



SAVE THE COCONUT GROVE PLAYHOUSE
GRASSROOTS TEAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**City of Miami Mayor's Veto regarding Coconut Grove Playhouse is
Sustained by Miami-Dade Circuit Court Appellate Division**

Miami, Florida, July 23, 2020 Miami-Dade's Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court has ruled that it has no jurisdiction to address the merits of Miami-Dade County's appeal to overturn Miami Mayor Francis Suarez's veto of City Commission Resolution R-19-0169 allowing demolition of the Coconut Grove Playhouse. This ruling lays the groundwork for the nationally designated historic Playhouse to be fully preserved and restored. It is now up to the County whether to continue its legal battle to either demolish over 80% of the renowned historic 1100 seat theater and replace it with a retail center and a small 300-seat auditorium, or accept the ruling of the court and design a restored playhouse retaining its full structure.

"We are delighted with the court's ruling, says John Nordt, MD, an activist with the Save the Coconut Grove Playhouse movement. "There has a lot of misunderstanding about what is going on. In 2004 the citizens voted for a \$20 Million bond to restore the Playhouse and nothing has happened. The County is proposing a commercial entity with a small 300 seat theater next to it. This does not meet the state or federal standards for historic restoration. Coconut Grove's heritage needs to be preserved. This building is almost a century old. There are not many things

you can say that about in Miami. Thank you, Mayor Suarez, for doing your part to ensure that this icon of Coconut will continue to exist.”

The Save the Coconut Grove Playhouse is a group of concerned citizens who have been advocating for more than a decade to fully restore and save the Coconut Grove Playhouse from demolition. Their vision is to see a Playhouse restored in accordance with the State and Secretary of Interior Guidelines, as approved and funded by voters, that serves as a gateway to the historic Evangelist Street/Charles Avenue district. They envision a Playhouse that reclaims its legacy as an important regional theater and the cultural centerpiece of Coconut Grove. For more information on the Save The Coconut Grove Playhouse grassroots movement, visit its website at: <https://www.savethecoconutgroveplayhouse.com>

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