



**Finance & Operations Committee Meeting  
Transcript**

**March 02, 2023**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST  
FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
(IN PERSON QUORUM WITH SOME VIRTUAL ATTENDANTS)

MEETING MINUTES

**CERTIFIED  
ORIGINAL**

The MDC Children's Trust Meeting, Finance and Operations Committee Meeting was held on Thursday, March 2, 2023, commencing at 9:31 a.m., at 3150 Southwest 3rd Avenue, 8th Floor, The Children's Trust - Training Room, Miami, Florida 33129. The meeting was called to order by Mark Trowbridge, Committee Chair.

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

BOARD MEMBER APPEARANCES:

MARK TROWBRIDGE, Chair

MATTHEW ARSENAULT, Vice Chair

JUDGE NORMAN GERSTEIN

NELSON HINCAPIE

ANNIE NEASMAN

JAVIER REYES

ISAAC SALVER

LEIGH KOBRINSKI

## 1 STAFF MEMBER APPEARANCES:

2

3 AMANDA GORSKI

4 ANA SANCHEZ-SURIS

5 BEVONE RITCHIE

6 BLAKE BROWN

7 CAROL BROGAN

8 CHRISTIANA TAYLOR

9 DANIELLE BARRERAS

10 FELIX BECERRA

11 IMRAN ALI

12 JACQUES BENTOLILA

13 JAMES R. HAJ

14 JAMIA HOOD

15 JUANA LEON

16 KATHLEEN DEXTER

17 LISANNA GAGE

18 MARIO VALCIN

19 NATALIA ZEA

20 RACHEL SPECTOR

21 TATIANA CANELAS

22 TERSA COBB

23 WENDY DUNCOMBE

24 WILLIAM KIRTLAND

25 XIMENA NUNEZ

1 YESENIA REYES

2 YULIET ALFONSO

3

4 GUEST APPEARANCES:

5 LAURA DE LOOF, Ayuda Inc.

6 TAMARA SAN JUAN, Ayuda Inc.

7 DIANA SUSI, Ayuda Inc.

8 JANETTE TAFT, Centro Campesino

9 BARBARA CESAR, Centro Campesino Farmworker Center

10 Inc.

11 MARIA VILLACAMPA, Centro Campesino Farmworker

12 Center Inc.

13 JEANNE TAMARGO, City of Homestead / Start Off

14 Smart

15 YOLANDA CASTRO, COFFO

16 RHONDA, Fit Kids of America Corp.

17 THEMA CAMPBELL, Girl Power Rocks Inc.

18 ANNETTE CACICEDO, Kids Learning Center of South

19 Dade

20 CIBELE STEMPNIAK, Kids Learning Center of South

21 Dade III

22 TANIA HERNANDEZ, Kidsworks USA Inc.

23 OLIVE COOPER, Knowledge Builders of Florida Inc.

24 TERRI MORALES, La Viña Del Señor - Kidz XL

25 ROLLO CASIPLE, La Viña Del Señor - Kidz XL

1 YANNET AMADOR, Leadership Learning Center at St.  
2 John Bosco  
3 NATALIE WILLIAMS, Miami Children's Museum  
4 LUIS MACHADO, O'Garrill Learning Center  
5 FRANDY JEAN-BAPTISTE, OIC of South Florida  
6 FARISED GARCIA, Parent to Parent of Miami  
7 ANDREW POCOCK, Pocock Nonprofit Cousulting  
8 ROMNIE VERTUS, Prosperity Social and Community  
9 Development Group  
10 MYRNA CHARLTON, The Arc of South Florida  
11 ENRIQUE MIRANDA, Thumbelina Learning Cneter  
12 ADRIEN TEJEDA, Thumbelina Learning Corp.  
13 KERISPEARS, Touching Miami with Love  
14 TRINA HARRIS, Touching Miami with Love  
15 SHAREEFAH ROBINSON, Touching Miami with Love  
16 ELIZABETH DEVEAUX, Town of Cutler Bay  
17 CLOSED CAPTIONER, Verbit  
18 CLAUDIA SARABIA, WOW MKTG  
19 ELIZABETH DEVEAUX  
20 YOLANDA CASTRO  
21 TANIA HERNANDEZ  
22 HARVEY ROFRIGUEZ  
23 NADEGE VILSAINT, ACentral  
24 SALIHA NELSON, Prosperity Social & Community  
25 Development Grout, Inc.

## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (Thereupon, the following proceedings commenced  
3 at 9:31 a.m.)

4 MR. TROWBRIDGE: All right. Good morning,  
5 everybody. Welcome to our Finance and  
6 Operations Committee meeting, Thursday, March 2,  
7 2023, a few moments past 9:31. We're happy to  
8 advise we have a quorum, so we're going to call  
9 the meeting to order. I want to thank all of  
10 you for joining us here listening, and just go  
11 through the agenda. Look forward to your  
12 thoughts, comments, and input.

13 If you have any public comments -- not  
14 having the public comments, we'll close that  
15 part of the agenda. And we'll move on now to  
16 the approval of our January 12, 2023, Finance  
17 and Operations Committee meeting minutes. You  
18 have the summary of minutes in your package. Is  
19 there a motion to approve the minutes as  
20 presented?

21 MS. NEASMAN: So moves.

22 MR. GERSTEIN: Second.

23 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you, Annie. Second,  
24 thank you, Judge. Any comments, corrections?

25 Seeing none, all in favor please say aye.

1 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Aye.

2 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Any opposed, nay.

3 Motion carries and our minutes of January  
4 12 are approved. We just have two resolutions  
5 today or consideration of the Finance and  
6 Operations Committee. So, I'll draw your  
7 attention to those now. The first -- here's  
8 Resolution 2023-A.

9 This is an authorization to negotiate and  
10 execute contract renewals for advertising,  
11 creative media buying, and community outreach  
12 services in a combined total amount not to  
13 exceed \$2,115,000 for a 10 -- I'm sorry, 12-  
14 month term commencing  
15 October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024,  
16 noting that there are no remaining renewals. Is  
17 there a motion to approve 2023-A?

18 MS. NEASMAN: So moved.

19 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Second? Just to remind  
20 you all that this is not the first time that we  
21 have seen a resolution like this. Yes, sir?

22 MR. ARSENAULT: I'm recusing.

23 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Oh, you're recusing. My  
24 apologies. Any other recusals? That will be  
25 important in our next steps --

1 MR. REYES: I would like to state the  
2 reason on the record for the recusal. Familiar  
3 relationship, principal, and of the wealth.

4 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you.

5 MS. NEASMAN: This was moved by -- I'm  
6 recusing --

7 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Okay. Any other recusals?  
8 Thank you very much. Going back to 2023-A. I  
9 just said we have worked with these agencies for  
10 a number of years. And so you have Pencia  
11 Sagrado (phonetic), Wow Factor marketing group  
12 (phonetic) that Armstrong (phonetic) created.

13 You look at Page 4 of your package, you see  
14 the different services that they provide us  
15 under the various scopes. And it's important to  
16 note that this is the final year, again, of this  
17 particular resolution. And so, I'm sure at some  
18 point we'll be bringing back in our -- a year or  
19 something like that as we put this out again.

20 Any discussion, questions? All right.  
21 Seeing none, we'll put it through a vote. All  
22 in favor say aye.

23 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Aye.

24 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Any opposed, nay. Motion  
25 carries. Thank you very much.



1           Next, is Resolution 2023-B. This is an  
2           authorization to amend Resolutions 2022-36,  
3           2022-37, 2022-38, 2022-39, 2022-45, 2022-46,  
4           2022-47, and 2022-56 and to execute contract  
5           amendments with 89 programs across various  
6           initiatives identified herein and providing a  
7           one-time increase in funding in a total amount  
8           not to exceed \$3,090,956 to assist in retention  
9           of staff, cover increased costs of program  
10          operations, and extend the contract period of  
11          the year-round Youth Development contracts to no  
12          later than August 14, 2023.

13           This will now be in alignment with our new  
14          Youth Development funding cycle to begin August  
15          15, 2023. Your authorization to amend the  
16          current fiscal year budget to increase the total  
17          allocations that youth and parenting and family  
18          and neighborhood partnerships will accommodate  
19          the increases in funding.

20           All right. Is there a motion to approve?

21          MR. REYES: Recusal.

22          MR. TROWBRIDGE: Let's start with the  
23          motion, and we'll come to the recusals.

24          MR. ARSENAULT: --

25          MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you. Is there a

1 second?

2 MR. ARSENAULT: --

3 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Recusals?

4 MR. GERSTEIN: -- Miami Children's Museum  
5 will be exempt.

6 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you very much, Your  
7 Honor.

8 MS. NEASMAN: -- I'm the President and CEO  
9 of Jessie Trice Community Health Center.

10 MR. TROWBRIDGE: We knew we would have a  
11 number of recusals here. Raise your hand. So,  
12 we have two recusals this far. Any other  
13 recusals?

14 Please take a very careful look. It's 89  
15 different organizations that are being reviewed,  
16 discussed, and eventually approved today. So,  
17 have another quick look at that. Any other  
18 recusals? All right.

19 So, we'll move into discussion. And again,  
20 as the Finance Committee looks over in the next  
21 few months and into the next year, you're going  
22 to see a lot more of these as we go into our new  
23 funding cycles. So, it's great to have  
24 discussion. We do have some amendments here  
25 related, but the opportunity to support these

1 programs with some additional dollars is  
2 something that I think is one of our favorite  
3 things we get to do.

4 Discussion? Anybody online with us that  
5 would like to discuss? Okay. Make sure you  
6 look at those 89 different organizations.

7 All right. Seeing none, we'll move now to  
8 a vote. All in favor say aye.

9 COMMITTEE MEMBER: Aye.

10 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Any opposed, nay. Motion  
11 will carry. Great. We're going to move now  
12 onto the CEO's Report. Please welcome our CEO,  
13 Mr. Haj.

14 MR. HAJ: --

15 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Yeah. Let's do it.

16 So, I think you know that we're very  
17 blessed with 20 years of a history of trust and  
18 incredible work by our finance team and led by,  
19 of course, Bill (phonetic) and his staff. But  
20 it is the end of the fiscal year. I'm excited  
21 to announce that the Children's Trust once again  
22 awarded the Government Finance Officers  
23 Association, GFOAs, Certificate of Achievement  
24 and Excellence in Financial Reporting for the  
25 fiscal year end of 2021, continuing the decades

1 long tradition of awarded and now financial  
2 excellence, consistent with our Children's Trust  
3 quality and sound financial practices.

4 As you know, this report is judged by an  
5 impartial panel, meet the highest standards of  
6 the program, which includes demonstrating  
7 instructive spirit of full disclosure, we  
8 clearly communicate our financial story, and  
9 motivate potential users and user groups to read  
10 the report. This certificate of achievement  
11 bestowed by the GFOA is the highest form of  
12 recognition in the area of government accounting  
13 and financial reporting. And its attainment  
14 represents a significant accomplishment by a  
15 government and its management.

16 How about a round of applause? We're going  
17 to actually ask you all to stay after the  
18 meeting for just a brief moment so that we can  
19 take a picture with the Finance Committee and  
20 congratulate our team for their continued  
21 excellence. And I think I read that this is the  
22 tenth year. Decade-long tradition. Unbroken  
23 chain of recognition.

24 Matthew?

25 MR. ARSENAULT: Yeah. I just want to

1       congratulate the team. That's a -- it's a big  
2       accomplishment. We talked a lot about kind of  
3       instilling trust in the Children's Trust and the  
4       community, and I think this is a big part of it.  
5       You know, every time I have to call Bill  
6       (phonetic) and ask questions on all the  
7       financial stuff, just the transparency, the way  
8       they do that, it -- it -- it's really a  
9       testament. And I just want to say  
10      congratulations and great work on that. So --

11           MR. TROWBRIDGE: James R. Haj or Bill, word  
12      of --

13           MR. HAJ: I just want to thank Bill and the  
14      team. We'll save most of the comments for the  
15      whole board meeting when we present the  
16      certificate to the whole board. But Bill,  
17      congratulations to you, Wendy, Lizanne  
18      (phonetic), and the entire team for an  
19      outstanding job. You know, Bill takes the lead  
20      in his department, but it really is that the  
21      other execs and the re -- and the collective  
22      team and led by this finance committee. So, we  
23      truly appreciate all your efforts.

24           MR. KIRTLAND: I'll just also say briefly  
25      that I want to thank the committee and the

1 school of accounting 101. I think, like,  
2 they'll talk about, you know, the best way to  
3 prevent, you know, any fraud or, you know, any -  
4 - anything at any level of organization.  
5 Whether it's a smaller organization or a larger  
6 organization, it starts with the company  
7 culture. So, I know that the committee and the  
8 board members alike all share in the sentiment  
9 to make sure that we implement sound financial  
10 practices both here and at the trust and bestow  
11 those expectations upon the service provider  
12 organization.

13 And I think that we find ourselves married  
14 very well at this point in time, and, you know,  
15 hopefully no complacency has sets in as the  
16 years pass by. We will continue to monitor our  
17 activities very closely and provider services'  
18 activities very closely to make sure that we  
19 obtain and, you know, and -- and hold on to the  
20 public in trust, which is a force -- a very --  
21 the staple, I think, of this organization. So,  
22 I just wanted to thank the committee for  
23 encouraging that -- that -- that culture that we  
24 have at the Trust and in supporting management  
25 and staff and other decisions that we make to

1 maintain these financial practices at the  
2 organization.

3 So, we look forward to next month kind of  
4 continuing, I guess, as this rhetoric goes. Jim  
5 -- and you can stop me if you want. I just was  
6 going to kind of allude to the ACFR next month.

7 So, we're preparing -- we're awarded for  
8 last year's financials, but we're prepared to  
9 present the ACFR next month, to which we hope  
10 the same precedent rolls forward next year. We  
11 do not have any indication that there's -- thus  
12 far, at this point in the process, that there's  
13 any reason why we wouldn't qualify for this  
14 award again next year. So, I look forward to  
15 presenting our financial position next Monday.  
16 But I'll kick it back over.

17 MR. TROWBRIDGE: And --

18 MS. NEASMAN: I also want to echo Jim and  
19 all for this award. And from the providers  
20 standpoint of view, I can tell you that  
21 certainly for the last ten years, you all have  
22 done a marvelous job, if -- if my organization  
23 is a testament to that, in really helping us to  
24 understand where we need to be. And I think  
25 you've done a lot of that on both sides for

1       financially and for programmatic, which rolls  
2       into that. And  
3       -- and certainly, I can see why -- and I'm new  
4       to the finance committee, and I'm enjoying it so  
5       far. But certainly, you all have done -- I  
6       think when you talk about trust in the community  
7       and what the community sees, I think the  
8       providers can see that.

9               MR. TROWBRIDGE: That's awesome. Great.  
10       Do you have it with you? I think we would like  
11       to touch it.

12              MR. KIRTLAND: Yeah -- . At this point, it  
13       -- they -- they provided us in your 101, like, a  
14       -- a nice flag, and we add a medallion each  
15       year. Don't take the missing medallion in any  
16       sort of way. We just don't know where the  
17       previous year medallion is, been waiting on our  
18       2021 medallion. So, I guess this is as nice as  
19       the presentation gets as far as receiving the  
20       award. We don't have '21 yet, but we do have --

21              MR. TROWBRIDGE: Our focus is our buying  
22       goals. Back to you, Jim.

23              MR. HAJ: Thank you. The monthly Financial  
24       Statements were in your packet. The -- the  
25       health mobile units -- just a reminder, the



1 board meeting, board meeting in March in two  
2 weeks. We have the mobile units, six of them.  
3 They'll be parked across the street if you can  
4 come half an hour early just to come to walk  
5 through our mobile units. And the resos that  
6 will follow the board meeting are mostly dealing  
7 with health. So, I think it's appropriate.

8 Board of Directors site visits -- Ken spoke  
9 about this, that we're going to scheduled board  
10 site visits throughout the year. And believe it  
11 or not, the first one is next week, March 9 from  
12 10 to 11 at Belafonte Tacolcy Center. It would  
13 be great to have the providers. I know you --  
14 you reviewed the resos, you approved the resos,  
15 but to go out and see the actual work-in-  
16 progress and see what the -- our providers are  
17 doing and the impact they have in this community  
18 is special.

19 So, I hope you can join us March 9. And  
20 then April 12 is the next one at the YMCA at  
21 Shenandoah Elementary. Champions for Children,  
22 our big event, which we hope to get 1,000 people  
23 in the room on April 27 is coming sooner than  
24 later. We -- you -- I always think it's far  
25 away. And I know we always manage to suck in

1 oxygen trying to get ready for this thing and  
2 get -- get the champions moving. But that is --  
3 should be in your calendars. It's a great  
4 event, from 11:30? 11:30? 11:30 to 1:30. And  
5 all the board members have seats. We have the  
6 VIP seating for you. Did we send out the RSVPs  
7 to the board yet?

8 MS. NUNEZ: Yes. We sent the save the  
9 date.

10 MR. HAJ: Save the date. So, the RSVPs  
11 will be coming. Young Talent Big Dreams --  
12 again, another one of our highlighted events.  
13 This is going to be Saturday, May 13 at 7:00 pm  
14 at the Miracle Center if you want to see talent  
15 in this community, our youth showcasing their --  
16 their talents. It really is a very nice event.  
17 May 13, and we'll also send out that invite.  
18 Bill talked about a little bit about next  
19 month's committee.

20 We will get the auditor's report, and we  
21 also will be releasing -- you already approved  
22 in January the release of auditing services.  
23 The release of the RFP is going out March 21,  
24 and it's coming back in June for this board to  
25 select a new auditor for the next five-year

1 cycle. And then just a reminder, the -- the  
2 finance committee members stay back one minute  
3 for Bill's missing medallion --

4 MR. TROWBRIDGE: I had a quick question  
5 going back to champions. I know that the team  
6 did an amazing job last year with hundreds of  
7 you. Do you feel like you're on par with that  
8 in terms of -- because I think anybody who  
9 invested last year would immediately raise their  
10 hand and say we're back because it was just an  
11 incredible -- incredible day.

12 MR. ZAE: Your lips to God's ears. If you  
13 want to give an update. We're -- we're about  
14 halfway there. So, you know, any, you know --  
15 all -- all supports and -- and good vibes are  
16 welcome. So, thank you.

17 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Terrific.

18 MR. HINCAPIE: To comment on that,  
19 Mr. Chair, I would caution us not to focus so  
20 much on the fundraising. The last thing we want  
21 to do  
22 -- you know, our organizations, while they get a  
23 lot of support from -- from the Trust, they rely  
24 on -- on private fundraising for their  
25 sustenance. So, I would caution us not to go

1       into the fundraising bit. You know, it's great  
2       that we're doing it, but I don't think that that  
3       should be our -- our focus.

4               MR. HAJ: And I agree. Just -- just for  
5       clarification, we're not -- we don't fund raise  
6       -- what we do for this event is just to pay for  
7       the event itself. That's it. Anything above  
8       that's just -- the cost of the event's 130,000.  
9       Perfect.

10              MR. HINCAPIE: We have about 65,000 locked  
11       away, and we should have about -- we have about  
12       110 in commitment. It really is -- when we  
13       started this six years ago, we're not going to  
14       pay taxpayer money for an adult event, and we're  
15       going to get sponsorship to cover the cost.  
16       Beyond that, we don't fundraise.

17              MR. TROWBRIDGE: Great point, Nelson.  
18       Other thoughts? All right. We are ready to  
19       adjourn and take that big photo. Is there a  
20       motion to adjourn? Thank you. Without  
21       objection, we stand adjourned.

22              MR. HAJ: Thank you.

23              MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you all very much.  
24       Welcome to our newest finance committee members,  
25       too. Great to have you with us.

1 MR. HAJ: Thank you.

2 (Thereupon, the proceedings concluded at  
3 9:48 a.m.)

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## 1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTION

2 The above and foregoing transcript is a true and  
3 correct typed copy of the contents of the file, which was  
4 digitally recorded in the proceeding identified at the  
5 beginning of the transcript, to the best of my ability,  
6 knowledge and belief.

7 *Cecil Clark*  
8

9 CECIL CLARK, Notary Public

10 February 14, 2023  
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