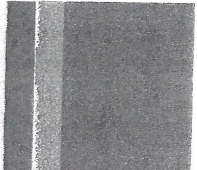


Ambassador James C. Cason
1040 Alhambra Circle
Coral Gables, Fl. 33134



April 26, 2018


Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli:
City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, Fl. 33134

Dear Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli:

I am writing in support of the Societá Dante Alighieri's request to occupy space at the city's historic Fink Studios located at 2506 Ponce de Leon Boulevard. When I was Mayor the Commission voted unanimously to purchase this property to preserve this treasure and prevent it from being turned into a restaurant and gutted. We envisioned it as a future cultural venue.

I can think of no better tenant than Dante Aligheiri, an active participant in the city's vibrant cultural life. As one who speaks Italian and has lived in Milan, I am very familiar with the important role Dante Alighieri plays in promoting Italian cultural and US-Italian mutual understanding.

Dante Alighieri has been a cornerstone of the city's cultural offerings for many decades, teaching Italian to thousands of our residents and showcasing Italy's many cultural achievements. Not only that, but Dante Alighieri has become a de facto multinational cultural center, working closely with Brazil, Germany, Spain, France and the cultural attaches of many local Consulates General to offer films, dance and music to our residents.



I very much support our offering the use of the historic Fink facilities to Dante Alighieri and look forward myself to refreshing my Italian language proficiency there in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Jim Cason

Cc: Donna Spain, Historic Preservation Department



Consulate General
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Miami

The Honorable
Raul Valdes-Fauli
Mayor of the City of Coral Gables

Annette Klein
Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany

Miami, April 26, 2018

Dear Mayor Valdes-Fauli,

The Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami was informed that the Società Dante Alighieri and the City of Coral Gables have been in contact with regards to a city owned historic property located at 2506 Ponce de Leon Boulevard as a possible new location for the organization.

I would like to take this opportunity to stress the immeasurable value of the Società Dante Alighieri in promoting and raising visibility for European culture in Florida and providing excellent language courses in a highly professional environment.

The Società Dante Alighieri offers a unique German and highly successful language program which enables students in South Florida to effectively prepare themselves for recognized language exams under the European referential framework administered by the German Goethe Institute. Their excellent methodology allows students to make significant progress with the German language and to immerse themselves in cultural aspects at the same time. The German Consulate General in Miami strongly recommends the Società Dante Alighieri language programs to all those seeking to learn German for academic, professional or personal reasons.



Consulate General
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Miami

The Società Dante Alighieri has been an inherent part of the cultural network of Consulates and other institutions in South Florida, providing excellent cultural insights to a broad public including highly curated film weeks, exhibitions or performances of European music artists. The positive response to their program illustrates both the importance and impact of their work.

I strongly support the expansion of the Società Dante Alighieri to a new and prestigious location which would adequately reflect the long tradition of the organization and their commitment of more than 20 years for the community in Coral Gables and South Florida in general.

Sincerely,

Annette Klein
Consul General



The Consul General

Coral Gables, May 4, 2018
Pr. N. 4480

Dear Mayor Valdes-Fauli,

I am writing in support of the expansion of the "Società Dante Alighieri" to a historic Fink Studios building in Ponce de Leon Boulevard, new and prestigious location.

As you know, the Dante Alighieri in Miami, represents an important cultural and academic institution offering Italian language courses, cultural programs, and a rich agenda for members and students. The Dante Alighieri plays a supporting role, with the impulse and under coordination of diplomatic or consular offices, in addition, the Dante Alighieri's committees receive, if they carry out activities as managing bodies of Italian language and culture courses aimed at countrymen abroad, contributions from the Directorate General for Italians Abroad.

Dante Alighieri, member of the Association CLIQ (Italian Language quality certification), has a long tradition of collaborating with ODLI (Organization for Development of Italian Language), CCBU (Centro Cultural do Brazil), the University of Miami School of Architecture, Miami Dade College, Miami Dade County Public Library System, Florida Grand Opera, City of Coral Gables, Puerto Rico Department of State, Regione Abruzzo, Museo Barberini (Roma), Italy America Chamber of Commerce, National Italian American Foundation, and Miami International Cultural Alliance.

If the City of Coral Gables does make available to the Dante Society the prestigious historical headquarter in Fink Studios, I am sure that the managers will know well to exploit the generous concession, through articulated programs of cultural promotion and teaching of the Italian language, activities that constitute the fundamental part of the mission of Dante Society in the town of Coral Gables.

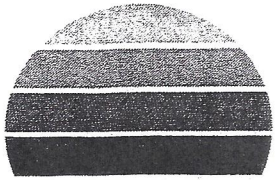
I have no doubt that Dante Alighieri Society, as part of the planned coordination with this Consulate General, will represent a service of excellence for the entire community.

Sincerely,

Gloria Marina Bellelli
Consul General of Italy in Miami

Hon. Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Coral Gables City Hall
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134

cc: Cav. Claudio Pastor
Società Dante Alighieri
300 Aragon Ave., suite 250
Coral Gables, FL 33134



Coral Gables Cultural Affairs Council

1008 Alhambra Circle, Coral Gables, FL 33134 – Tel. 305-444-4755

May 7, 2018

The Hon. Raúl Valdés-Fauli
Mayor, City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134

CHAIRMAN
George Volsky

VICE CHAIRMAN
Claudio Pastor

MEMBERS

Joseph Adler
Amb. Dr. Volker Anding
Dr. Arnhilda Badía
Lawrence E. Budmen
Frank Cooper
Margarita Delgado
David A. Doheny, Esq.
Mike Eidson, Esq.
Jadwiga Gevert
Erica Guzman
Mitchell Kaplan
Jorge Luis Lopez, Esq.
Raul Masvidal
Amb. Ambler Moss
Quintin Nason
Nita Norman
Georgina Pepper
Jorge A. Pino
Raul L. Rodriguez
Linda T. Smith

EX OFFICIO
Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Dr. Eduardo Padron
Comm. Rebecca Sosa

Dear Mayor,

This is to express this Council's trust that the City of Coral Gables and the Società Dante Alighieri will reach an accord under which Italy's centennial, state-supported cultural organization would move its offices – located for decades in Coral Gables - to the City-owned, historic building at 2500 Ponce de Leon Boulevard. The move would allow Dante to expand even more its multi-faceted outreach, enhancing the cultural image of the City Beautiful.

While this fact is not be well known, Dante promotes not only Italian culture (its Italian language classes have been very successful for years), but it also has recently assumed most of the cultural functions of the Consulates General of France and Germany. In addition, Dante's Coral Gables office supervises and coordinates Dante operations in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Atlanta and Charleston, S.C.. Thus, Dante's Executive Director Claudio Pastor runs the organization's Southeastern regional activities.

For decades, like many other Miami Dade cultural organizations, our Council has professionally and very successfully worked with Dante on series of artistic initiatives. As for Mr. Pastor, a resident of Coral Gables, his dedication to and concern for the city's wellbeing and prestige have been nonpareil.

Sincerely,

George Volsky
Chairman

Dr. Volker Anding

Coral Gables, April 27, 2018

Ambassador (ret.)

600 Biltmore Way, Apt. 1114

Coral Gables, Florida 33134

The Honorable Raul Valdés-Fauli

Mayor of the City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way

Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Dear Mayor Valdés-Fauli:

I am contacting you in support of the request of the Società Dante Alighieri to relocate to a space in the city owned Fink Studios at 2506 Ponce de Leon Boulevard.

Since I was German Consul General in Miami (with my residence in Coral Gables) from 2001 to 2004 and since taking my permanent residence in Coral Gables after my retirement in 2007, I have had close and fruitful relations with the Società Dante Alighieri. It has always been not only an Italian cultural institute, but also a highly visible center of European culture, cooperating closely with Germany, France, Spain and many other local Consulates, offering language courses, films, art exhibitions, dance and music to our community. Its excellent German language courses enable its students to effectively prepare themselves for an officially recognized German language exam. It cooperates closely with important regional academic and cultural institutions like University of Miami, Miami Dade College and Florida Grand Opera. Its wide ranging cultural activities also reach out to the Latin American community, in particular of Brazil. All these activities have had a very positive response in our region, thus underlining the international role that Coral Gables is presenting in South Florida.

I strongly support the request to the City of Coral Gables to provide a new home for the Società Dante Alighieri at the Fink Studios. This prestigious location would enable the Società to continue and expand its highly successful and widely appreciated cultural activities.

With best regards,

Volker Anding

Freda C Tschumy, Artist
3610 Bayview Road
Miami, FL 33133
April 24, 2018

Dear Mayor Valdès-Fauli,

I am writing in support of the City of Coral Gables leasing space to the Società Dante Alighieri in the George Fink Studio building on Ponce de Leon Blvd. The conscious identification of Coral Gables with "Mediterranean architecture" makes the relocation of the Dante Alighieri to that building a perfect fit. The kinds of people attracted to the language classes, and the events such as films, lectures, exhibits, concerts, and celebrations are the same as those who appreciate the special qualities of Coral Gables.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,
Freda Tschumy

Cav. Nino Perneti
Caffe Abbracci
318 Aragon Ave
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, Fl. 33134

Coral Gables, 5 V 2018

Dear Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli

I am writing this letter to support one of our neighbors and partners in many activities, known as the Societa' Dante Alighieri. It is my understanding that the Societa' Dante Alighieri is one of the institutions to which could be granted the occupancy of the city building known as Fink Studios, located at 2506 Ponce de Leon Boulevard.

The Societa' Dante Alighieri has been during more than 20 years the point of reference for the Italian language and culture in our community.

As an Italian-American business man and owner of one of the most recognized Italian restaurant in the city, I would like to stress the importance of the Dante Alighieri and the cultural mission they have accomplished in our community for decades.

I have organized countless events for our Coral Gables community that would have been impossible to realize without the support, passion, knowledge and prestige that the Societa' Dante Alighieri has accrued our city over many years.

I firmly support the Societa' Dante Alighieri being granted use of the historical Fink Studios building which would represent the natural expansion of one of the most important and well recognize cultural institution in our city.

The Dante Alighieri has contributed so much to our community, it is time our community rewards this worthwhile institution with a grand city property which could not be in more trusted hands.

Sincerely

Cav. Nino Perneti

Owner of Caffe Abbracci

May 12, 2018

The Honorable Raul Valdes-Fauli
Mayor, City of Coral Gables
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Dear Mayor Valdes-Fauli,

We have been taking language lessons at the Società Dante Alighieri for the past two years and understand the City has a property at 2506 Ponce de Leon Boulevard which could be used as a new location for the organization.

We have enjoyed our courses at the Società and have been impressed by our classmates who come from all walks of life and seek to learn new languages and understand other cultures better. It has been a worthwhile and positive exchange. They also organize film showings, art exhibitions, cultural programs, and performances. The Società is an integral part of our City and in these times of watching our federal government burn bridges across the world, we would like to see our City work to build understanding and culture locally and help promote Coral Gables as the world class city it is.

We encourage you to help the Società in its endeavors to continue serving and enhancing our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Stan and Susan Hills
300 Majorca Avenue #301
Coral Gables, FL 33134