

C7 AF A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000 TO THE VISION FRAME, LLC (PRODUCER) FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY FILM "LAPIDUS: ARCHITECT OF JOY" (WORK), SUCH FUNDING TO BE MADE AVAILABLE ONLY UPON PRODUCER'S SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTATION SATISFACTORY TO THE CITY IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, THAT THE PRODUCER HAS RAISED AT LEAST \$1,000,000 FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE WORK; AND FURTHER, DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO INCLUDE THIS GRANT IN THE FY 2026 BUDGET; AND FURTHER, AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK AND CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CITY'S STANDARD CULTURAL GRANT AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE FOREGOING.

Applicable Area:

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: City Attorney Ricardo J. Dopico

DATE: March 19, 2025

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000 TO THE VISION FRAME, LLC (PRODUCER) FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY FILM "LAPIDUS: ARCHITECT OF JOY" (WORK), SUCH FUNDING TO BE MADE AVAILABLE ONLY UPON PRODUCER'S SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTATION SATISFACTORY TO THE CITY IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, THAT THE PRODUCER HAS RAISED AT LEAST \$1,000,000 FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE WORK; AND FURTHER, DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO INCLUDE THIS GRANT IN THE FY 2026 BUDGET; AND FURTHER, AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK AND CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CITY'S STANDARD CULTURAL GRANT AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE FOREGOING.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

### **ANALYSIS**

The attached Resolution was prepared at the request of the sponsor, Commissioner Laura Dominguez.

### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

The fiscal impact of this measure is \$75,000.

### **Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate?**

(FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

If applicable, the Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on:

See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notices/>

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

### **CONCLUSION**

**Applicable Area**

Citywide

**Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?**

No

**Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?**

No

**Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying?** No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

**Department**

City Attorney

**Sponsor(s)**

Commissioner Laura Dominguez

**Co-sponsor(s)**

**Condensed Title**

Approve \$75K Grant in Support of the "Lapidus: Architect of Joy" Documentary. (Dominguez)  
CA

**Previous Action (For City Clerk Use Only)**

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000 TO THE VISION FRAME, LLC (PRODUCER) FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY FILM "LAPIDUS: ARCHITECT OF JOY" (WORK), SUCH FUNDING TO BE MADE AVAILABLE ONLY UPON PRODUCER'S SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTATION SATISFACTORY TO THE CITY IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, THAT THE PRODUCER HAS RAISED AT LEAST \$1,000,000 FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE WORK; AND FURTHER, DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO INCLUDE THIS GRANT IN THE FY 2026 BUDGET; AND FURTHER, AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK AND CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CITY'S STANDARD CULTURAL GRANT AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE FOREGOING.**

**WHEREAS**, The Vision Frame, LLC (Producer) has proposed to produce a documentary film titled "Lapidus: Architect of Joy" (Work), a project celebrating the life and work of renowned architect Morris Lapidus, whose designs have made a lasting impact on the architectural landscape of Miami Beach and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, Morris Lapidus was one of the most influential architects in Miami Beach's history, shaping the city's identity with his bold, flamboyant designs that defined Miami Modern (MiMo) architecture; and

**WHEREAS**, Lapidus designed some of Miami Beach's most iconic hotels, including the Fontainebleau Hotel (1954), the Eden Roc Hotel (1955), and the Americana Hotel (1956, now demolished); and

**WHEREAS**, the Fontainebleau Hotel is a masterpiece of curved lines, grand staircases, and theatrical design, making it one of the most recognizable hotels in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the Eden Roc Hotel became a glamorous and luxurious alternative to the Fontainebleau and was popular among celebrities; and

**WHEREAS**, Lapidus' dramatic, curvilinear facades, his famous "Staircase to Nowhere," and his use of bold colors, patterns, and lighting helped elevate Miami Beach into a world-famous resort destination, attracting visitors, celebrities, and film productions, with the Fontainebleau being featured in numerous movies and TV shows, including *Goldfinger* and *Scarface*; and

**WHEREAS**, while initially dismissed by critics, Lapidus is now celebrated as a visionary whose work embodies Miami Beach's glamorous, fun, and unconventional spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, Lapidus' designs have influenced generations of architects and designers, and his playful, over-the-top designs remain an essential part of the City's identity today.

**WHEREAS**, the total budget for the production of the documentary is \$1,300,000, and the Producer has indicated that they are in the process of securing funding for the project; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach has a long history of supporting arts and cultural initiatives that promote the City's rich heritage and artistic expression; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Commission recognize the importance of the documentary in preserving the legacy of Morris Lapidus and enhancing the City's cultural identity, as well as its potential to attract further recognition and tourism to Miami Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, the Producer has requested a grant in the amount of \$75,000 to support the production of the documentary; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach has determined that such funding should be contingent upon the Producer's ability to secure at least \$1,000,000 in funding for the production of the Work, with the grant to be made available only upon submission of documentation satisfactory to the City, in its sole discretion, verifying that this funding has been raised; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Commission recognize the importance of including this cultural grant in the FY 2026 budget to ensure its timely and successful implementation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA**, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby approve a grant in the amount of \$75,000 to The Vision Frame, LLC (Producer) for the production of the documentary film "Lapidus: Architect of Joy" (Work), subject to the Producer submitting documentation satisfactory to the City, in its sole discretion, that at least \$1,000,000 has been raised for the production of the Work; and further, direct the Administration to include this grant in the FY 2026 budget; and further, authorize the City Clerk and City Manager to execute the City's standard cultural grant agreement with respect to the foregoing.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Meiner, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Laura Dominguez)

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION



\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

3/12/2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date