

CITY OF OAKLAND

## REVISED

**Cultural Affairs Commission  
Regular Meeting Agenda  
Monday, September 27, 2021  
4:00 – 7:00 PM**

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-08-21, all members of the Cultural Affairs Commission and Cultural Affairs Division will join the meeting via phone/video conference and no teleconference locations are required.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96483601194>

Or One tap mobile :

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US: +1 408 638 0968 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923 or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free) or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 964 8360 1194

International numbers available: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96483601194>

There are three ways to submit public comments. • eComment, To send your comment directly to Cultural Affairs Commission staff BEFORE the meeting via email [NBalram@oaklandca.gov](mailto:NBalram@oaklandca.gov) • To comment by Zoom video conference, click the “Raise Your Hand” button to request to speak when Public Comment or Open Forum is being taken. You will be permitted to speak during your turn, allowed to comment, and after the allotted time, re-muted. Instructions on how to “Raise Your Hand” is available at: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/205566129> - Raise-Hand-In-Webinar. • To comment by phone, please call on one of the above listed phone numbers. You will be prompted to “Raise Your Hand” by pressing “\*9” to speak when Public Comment is taken. You will be permitted to speak during your turn, allowed to comment, and after the allotted time, re-muted. Please unmute yourself by pressing \*6. If you have any questions, please email Neha Balram, Program Analyst for the Cultural Affairs Commission at [NBalram@oaklandca.gov](mailto:NBalram@oaklandca.gov).



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Cultural Affairs Commission  
Regular Meeting Agenda  
Monday, September 27, 2021  
4:00 – 7:00 PM

**AGENDA**

**Roll Call/Call to Order**

1. **Welcome**
2. **Land Acknowledgement**
3. **Artist Spotlight: Lucy Saephan**
4. **Action Item 1: Approval of Minutes from July 26, 2021**
5. **Action Item 2: Adopt a Resolution Determining that Conducting In-Person Meetings of the Cultural Affairs Commission and its Committees would Present Imminent Risks to Attendees' Health, and Electing to Continue Conducting Meetings Using Teleconferencing in Accordance with California Government Code Section 54953(e), a Provision of AB-361**
6. **Public Comment**
7. **Commission Chair Update**
8. **Cultural Affairs Division Manager's Update**
9. **Commissioner Discussion: Ad Hoc Teams FY21-22 Work Priorities**
10. **Update: Special Activity Permits Division from Greg Minor, Assistant to the City Administrator**
11. **Open Forum**
12. **Announcements & Oakland Artist Acknowledgements**
  - Remembering: Michael Morgan, Zion I, Hung Liu
  - Recognizing Commissioner Charmin Roundtree-Baaqee
13. **Closing**

**Next regular meeting: October 25, 2021 via Teleconference**

**Adjourn**

Oakland Cultural Affairs Division of the Economic & Workforce Development Department  
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 9<sup>th</sup> fl. Oakland, CA 94612  
[www.oaklandculturalarts.org](http://www.oaklandculturalarts.org)

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Esta reunión es accesible para sillas de ruedas. Si desea solicitar adaptaciones relacionadas con discapacidades, o para pedir un intérprete de en español, Cantones, mandarín o de lenguaje de señas (ASL) por favor envíe un correo electrónico a [NBalram@oaklandca.gov](mailto:NBalram@oaklandca.gov) o llame al (510) 238-4949 o al 711 para servicio de retransmisión (Relay service) por lo menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión. Se le pide de favor que no use perfumes a esta reunión como cortesía para los que tienen sensibilidad a los productos químicos. Gracias.

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Địa điểm tổ chức cuộc họp có đường dành riêng cho xe lăn. Đề yêu cầu các phương tiện hỗ trợ phục vụ người khuyết tật hoặc yêu cầu thông dịch viên ASL, tiếng Quảng Đông, tiếng Quan Thoại hoặc tiếng Tây Ban Nha, vui lòng gửi email đến địa chỉ [NBalram@oaklandca.gov](mailto:NBalram@oaklandca.gov) hoặc gọi đến số (510) 238-4949 hoặc 711 (với Dịch vụ Tiếp âm) ít nhất năm (5) ngày làm việc trước khi cuộc họp diễn ra. Vui lòng không sử dụng các sản phẩm có mùi thơm khi tham gia cuộc họp này như một phép lịch sự đối với những người tham dự nhạy cảm đối với các chất hóa học.

**Cultural Affairs Division - Economic & Workforce Development Department**

**Cultural Affairs Commission Secretary – Neha Balram**

**Phone: (510) 238-4949**

**Recorded Agenda: (510) 238-2386**

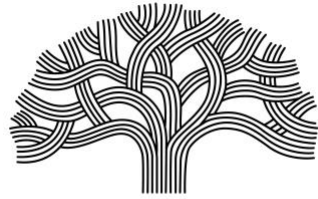
**Telecommunications Relay Service: 711**



### **Artist Spotlight: Lucy Saephan**

Lucy is a queer, 2nd generation Mien American filmmaker from Oakland, California. She is the second oldest of five children raised by Mien parents who are refugees of the United States' Secret War in Laos. Growing up, her maternal grandmother often told stories by the fireplace. She told stories of homelands that no longer exist, ancestors who reside in the afterlife, and spirits that roam monsoon forests and inner-city streets. Grandmother instilled the belief that the preservation of personal histories through storytelling are just as legitimate as those written in books. Planted was a seed of unwavering curiosity to deeply understand the experiences of transnational, marginalized, and stateless communities. It is this deep desire to be understood and valued as human that Lucy has embarked on her journey as a filmmaker. Coming out and coming into her own identities, she continues to explore living life beyond the margins. Through film, Lucy hopes to connect people across differences.

Follow Lucy on Instagram [\*\*@lsaephanfilms\*\*](#) or visit her website [\*\*www.lsaephanfilms.com\*\*](http://www.lsaephanfilms.com)



CITY OF OAKLAND

**Cultural Affairs Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes DRAFT  
Monday, July 26, 2021  
4:01 – 7:14 PM**

**Members in Attendance:** Diane Sanchez (Chair), Kev Choice (Vice Chair), Jennifer Easton, J. K. Fowler, Michelle Mush Lee, Charmin Roundtree-Baaqee, Vanessa Whang, Theo Aytchan Williams

**Members Absent:** Roy Chan

**Staff in Attendance:** Roberto Bedoya, Neha Balram, Denise Pate, Kristen Zaremba

**Guest Speakers:** Corrina Gould, Dr. Ayodele Nzinga, Greg Minor, Jim MacIlvaine, Steven Tiffin, Shifra de Benedictis-Kessner, Elena Serrano, Jessica Chen, Shari Godinez, Frank Ciglar, Daniel Swafford, Itzel Diaz-Romo, Samee Roberts

**Roll Call/Call to Order**

**1. Welcome**

**2. Artist Spotlight: Dr. Ayodele Nzinga (Oakland Poet Laureate)**

Commissioner Fowler introduced Oakland's inaugural Poet Laureate. Dr. Nzinga provided a statement expressing her gratitude for being selected to become Oakland's first Poet Laureate, and accepted the responsibility to represent The Town. She stated that she considers the honor both an award and a reward.

**3. Guest Speaker: Corrina Gould (Co-Founder/Co-Director, Sogorea Te' Land Trust)**

Corrina Gould introduced herself to the Commission and noted her deep roots in Oakland. She noted that while the Ohlone still exist in Huichin Territory (including Oakland) evidence by her family's long history in the area, her Tribe is often referred to in the past tense. Gould also clarified that the Ohlone people are divided into eight different nations — each have their own language, creation stories, and cultural practices. Oakland sits in the Chochenyo language area.

Gould highlighted some of the Sogorea Te' Land Trust's recent accomplishments for the Ohlone community including obtaining formal recognition through signage and land designation, and cultural preservation throughout the East Bay. The City of Oakland is in the process of writing a letter of intent to return some land in Joaquin Miller Park. Additionally, through a relationship with the non-profit Planting Justice,

the City of Oakland returned a piece of land to the Ohlone — the first in over 250 years, which is being used as a dance pavilion for ceremonial practices. The City of Alameda recently agreed to change Andrew Jackson Park to Chochenyo Park. Additionally, the City of Alameda has agreed to pay a Shuumi (Gift) Tax at the rate of \$11,000 per year for the next three years to support cultural revitalization and land-back work. The City of Berkeley acknowledges Ohlone Territory on its signage. The Sogorea Te' Land Trust is working with the City of Albany to change signage there and raise the tribal flag, as well. A new park in the City of Richmond incorporated Ohlone art and designated land to harvest traditional plants and foods.

**4. Action Item 1: Approval of Minutes from April 26, 2021**

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 26, 2021 made by Commission Vice Chair Choice; seconded by Commissioner Whang.

Choice	AYE
Easton	AYE
Fowler	AYE
Lee	AYE
Roundtree-Baaqee	AYE
Whang	AYE
Williams	AYE
Sanchez	AYE

**5. Cultural Affairs Division Manager's Update**

Cultural Affairs Division Budget Overview

Roberto Bedoya provided the following updates:

- The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has approved a grant of \$900,000 to the New Venture Fund, in partnership with the Oakland Fund for Public Innovation and the City's Cultural Affairs Division, to support 12 cultural strategist placements within City of Oakland government. These engagements infuse creative problem-solving in the various participating City departments. This new grant funding expands the Cultural Strategist in Government (CSIG) program beyond a 2019 pilot that was established in response to the City's Cultural Plan "Belonging in Oakland: A Cultural Development Plan" which has informed how Oakland advances civic belonging and well-being. The CSIG program is designed to infuse government with artistic thought partners who work with them on efforts to serve Oaklanders as part of the "belonging strategy."
- Cultural Affairs received an additional \$500K in FY 21-22 and \$1M in FY 22-23 for Cultural Affairs Programming. Council directive associate with these new funds is to focus serving flatlands neighborhoods below 580, including East

Oakland, West Oakland, Fruitvale, San Antonio, Chinatown, Little Saigon/Eastlake, Laurel, Brookdale.

\$250k in FY21-22 for and \$250k in FY22-23 for the Black Arts Movement District –Business/Cultural Affairs support

- The establishment of the Special Activity Permits Division in the Economic & Workforce Development Department. This transfer reframes the Special Activity Permits Division from a nuisance abatement perspective to a facilitator of economic development. Jim MacIvaine will be moving from the Cultural Affairs Division to work directly with the new Special Activity Permits Division, where he will continue to work to support businesses and events in Oakland.

#### Expanded Special Activity Permits Division

Greg Minor, Assistant to the City Administrator, provided an overview of the Special Activity Permits Division in the Economic & Workforce Development Department that will oversee the permitting process. He provided an overview of an informational report submitted to the Commission and included in the meeting agenda packet on the work the Division is tasked with most immediately.

#### Background

- Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), or “hotel tax”, declined due to COVID-19; Approx. \$65k available for festivals FY 2021-2022 (gap of \$300k+)
- Measure C (July 2009), a 3% hotel tax funds Cultural Arts Programs and Festivals (12.5% of the total revenue)
- Approx. \$334,929 annually for: First Friday, Laurel Street Fair, Chinatown StreetFest, Oakland Pride, Rockridge Out and About, Black Cowboy Parade, Oaktobefest, Dia de los Muertos, Chinatown Lunar New Year Bazaar, Malcom X Jazz Festival, and Temescal Street Fair

#### Transition of Special Event Permitting

- 2020 City Council Resolution to transfer of permitting from OPD
  - Did not come with new staff
  - FY 2021-2022 Budget adds permit technician
- Special Activity Permits Division (now in EWD) in process of finalizing transfer and improving related processes:
  - Streamlining special event permitting
  - Establishing new workflow/permit fee
  - Developing transparent and objective security requirements
  - Explore adjustments to OFD costs
- Target Date of Transition this fall

**Recommended Approach**

- Use available TOT to support festivals through November 2021
- New equitable process will inform distribution of Council's \$500k allocation to Cultural Affairs Division to festivals (FY 2021-2022)

**Guest Speakers on Festival Culture – Oakland TOT Recipients**

Recipients of the Oakland Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) took this opportunity to provide comments about the importance of the TOT funds to their festivals/events, except for Wilbert McAlister, whose statement was read aloud by City staff. Chair Sanchez acknowledged that the lack of representation from District 6 and 7 is an equity issue that needs to be addressed. She underscored that many festivals across Oakland have never received TOT funds.

- **Steven Tiffin** (Vice President/Director of Operations, Heart of the Town Events) (Rockridge Out and About, District 1)
- **Shifra de Benedictis-Kessner** (Executive Director of the Temescal Business Improvement District) (Temescal Street Fair, District 1)
- **Elena Serrano** (Program Director of Eastside Arts Alliance) (Malcom X Jazz Festival, District 2)
- **Jessica Chen** (Executive Director, Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce) (Chinatown StreetFest and Lunar New Year Bazaar, District 2)
- **Shari Godinez** (Executive Director, Koreatown Northgate CBD) (Oakland First Fridays, District 3)
- **Frank Ciglar** (Board Member, Oakland Pride) (Oakland Pride, District 3)
- **Wilbert McAlister** (President, The Oakland Black Cowboy Association) (Black Cowboy Parade, District 3)
- **Daniel Swafford** (Executive Director, Laurel District Association and Founder/Managing Director, Oaktoberfest) (Laurel Street Fair and Oaktoberfest, District 4)
- **Itzel Diaz-Romo** (Senior Manager of Communications and External Affairs, The Unity Council) (Dia de los Muertos, District 5)
- **Samee Roberts** (President/Executive Director, Heart of the Town Events) (Art and Soul, District 3)

**6. Public Comment**

The following members of the public made a comment: Mike Woolson, Hodari, Stephanie Tran, Omar Sabeh, Joseph Jung, Jim Santi Owen, Vanessa McGhee, Dave Campbell, Bessma Khalaf, Edward Brown, Matthew Ticknor, Sonja Brooks.

**7. Action Item 2: Vice Chair Vote**

The Commission was asked to vote on the following candidates for Vice Chair: Kev Choice and Michelle Mush Lee. Commissioner Lee was selected to be the next Vice Chair of the Cultural Affairs Commission, receiving five out of eight votes.



**8. Commissioner Discussion: New Potential Ad-hoc Teams**

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled for the next regular meeting of the Commission on September 27.

**9. Open Forum**

The following members of the public made a comment: Timmy Johnson, Greg Hams, Angelica Contreras, Gema Cantu.

Additionally, comments from the following members of the public were submitted in advance of the meeting and read aloud by City staff: Matthew Mansanares, Heidi Pickman, Asia, Doran McGhee, Mike Thaler.

**10. Announcements & Oakland Artist Acknowledgements**

Commission Vice Chair Choice read acknowledgments of three artists connected to Oakland who passed away recently – Paul Mooney, Shock G, and Gift of Gab.

Chair Sanchez acknowledged landscape and public artist Walter Hood who received the 2021 Newly Elected Member (Architecture), American Academy of Arts and Letters.

**11. Closing**

Commission Chair Sanchez thanked the Commissioners, City staff, and the public for joining the meeting.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Lee.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

# OAKLAND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

## RESOLUTION NO. 21-09-01

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**ADOPT A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THAT CONDUCTING IN-PERSON MEETINGS OF THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION AND ITS COMMITTEES WOULD PRESENT IMMINENT RISKS TO ATTENDEES' HEALTH, AND ELECTING TO CONTINUE CONDUCTING MEETINGS USING TELECONFERENCING IN ACCORDANCE WITH CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e), A PROVISION OF AB-361.**

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency related to COVID-19, pursuant to Government Code Section 8625, and such declaration has not been lifted or rescinded. *See* <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.4.20-Coronavirus-SOE-Proclamation.pdf>

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, the City Administrator in their capacity as the Director of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), issued a proclamation of local emergency due to the spread of COVID-19 in Oakland, and on March 12, 2020, the City Council passed Resolution No. 88075 C.M.S. ratifying the proclamation of local emergency pursuant to Oakland Municipal Code (O.M.C.) section 8.50.050(C); and

**WHEREAS**, City Council Resolution No. 88075 remains in full force and effect to date; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends physical distancing of at least six (6) feet whenever possible, avoiding crowds, and avoiding spaces that do not offer fresh air from the outdoors, particularly for people who are not fully vaccinated or who are at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19. *See* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>;

**WHEREAS**, the CDC recommends that people who live with unvaccinated people avoid activities that make physical distancing hard. *See* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/about-covid-19/caring-for-children/families.html>;

**WHEREAS**, the CDC recommends that older adults limit in-person interactions as much as possible, particularly when indoors. *See* <https://www.cdc.gov/aging/covid19/covid19-older-adults.html>;

**WHEREAS**, the CDC, the California Department of Public Health, and the Alameda County Public Health Department all recommend that people experiencing COVID-19

symptoms stay home. See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>;

**WHEREAS**, persons without symptoms may be able to spread the COVID-19 virus. See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>;

**WHEREAS**, fully vaccinated persons who become infected with the COVID-19 Delta variant can spread the virus to others. See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>;

**WHEREAS**, the City's public-meeting facilities are indoor facilities that do not designed to ensure circulation of fresh / outdoor air, particularly during periods of cold and/or rainy weather, and were not designed to ensure that attendees can remain six (6) feet apart; now therefore be it:

**WHEREAS**, holding in-person meetings would encourage community members to come to City facilities to participate in local government, and some of them would be at high risk of getting very sick from COVID-19 and/or would live with someone who is at high risk; and

**WHEREAS**, in-person meetings would tempt community members who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms to leave their homes in order to come to City facilities and participate in local government; and

**WHEREAS**, attendees would use ride-share services and/or public transit to travel to in-person meetings, thereby putting them in close and prolonged contact with additional people outside of their households; now therefore be it:

**RESOLVED:** that the CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION finds and determines that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and hereby adopts and incorporates them into this Resolution; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** that, based on these determinations and consistent with federal, state and local health guidance, the CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION determines that conducting in-person meetings would pose imminent risks to the health of attendees; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION firmly believes that the community's health and safety seriously and the community's right to participate in local government, are both critically important, and is committed to balancing the two by continuing to use teleconferencing to conduct public meetings, in accordance with California Government Code Section 54953(e), a provision of AB-361; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION will renew these (or similar) findings at least every thirty (30) days in accordance with California Government Code section 54953(e) until the state of emergency related to COVID-19 has been lifted, or the CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION finds that in-person meetings no longer pose imminent risks to the health of attendees, whichever is occurs first.

## **FY2021-22 Ad Hoc Team Priority Areas Discussion**

The Cultural Affairs Commission will assess the cultural community's needs on an annual basis and determine the top priority areas they can address through work done outside of public meetings on unofficial Ad Hoc Teams. Priority areas and the methods used to address those priorities should be guided by the Work Plan presented to the Commission in January 2021, which utilizes the Cultural Plan, "Belonging in Oakland", as its North Star.

These teams must consist of less than quorum of members (no more than five people). The Ad Hoc Teams should designate a chair or two Co-Chairs. The Chair(s) is responsible for scheduling meetings, keeping notes, seeking input/guidance from the Cultural Affairs Division Manager and the CAC Chair/Vice Chair prior to executing an idea, and provide updates to the CAC members and the public on activities.

### **Ad Hoc Team Priority Area Ideas for FY2021-22**

1. Cultural Development in District 6 and District 7
2. Impact of Arts and Culture in the Mayoral Election 2022
3. Building Cross-Departmental Relationships
4. Mid-Cycle City Budget Revise

### **FY2020-21 Initial Ad Hoc Team Priority Areas**

#### **Team: Community Cultural Development**

- Spaces
- Festival Culture-Cultural Commons
- Civic Engagement/Civic Narrative of Belonging
- Poet Laureate program

1. Roy Chan (Chair)
2. J.K. Fowler
3. Michael Orange
4. Jennifer Easton

#### **Team: COVID-19 Recovery & Re-imagine**

- Cultural Infrastructure support
  - Teaching artists/Individual Artists/Cultural Gig Workers
  - Organizations
- Racial Equity
- Jobs Program for Cultural Workers

1. Michelle Mush Lee (Chair)
2. Richard Raya
3. Kev Choice

4. Charmin Roundtree-Baaqee
5. Theo Aytchan Williams

**Team: Revenue Streams & Advocacy**

- Staffing Capacity
- TOT, Public-Private Partnership, 501(c)3 fund
- Local, National, and International Cultural and Public Policy Tables

1. Vanessa Whang
2. Charmin Roundtree-Baaqee (Co-Chair)
3. Jennifer Easton
4. Michael Orange (Co-Chair)

**Team: Advocacy Talking Points**

1. Vanessa Whang
2. Michael Orange
3. Jennifer Easton
4. J.K. Fowler

\*The Chair and Vice Chair attended Ad Hoc Team meetings and provide guidance and input on a need basis.

## **Recognizing Commissioner Charmin Roundtree-Baaqee for Her Service**

The Commission would like to recognize and thank Commissioner Roundtree-Baaqee for her service on the City of Oakland's Cultural Affairs Commission. During her tenure, Commissioner Roundtree-Baaqee's inspiring commitment to advancing art and cultural equity/life in Oakland was evidence as the Co-Chair of the Revenue Streams & Advocacy Ad Hoc Team, which worked on addressing issues the Cultural Affairs Division faces such as staffing, funding sources, and presence at public policy tables. Additionally, she served on the Covid-19 Recovery & Re-imagine Ad Hoc Team, which focused on exploring ideas about how to provide cultural infrastructure support, promote racial equity, and develop a jobs program from cultural workers. Commissioner Roundtree-Baaqee also worked closely with Commission colleagues, members of City Council, and community members to present two successful town halls, *Stories of Solidarity: Asian & Black Artists Unite* and *Artists in Action: A Virtual Town Hall for Oakland Artists to Shape the Budget & Beyond*.

Charmin will continue to serve the City as Chair of the East Bay Municipal Utility District Art Committee, and member of the City of Oakland Public Art Advisory Committee.

Charmin Roundtree-Baaqee, was appointed to the Cultural Affairs Commission by Mayor Libby Schaaf as the Public Art Advisory Committee liaison to the Commission and approved by City Council on February 18, 2020 for the a term from October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2021.