



The Situation Report

“Honest Reporting”

BRIGHTER HORIZONS FOR COCONUT GROVE PLAYHOUSE

Written by: Blair Taylor
August 20, 2017

The Grove Theater, now known as the Coconut Grove Playhouse and located on 3500 Main Highway, may soon be reopening its doors thanks to the help of multiple factors attributed by Miami-Dade County and a few major universities.

On April 4th, 2017, concept plans involving the demolition of all buildings, excluding the major entrance building, were approved by the City of Miami Historic and Environmental Preservation Board (HEPB).

As of April 10th, 2017, The Miamidadearts.org, updated their information stating that HEPB approved of their master plan concept as well.

According to Miamidadearts.org, once the project is completed, the newly updated theater is expected to contain 300 seats and as well as other supporting amenities. The Playhouse Foundation, as mentioned on their website, playhousefoundation.org, has also made note that Florida International University (FIU) is partnered with Miami-Dade County in a joint lease agreement under the State of Florida to use the property as “a cultural facility to be managed and operated by GableStage.”

The Playhouse Foundation, also stated on their website that “the Coconut Grove Playhouse Cultural Campus would be home to a full program of content and educational activities for all ages, ensuring the sustainability of the theater for decades to come.”

In 2008, The University of Miami’s (UM) Center for Urban and Community Design was commissioned to conduct a meeting to Identify design strategies that could catalyze the western end of the Grove and to re-establish a cultural anchor while respecting the history and ambiance of historic Coconut Grove.”

This historical theater was originally built in 1927 by Kiehnel and Elliot. Since its creation, it has been the home of many performances and actors. Some actors include Liza Minelli, Jessica Tandy, and Denzel Washington.