revolution. For members of the audience who lived through those years, the play blends and stirs painful emotions, because it causes audiences to experience an extensive range of unforgettable memories and feelings.

This production, which has received outstanding theatrical reviews, tells a particular Cuban story, but it also speaks to others who lived their own version of those events and to anyone forced into exile. It is a story of a family’s lost and triumph, one reverberated in the experiences of innumerable Cubans who left their homeland to start new lives in different places throughout the world, particularly in Miami-Dade County. The creators have also shown that the spirit of Amparo resonates not only with Cubans, but with anyone who has ever loved and lost. The production also illustrates the particular power of immersive theater and the impact it can have on audiences.

The play is scheduled to run for two months, maybe more, in a beautifully redesigned historic two story villa in Miami located at 221 N. E. 17th Street which has been transformed into 1957-1958 Cuba.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. MARIA TERESA ROJAS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No.19-040 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing “*The Amparo Experience*.”

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-040
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
RECOGNIZING “THE AMPARO EXPERIENCE”**

WHEREAS, “*The Amparo Experience*,” a sophisticated and impactful immersive theater journey produced by the Broadway Factor, written by Vanessa Garcia, and staged by Victoria Collado, has entangled Miami audiences in the history of the family that created and distilled Havana Club Rum in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, the family had their flourishing business confiscated by the Castro government in 1960. Some family members were imprisoned, many fled to Spain or the United States; and Ramon and Amparo Arechabala, the couple at the heart of Garcia's play, made their way to a new life in Miami, like many thousands of Cubans did; and

WHEREAS, “*Amparo*” emerges audiences on a journey from 2019 to glamorous pre-revolutionary Cuba, then through the painful and life-changing days of the revolution. For members of the audience who lived through those years, the play blends and stirs painful emotions, because it causes audiences to experience an extensive range of unforgettable memories and feelings; and

WHEREAS, it is a story of a family's lost and triumph, one reverberated in the experiences of innumerable Cubans who left their homeland to start new lives in different places throughout the world, particularly in Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the creators have also shown that the spirit of *Amparo* resonates not only with Cubans, but with anyone who has ever loved and lost. The production also illustrates the particular power of immersive theater and the impact it can have on audiences; and

WHEREAS, the play is scheduled to run for two months, maybe more, in a beautifully redesigned historic two story villa in Miami located at 221 N. E. 17th Street which has been transformed into 1957-1958 Cuba.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve Resolution No. 19-040 of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing the “*The Amparo Experience*.”

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

Presented this nineteenth day of June, A. D. 2019

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CHAIR

ATTEST:

Secretary