



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE FUNDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC)
APRIL 14, 2021; 6pm-7:30PM**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/95212633475>

Or One tap mobile:

US: +16699006833,,95212633475# or +14086380968,,95212633475#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 408 638 0968 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782. or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876
9923 or +1 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 952 1263 3475 International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/95212633475>

AGENDA

- **CALL TO ORDER/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- **REPORTS** Roberto Bedoya, Manager -Cultural Affairs Division
Denise Pate, Coordinator-Cultural Funding Program
- **OPEN FORUM (15 minutes)**
- **DISCUSSION ITEM #1** Commission Liaison: Commissioner Michelle Mush Lee
Discussing her role as commission liaison
- **REPORT** Cultural Affairs Commissioner (Chair) Diane Sanchez
- **DISCUSSION ITEM #2** FY2021-2023 Budget Advocacy
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **ADJOURN**

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment: Minutes from January 13, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Funding Advisory Committee

♿ This meeting is wheelchair accessible. To request materials in alternative formats, or to request an ASL interpreter, or assistive listening device, please call Cultural Funding Coordinator Denise Pate at 510-238-7561 or TDD 510-238-3254 at least three working days before the meeting. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting so attendees who may experience chemical sensitivities may attend. Thank you



**Cultural Funding Program (CFP)
Funding Advisory Committee Special Meeting**

Wednesday January 13, 2020; 6pm – 7:30 pm.

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members in Attendance: Jim Santi Owen (chair), Adriana Griñó, Sriba Kwadjovie, Indi McCasey, Maisha Quint and Tyese Wortham.

Committee Members Absent:

Staff in Attendance: Denise Pate, Roberto Bedoya and Neha Balram

Call to Order/Determination of Quorum: 6:03 pm

Approval of Minutes:

1. Approval of MINUTES of December 3, 2020 Minutes

Motion moved to approve by Adriana Griñó. Seconded by Maisha Quint. The motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Roberto Bedoya, Cultural Affairs Manager

Roberto Bedoya reported that the City of Oakland is facing a \$60M budget deficit, which needs to be addressed by June 30, 2021. The City has put a freeze on new hires and HR affairs, which has cut the deficit by 30%. For the Cultural Affairs Division, this means that the staff member who recently retired will not be replaced.

Bedoya was asked by the City to present two scenarios, one which cut the budget by 10% and another which cut the budget by 20%. Because there are no extra funds to cut, Bedoya is working with Denise Pate to put together a scenario which may cut down the Neighborhood Voices grant program before it is sent to the Life Enrichment Committee. The budget office has taken away the carried forward funds, which were originally used to supplement the grants program; other losses include professional services and miscellaneous funds available. Bedoya expressed that much is still unknown, and more news will come in March. Bedoya also acknowledged the good spirited nature of Denise Pate and Raquel Iglesias during this complicated process.

Bedoya shared that the Cultural Affairs Commission is very animated and currently engaged in a work plan. They are trying to figure out their roles as advocates and ambassadors for the Division. Lastly, Bedoya expressed that we don't have CARES Funds like we did previously. He is involved in many conversations to seed a work initiative, as well as with the Governor's budget, which includes \$50M set aside to support California Artists during the Pandemic.

Coordinator's Report

Denise Pate, Cultural Funding Program Coordinator

Denise Pate reported that we are currently processing Round One grant agreements for Neighborhood Voices, which is full of seasoned grantees who understood the process and submitted their grant agreements successfully. Several of the Round One grant agreements were slightly

delayed due to Business Licenses with the City expiring on December 30, 2020. Pate also acknowledged new hire Raquel Iglesias and the excellent job she's been doing thus far. Lastly, Pate shared that Round Two Neighborhood Voices grants will be going to Council for approval in Mid-March, due to changes in the budget.

Discussion Points:

- Jim Santi Owen asked Pate what the dates were for the Life Enrichment and City Council Meetings. Pate shared that Life Enrichment will take place March 9th and the City Council Meeting will be on March 16th.

OPEN FORUM:

Speaker(s): Open Forum

The following community members were in attendance: Laurie Polster, Cheryl Fabio, Gema Cantu

- Laurie Polster asked if the budget cuts would affect this round of Neighborhood Voices grants? And if so, how would these grants be cut? Lastly, when discussing the budget for next year, what will there be in terms of grant funds? Laurie expressed that these cuts impact not just the artists and arts community, but all communities in which they work.
- Bedoya acknowledged and empathized with Polster's concerns. In the worst-case scenario, all grant awards could be cut by 15%. Bedoya is actively advocating for the grant awards to not be cut. Bedoya also encouraged Polster to attend Life Enrichment and City Council Meetings to voice her concerns and the impact the grant cuts would have on the community.
- Cheryl Fabio asked for clarification on which year of grants awards may be cut. Bedoya clarified that we do not yet know how the 2021-22 budget will be impacted. At the moment, the budget cuts may happen with the current round of Neighborhood Voices grants, which could be cut by 10-18%.
- Fabio asked Bedoya if she should cut her project budget by 20% to prepare for cuts? Bedoya shared that her plan would be a smart move, as it also takes a long time to receive funding from the city.
- Gema Cantu thanked FAC and the Division for sharing their knowledge and keeping grantees informed. If arts organizations are needed to advocate for the Division, Cantu asked that the community be kept informed. Bedoya confirmed that the Division will keep the community updated.

DISCUSSION ITEM #1

Informational report on possible changes to budget allocations for FY20-21 (Neighborhood Voices). This is being considered by Administration, considering COVID and the economic downturn that is impacting the City's budget.

Discussion Points:

- Jim Santi Owen asked for clarification as to when the community would know the grant amounts. It was confirmed that City Council would make decisions in Mid-March.
- Bedoya reiterated that the delays in taking the grant amounts to City Council is due to the budget crisis the City of Oakland is facing, and why we cannot take the grants to Life Enrichment for approval in January.
- Indi McCasey asked if shifts would occur to the timing of Organizational Assistance and other grants due to COVID and/or budget concerns. Bedoya shared there is pressure being put on the Biden administration to put together a WPA or working program for artists, but priority is being put on vaccines and other urgent needs during the Pandemic. Bedoya is

seizing every opportunity to get a seat at the table and advocate for Oakland's artist community.

- Tyese Wortham expressed her gratitude to Bedoya and the Division staff for their work during this difficult time, and acknowledged the lack of sustainable support being given to Oakland's cultural community.
- Tyese Wortham asked what FAC members can do during this time. Bedoya expressed that he would consider that question and inform the committee as to when public advocacy would be helpful. Denise Pate also informed the committee that she would share information and helpful statistics.
- Adriana Griñó asked when the next Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting would be taking place. Neha Balram shared that the next Commission meeting would be on Monday January 25th 4-7pm. Denise Pate will be sharing those details with FAC.
- Tyese Wortham asked how losing the retiring Division employee would be impacting staff. Bedoya shared that not rehiring for that position is assisting with the budget. Annalee Allen, who oversaw Tours, has retired.

ACTION ITEM #1:

Appoint MICHELLE MUSH LEE as the Cultural Affairs Commission liaison to the Funding Advisory Committee for a two-year term.

Motion to approve by Indi McCasey. Seconded by Tyese Wortham. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Points:

- Denise Pate shared the criteria to become a FAC member, which includes knowledge of and participation in the Oakland Arts Community, and/or knowledge of funding and development. Michelle Mush Lee is an arts commissioner, spoken word artist and cultural strategist.
- Indi McCasey shared their praises of Michelle Mush Lee, and commended her background in arts education through Youth Speaks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jim Santi Owens asked when the next FAC Meeting will be taking place. McCasey shared the next meeting will take place April 14th. McCasey also asked if FAC should meet sooner because of the budget changes occurring? Denise Pate shared that if City Council declines NV grant recommendations, FAC would need to meet again to approve new grant amounts.
- Jim Santi Owens proposed the idea of FAC meeting prior to Life Enrichment and City Council to discuss advocacy.
- Roberto Bedoya asked if a future agenda item could be to discuss the Race and Equity Impact Study which should be releasing their findings shortly.
- Jim Santi Owen expressed his willingness to share the responsibilities of co-chair with another member of FAC.

ADJOURN

Adjourn at 6:58 p.m.

Motion to approve by Sriba Kwadjovie. Seconded by Tyese Wortham. The motion passed unanimously.