

Dear Miami Science Museum Supporter:

As you may be aware, Mayor Carlos Alvarez recently released budget recommendations for the County's 2009-2010 fiscal year budget. This proposal includes substantial service cuts and workforce reductions to fill a \$427 million projected budget gap.

If the budget is adopted as proposed, the Department of Cultural Affairs budget will be reduced by more than \$11 million dollars, requiring the elimination of nearly all of the Department's grants for cultural organizations, including vital operational funding for the current Miami Science Museum, when we are already stretched developing the new museum in Downtown Miami. This is an especially important time, since these cuts could ultimately mean that the current Museum may have to close its doors, after over 60 years of being a rich cultural and educational resource for the community.

Here are more detailed facts:

- ✓ Miami Science Museum may lose over \$750,000 in vital funding for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, that's 48% less than the 2008-2009 fiscal year
- ✓ This is on top of last year's cut of \$400,000, severely impacting our ability to develop viable programming and forcing elimination of visitor services and technical staff
- ✓ Over 1.1 million dollars a year has been lost in funding since 2008
- ✓ Miami Science Museum's funding is affected more severely than other comparable institutions, yet we are among the few that deliver high-quality youth-focused educational programs like IMPACT and Upward Bound
- ✓ Budget cuts will mean that the Miami Science Museum does not have funding for building maintenance, while other entities with proposed cuts have their buildings and sites maintained for them
- ✓ The proposed cuts could mean that the current Miami Science Museum would no longer be able to operate on a viable level, we would have to cut vital educational and wildlife rehabilitation programs, and may ultimately have to close our doors

It is critically important to let the County Commissioners know the impact that County funding has on the current Miami Science Museum and its programs.

Here's what you can do to get involved NOW:

- ✓ Attend the Town Meeting on the Impact of the proposed FY2009-2010 County Budget on Cultural Programs THIS MONDAY, August 3rd, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm at the Miami Science Museum. RSVP to culture@miamidade.gov or 305-375-4634.
- ✓ Write your county commissioners via e-mail or traditional e-mail urging them to support the Miami Science Museum's mission by not reducing its funding. For complete list of county commissioners, copy this address to your browser.
<http://www.miamidadearts.org/Documents/Forms/Grantees/County%20Commission%20Contact%20List%207-15-2009.pdf>
- ✓ Send e-mails and make calls to your business and personal contacts educating them on the issue and asking them to also take action.
 - PLEASE COPY Tlima@miamisci.org on all emails sent, we'd like to be able to keep track of letters written on our behalf and of our supporters.
- ✓ Continue being involved in the budget discussions that are taking place from this moment on and into August.

We appreciate your support in advance. If there is anything that we can help clarify or if you desire to connect with someone from our senior management team, please contact Maria Sanchez at 305-646-4253 for assistance or e-mail Tony Lima, Vice President of Communications at tlima@miamisci.org.

Sincerely,

Gillian Thomas

President and CEO

Miami Science Museum