



CITY OF OAKLAND

Cultural Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 23, 2022

5:30 – 8:00 PM

AGENDA

Members in Attendance: Diane Sanchez (Chair), Michelle Mush Lee (Vice Chair), Roy Chan, Kev Choice, Jennifer Easton, Arnell Pleasants, Vanessa Whang

Members Absent: J. K. Fowler, Shannon Price, Theo Aytchan Williams

Staff in Attendance: Roberto Bedoya, Neha Balram, Raquel Iglesias, Kristen Zarembo, Regina Acebo

Guest Speakers: Claire Pelley (Goldman School of Public Policy Fellow), Greg Minor (Economic & Workforce Development, Special Activity Permits Division)

Roll Call/Call to Order

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chair Sanchez.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Commissioner Sanchez led a land acknowledgement stating that we are meeting on the unceded land of the Ohlone people. She noted that there the CAC needs to help broker a stronger relationship between City of Oakland and leaders of the Ohlone community. She has reached out to Councilmember Gallo who are agreed to work with the CAC to achieve that goal.

3. Action Item 1: Adopt Resolution 22-05-05 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, a Provision of AB-361

Motion to adopt Resolution 22-05-05 made by Commissioner Choice; seconded by Commissioner Whang.

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|-----------|--------|
| Chan | AYE |
| Choice | AYE |
| Easton | AYE |
| Fowler | Absent |
| Lee | AYE |
| Pleasants | AYE |
| Price | Absent |

Sanchez AYE
Whang AYE
Williams Absent

The motion passed

4. Action Item 2: Approval of Minutes from March 28, 2022

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 28, 2022 made by Commissioner Pleasants; seconded by Commissioner Sanchez.

Chan AYE
Choice AYE
Easton AYE
Fowler Absent
Lee AYE
Pleasants AYE
Price Absent
Sanchez AYE
Whang AYE
Williams Absent

The motion passed.

5. Cultural Affairs Division Manager's Update

Roberto Bedoya provided an update on staffing, the budget, and the Cultural Funding Program.

Staffing

The Cultural Funding Program Coordinator position description has been written and funding has been identified but Human Resources have not been able to post the job description. Once the mid-cycle budget is approved, Human Resources can begin to recruit for a position support Kristen Zaremba in Public Part. A third position will be recruited for later on who will help provide communications support.

FY22-23 Budget

There is no indication that the Division shouldn't get an additional \$1M for funding festival grants. The new funds will likely increase the dollar amount of grants.

The National Endowment for the Arts American Rescue Plan awarded the Division \$450,000. The funds will be used for a teaching artists jobs program. The grant application announcement will be made in July.

Cultural Funding Program

The Festival Fund program will distribute \$400,000 in awards. The City Attorney determined that the Funding Advisory Committee (FAC) does not have standing because of the Commission's existence, which means that they can hear the funding recommendations but cannot vote. Their governance and role in the Division's grantmaking process is under review.

6. Cultural Affairs Commission Chair Update

Chair Sanchez reported on the following:

Governor's Budget Revise – Arts & Culture Items

- \$30M over 3 years for cultural districts
- \$50M for Parks & Recreation Departments to create arts installations in state and local public parks
- \$173,000 for the Poet Laureate Program

What's missing is SB628 which is a \$50M ask for cultural workers. It was passed in the last session, but funding needs to be identified.

CAC Vice Chair Position

The CAC will vote on Vice Chair position in July. Past Vice Chairs can run again for the one-year term.

7. Advocacy Process: Meetings with City Council Members

Commissioner Sanchez noted that as part of their role, the CAC will need to build relationships with City Councilmembers year-round so that conversations around funding and investing in arts and culture are frequent and impactful during budget season.

Vice Chair Lee walk the CAC through a slideshow presentation about the Commission's past advocacy efforts and budget achievements. The Commissioners discussed strategy and messaging.

8. Public Comment

No members of the public made a comment.

9. Ad Hoc Team Update: Community Cultural Development – Oakland 2045 General Plan

Commissioner Chan walked the CAC through a slideshow presentation through slideshow about the General Plan process and where arts and culture fits into the conversation around policymaking. An Ad Hoc Team of CAC members (Chan, Whang, Easton, Sanchez) along with Goldman Fellow Claire Pelley, and community members Ada Chan and Jean Johnstone drafted the letter to the City's General Plan staff with their arts and culture specific recommendations for the Plan. Pelley provided an overview of her process for collecting information to inform the recommendations in the letter. Commissioner Whang explained the Guiding Principles for the recommendations which include:

- Oaklanders can stay in their homes
- Return of those displaced (residential and business)
- Have spaces that facilitate cultural productions and allow for exchanges and innovation
- Maintain and create thriving, culturally-rooted local businesses and organizations
- Create and activate public and private spaces where we can negotiate and build community that are cultural-equitable, safe, and healthy

The Recommendations

Theme 1: Live/Work and Work/Live

1A Incentivize the development of affordable live/work and work/live units.

1B Provide guiding language in the general plan and policies in the Zoning regulations for live/work and work/live units to reduce absorption into residential-only uses.

1C Track live/work and work/live units as a category within the planning department.

1D Codify policies in the general plan that ease the process and reduce expenses to get non-conforming spaces into code.

1E Adopt policies in the general plan to protect cultural workers and workspaces at risk of displacement or affected by cannabis manufacturing, cultivation and other cannabis businesses.

Theme 2: Cultural Infrastructure

2A Expand the use of zoning regulations being piloted in the Downtown Oakland Specific Plan to increase first-floor cultural spaces to Districts 6 & 7.

2B Establish a working group to make recommendations to the City Council for the timely development and implementation of a Cultural Facilities Policy.

Theme 3: Cultural Equity Impact Assessment

3A Establish the use of a Cultural Equity Impact Assessment as a condition of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review

Theme 4: Right of Return

4A Codify guiding preference policy in the general plan to allow displaced Oaklanders the right of return.

10. Action Item 3: Vote on Cultural Recommendations for the General Plan

Motion to approve the Cultural Recommendations for the General Plan made by Commissioner Pleasants; seconded by Commissioner Chan.

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| Chan | AYE |
| Choice | AYE |
| Easton | AYE |
| Fowler | Absent |
| Lee | AYE |
| Pleasants | AYE |
| Price | Absent |
| Sanchez | AYE |
| Whang | AYE |
| Williams | Absent |

The motion passed.

11. Downtown Oakland Specific Plan Update

Commissioner Chan noted that the CAC has the opportunity to offer comment on the DOSP's zoning updates. The Ad Hoc Team will review and provide comments.

12. Ad Hoc Team Update: District 6 & 7 Outreach

Commissioner Choice noted that he, Commissioner Pleasants, and Commissioner Price have held discussions about how best to engage the arts community in District 6 & 7, and support them in activating spaces, finding news spaces, provide information, and establishing a stronger relationship with Councilmembers Loren Taylor and Reid. Commissioner Pleasants noted that they are engaging in discussions with community members including Candice Elder (East Oakland Collective) and Tyrone Stevenson (The Original Scraper Bike Team). The Ad Hoc Team wants to host a Town Hall in the districts.

13. Update: Special Activity Permits Division - Greg Minor, Assistant to the City Administrator

Greg Minor provided an update on the new Special Activity Permits Division.

Proposed Changes to the permitting ordinance:

1. The Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) as opposed to OPD will oversee the permitting of special events outside of City parks.
2. Outlines factors that will determine the level of security needed at an event, including when law enforcement may be required, and allows for non-law enforcement staff trained in deescalation to serve as security.
3. Streamlines processing of repeat events by allowing applicants to submit more than one application at once during a twelve-month period as long as the repeat event takes place at same location, consists of same scope, and is produced by same applicant.
4. Consolidate special event permitting process into a one-stop shop approach with an interdepartmental team consisting of police, fire prevention and other departments as needed, as opposed to requiring event applicants to obtain separate permits from each department.
5. Introduces three-person review committee to hear appeals of special event permit denials a. Review committee consists of one Cultural Affairs Commissioner, one representative each from OPD and EWDD that did not take part in the underlying permit denial.
6. Includes an automated approval if a special event applicant does not receive a response within fifteen days of submitting their application. CITY OF OAKLAND ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
7. Introduces different special events tiers to reflect the wide range of events, with different application timelines based on the complexity of event

14. Open Forum

No members of the public made a comment.

15. Announcements& Acknowledgements

16. Closing

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.