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**ARSHT CENTER UNVEILS
ARSHT ART OF EDUCATION CHAMPION AWARD
AND PRESENTS IT TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SUPERINTENDENT ALBERTO CARVALHO**

Miami, FL – February 8, 2022 – The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County unveiled its Arsht Art of Education Champion Award with a presentation on February 3 to its first recipient, Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools Alberto Carvalho. The award recognizes the extensive, decade-long partnership between the Arsht Center and Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) that has brought free, high-quality arts experiences to more than 500,000 students.

The Arsht Art of Education Champion Award was presented during a premiere performance at Hialeah Senior High School of the Arsht Center's play *I am Me*. Imagined, produced and presented by the Arsht Center, the premiere of *I am Me* marked the culmination of a joint commitment by the Arsht Center and MDCPS to provide every fifth, seventh and ninth grader with age-appropriate arts education opportunities hosted by the Arsht Center. Additional information about *I am Me* can be found [here](#).

"Our partnership with the Adrienne Arsht Center has provided a cultural passport for thousands of Miami-Dade students over the course of their scholastic career," said Superintendent of Schools Alberto M. Carvalho. "*I am Me* is the culmination of a partnership, which began in 2010, as a commitment to provide every 5th, 7th and 9th grader live theater performances. Together, we are building the next generation of arts lovers and supporters. I am honored to accept the inaugural Arsht Art of Education Champion Award on behalf of all the students who have benefited from this long-standing collaboration and those who will be helped by this ground-breaking mental health and wellness initiative."

"Superintendent Carvalho has truly embodied the word "champion" with his steadfast commitment to providing life-affirming arts experiences to Miami-Dade children through the partnership with the Arsht Center," said Jairo Ontiveros, the Arsht Center's vice president of arts education and community engagement. "It is perfectly fitting, especially as he concludes his service in this community, that we celebrate his leadership in support of cultural experiences for all children."

Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

15th Anniversary Season



The Arsht Art of Education Champion Award will continue to honor individuals who use the arts to positively affect the lives of young people and, in turn, create a brighter future for the entire community. These individuals will be powerful voices from all corners of the South Florida community who advocate for and recognize the impact that arts education has on the overall education and social-emotional well-being of children and young people. By recognizing individuals who have dedicated their time and expertise to arts education, the Adrienne Arsht Center hopes to inspire other individuals to champion the arts as a tool for creative youth development and positive social change in our community.



Image of Jairo Ontiveros and Alberto Carvalho
– Photo by WorldRedEye.com

To download a high-resolution version of the photo above, please click [here](#).

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*All programs, artists, dates and times are subject to change without notice. Visit arshtcenter.org for up-to-date information.

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is made possible by the public support of the Miami-Dade County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council and the City of Miami Omni Community Redevelopment Agency, as well as the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. The Adrienne Arsht Center also receives generous support from individuals, corporations and local, state and national foundations.

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About Us

Set in the heart of downtown Miami, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County is committed to welcoming and connecting ALL people to the arts, to the Arsht

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Center and to each other. Our stages are alive year-round with artists from around the world, innovative programming from our resident companies and local arts partners, free community events that reflect Miami's unique identity and arts education experiences for thousands of Miami children each year.

Since opening in 2006, the Arsht Center, a 501C3 non-profit organization, has been recognized as a catalyst for billions of dollars in new development in the downtown area, a leader in programming that mirrors South Florida's diversity, a host venue for historic events and Miami's hub for arts education.

Each year, we serve more than 60,000 young learners and offer more than 100 culturally diverse and inclusive education programs — many enhanced by the Arsht Center's relationship with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, local teaching artists and Miami-based arts organizations.

The Arsht Center is also a home stage for three resident companies — Florida Grand Opera, Miami City Ballet and New World Symphony — and a launch pad for local artists to make their mark on the international stage. Our 300+ events each year include the Center's Signature Series of classical, jazz, Broadway, local theater and much more. We present a robust series of touring Broadway musicals direct from New York, the largest jazz series in South Florida, a major annual Flamenco Festival and an award-winning Miami-based theater program. In addition, our Family Fest, Free Gospel Sundays, CommuniTea LGBTQ+ celebration and Heritage Fest are among dozens of free events that bring together people from all corners of our community. For more information, visit arshtcenter.org.