



CITY OF OAKLAND

**Cultural Affairs Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda
Monday, May 22, 2023
5:30 – 8:30 PM**

Please note that all meetings of the Cultural Affairs Commission will be conducted in person at:

**Oakland City Hall
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Hearing Room 1 (First Floor),
Oakland, CA 94612**

How to Make a Comment:

There are two opportunities for the public to address the Cultural Affairs Commission and City staff. The first opportunity is during the "Public Comment" period. The second opportunity is during the "Open Forum" period. Dialogue during the meeting with Commissioners, City staff, or its guest speakers is not permitted outside of the two comment periods. **Zoom participation is for viewing only. Comments will no longer be accepted via Zoom or telephone.**

RE: ZOOM PARTICIPATION + COMMENT PERIODS

All Cultural Affairs Commission meetings will be conducted in person. The Cultural Affairs Commission is no longer accepting public comments via Zoom or telephone. Therefore, live comments must be made in-person. You can choose to submit a written comment by 5:00 PM BEFORE the meeting starts to NBalram@oaklandca.gov. Any comments received via email during the duration or after the meeting may not be entered into public record but will be shared with the Commission and City staff later.

Please click the link below to join the Zoom webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81844481118?pwd=SEZxUUt3NkVxc2s5U3hvUStNNlZlZz09>

Passcode: 262749

Webinar ID: 818 4448 1118

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877 853 5257 US Toll Free

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CITY OF OAKLAND

**Cultural Affairs Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda
Monday, May 22, 2023
5:30 – 8:30 PM**

AGENDA

Roll Call/Call to Order

1. Welcome
2. Land Acknowledgement + Official City of Oakland Love Acknowledgement
3. Action Item 1: Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2023
4. Action Item 2: Approval of Minutes from March 27, 2023
5. Cultural Affairs Commission Chair's Update
6. Cultural Affairs Division Manager's Update
7. General Advocacy Discussion
8. Public Comment
9. Artist Spotlight
10. Open Forum
11. Announcements & Acknowledgements
12. Closing

**Next regular meeting: July 24, 2023, at 5:30 – 8:30 PM
at Oakland City Hall
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Hearing Room 1 (First Floor),
Oakland, CA 94612**



CITY OF OAKLAND

**Cultural Affairs Commission
DRAFT Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 23, 2023
5:30 – 8:09 PM**

Members in Attendance: Diane Sanchez (Chair), Kev Choice (Vice Chair), Jennifer Easton, Michelle Mush Lee, Vanessa Whang, Theo Aytchan Williams

Members Absent: J. K. Fowler, Shannon Price

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

Guest Speakers: Poinciana Hung-Haas, Sorell Raino-Tsui

Roll Call/Call to Order

1. Welcome

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

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Sanchez called for a moment of silence for the recent lives lost due to gun violence in communities across California.

She then led a land acknowledgement noted that the City of Oakland's repatriation of land to the Sogorea Te' Land Trust is a step towards progress and reminded the commission of their commitment to hold up Oakland's Indigenous community.

3. Action Item 1: Adopt Resolution 23-01-09 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

This item was voted on later in the meeting when quorum was achieved.

Motion to adopt Resolution 23-01-09 made by Commissioner Sanchez; seconded by Commissioner Choice.

Choice	AYE
Easton	AYE
Lee	Abstain
Sanchez	AYE
Whang	AYE

Williams Abstain
The motion passed.

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

This item was voted on later in the meeting when quorum was achieved.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 28, 2022, made by Commissioner Easton; seconded by Commissioner Whang.

Choice	AYE
Easton	AYE
Lee	AYE
Sanchez	AYE
Whang	AYE
Williams	AYE

The motion passed.

5. Artist Spotlight: Poinciana Hung-Haas

Vice Chair Choice introduced Poinciana Hung-Haas, the youth artist spotlight for the meeting.

Poinciana Hung-Haas is a youth artist and fashion designer from Oakland, CA. She is inspired to share stories of growing up in a town engulfed by a rich culture; one that is filled with a diversity of people, music, food, and street art. For the past seven years, Poinciana has developed her fine art and fashion design skills through her education at Oakland School for the Arts. Her pieces have been exhibited at the Exploratorium in San Francisco and throughout Downtown Oakland, and she has worked as the lead designer for Oakland equestrian celebrity Brianna Noble. Poinciana also drew a design representing Oakland Chinatown, which is sold by Oaklandish to raise funds to rebuild Chinatown’s recreation center. Most recently, she created an exhibit shining light on Asian American history and youth artists through quilted portraits, a painting, and poetry, which has been displayed at 811 Broadway, the Oakland Asian Cultural Center, and at Alameda County Supervisor Lena Tam’s swearing in ceremony. She strives to continue drawing attention to causes and amplifying the voices of others by captivating the audience through her arts.

Find the Drago Power Merchandise on Oaklandish:

<https://www.oaklandish.com/collections/hometown>

6. Cultural Affairs Division Manager’s Update

Staffing

Roberto Bedoya noted that interviews for the Cultural Funding Program Coordinator position will begin this week.

Meetings with Newly Elected Officials

He said that he has requested an introductory appointment with Mayor Sheng Thao.

FY23-24 Budget Update

He noted that preliminary internal discussions about the FY23-24 budget have indicated that the City will face a budget deficit of \$178M in the first year and \$171M in the second year of the

upcoming budget cycle. He said that this deficit is larger than the last recession. A possible scenario is 20 percent reductions across City departments. The Cultural Affairs Division should anticipate cuts to its General Fund and Transient Occupancy Tax budget.

Cultural Funding Program

Bedoya noted that The Creative Economies of Belonging Jobs, Network and Catalysts Grant Opportunity for Oakland Cultural Organizations."

7. Public Comment

No comment was made by the public.

8. Cultural Affairs Commission Chair's Update

Chair Sanchez noted that she, staff, and Commissioners Whang and Easton have been working on a briefing book with Division (administrative, programmatic, and budget) and CAC information. The briefing book will be shared with the Mayor and elected officials during one-on-one meetings.

The Alameda County Arts Commission awarded a total of \$1M in its second round of Arts Relief Grants. Of the total 339 grants awarded in round one and two, 40% of the grants went to Oakland artists. The East Bay Cultural Alliance continues to work on arts advocacy for Alameda County. Chair Sanchez encouraged commissioners to participate in advocacy activities at the county and state level during Arts, Culture, and Creativity month.

She reminded commissioners to engage with the Oakland arts community through event and community meeting attendance.

9. Update: Cultural Strategists-in-Government (CSIG) Public Art Program – Sorell Raino-Tsui

Commissioner Whang facilitated a presentation and Q&A period with the Public Art Program's Cultural Strategist, Sorell Raino-Tsui, and Public Art Coordinator Kristen Zarembo.

[Sorell Raino-Tsui](#) has been curating, showcasing, and producing public art in Oakland for the past decade. With the lived experience of creating permanent public art installations, Raino-Tsui hopes to build bridges between city government and the artist communities that feel disenfranchised from the public art world. The [Public Art Program](#) will work with Raino-Tsui to find creative ways to reach, recruit, and orient emerging and established Oakland BIPOC artists to the specialized knowledge and the lengthy and complex processes that public art projects can entail in order to bring more diverse voices into the civic realm.

10. Discussion Item: CAC Work Planning for FY22-23 and FY23-24

Chair Sanchez asked the commissioners to reflect on past ad hoc committee work and have an open discussion on new priority areas. See end of minutes for complete notes on the conversation.

11. Open Forum

No comment was made by the public.

12. Announcements & Acknowledgements

The Commission took a moment to remember Anita Pointer, member of the Oakland's The Pointer Sisters who passed away in December 2022.

13. Closing

A motion to end the meeting was made by Vice Chair Choice, seconded by Commissioner Lee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

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Notes on Agenda Item #10: CAC Work Planning FY 2022-23 and 2023-2024

Group discussion: What should be the next priority areas of ad hoc team work for the Commission for the remainder of FY22-23 and FY23-24?

Commissioner	Recommendations	Additional Notes
Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an artist directory. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A cultural map - An online platform to search - Updateable by the individual or arts org 	√ Easton: Agree on Williams’s idea and would like to see a sample of how this has been done and how they made it useful √ Choice
Easton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of CA putting substantial dollars into cultural districts - how can we leverage this for Oakland? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note: Current cultural district discussions at the state level imply property ownership, but it’s just not tenable in a place like Oakland. This is a missing piece of the CA Arts Council (CAC) because we can no longer just take property and convert it – this is a misdirected idea - Call for more education on cultural districts, hubs (Sanchez) 	<p>Cultural Districts The budget provides a one-time \$30 million General Fund augmentation for the council’s cultural district program. These funds will support the existing 14 cultural districts and expand the program to support traditionally underserved communities.</p>
Whang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting to know new elected officials and maintain existing relationships; develop shared talking points on areas of interest (i.e. budget cuts, etc.) 	
Lee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit workplans, especially the work during the last budget cycle and the formation of the Artist in Action coalition • FAC – how can we reconsider fewer grants at larger sizes if staffing is down and budget it cut? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What would be talking points for this (Sanchez) • RE: workplan: Formation of a Development/Fundraising advisory group to raise resources for culture 	
Choice	What’s the power of the Commission?	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do we advocate for CAD and for the Manager? We should be leaving every meeting with an action item• Would like to hear about cultural projects of other Commissioners	
Sanchez	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City of Oakland has no cultural facilities policy• Creating a plan for when Commissioners term out; member recruitment	

Additional questions/comments

(Williams)

- What’s the Commission’s authority to co-sponsor activities?
 - Roberto: We’ll need to speak with our lawyer
- As a Commissioner, are our respective organizations taken out of any grant opportunities?
 - Yes, for grants coming out of the Cultural Affairs Division that could appear as a conflict of interest.

(Lee)

- What’s the possibility of FAC or Commission serving as fund panelists?
 - Roberto: By law, all public funds go through a deliberation process. Also, serving on the advisory bodies like the Commission make folks ineligible for honorariums.

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CITY OF OAKLAND

Cultural Affairs Commission
DRAFT Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 27, 2023
5:32 – 8:36 PM

Members in Attendance: Diane Sanchez (Chair), Kev Choice (Vice Chair), Jennifer Easton, Michelle Mush Lee, Ilana Lipsett, Jim Santi Owen, Theo Aytchan Williams

Members Absent: Shannon Price, Vanessa Whang

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

Guest Speakers: Jean Johnstone (UC Berkley), Jim MacIrvine (Economic & Workforce Development Department), Gregory Minor (Economic & Workforce Development Department), Cava Menzies and the CO-LLAB Choir

Roll Call/Call to Order

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sanchez at 5:32 PM.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Sanchez read a land acknowledgement.

Vice Chair Choice read the City's [Love Acknowledgement](#).

3. Action Item 2: Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2022

A vote on this item was moved to the May 22 meeting due to lack of a quorum.

4. Update: Special Event Permitting (Greg Minor, Deputy Director, EWDD)

Minor provided an update on the Special Event Permitting process, including an introduction of the new [online permit center](#) and an explanation of the permit appeal process. Ordinance No. 13704 C.M.S. introduces a Review Committee to hear appeals of special event permit denials.

The Review Committee consists of three members: a member of the Cultural Affairs Commission, the Chief of Police or their designee, and the Director of the Economic and Workforce Development Department or their designee. This three-person committee offers multiple perspectives, increases transparency, and ensures the decision-making body that is nimble enough to hear requests for reconsideration on short notice and in advance of any proposed event. Commissioner Jim Santi Owen will serve on the committee.

5. Action Item 2: Approval of CAC Member Participation on Special Event Permit Request for Reconsideration

Motion to approve Cultural Affairs Commission member participation on special event permit reconsiderations made by Chair Sanchez; seconded by Commissioner Santi Owen.

Choice	AYE
Easton	AYE
Lee	AYE
Lipsett	AYE
Sanchez	AYE
Santi Owen	AYE
Williams	AYE

The motion passed.

6. Artist Spotlight: Cava Menzies and the COL-LAB Choir

This item was moved to a later part of the meeting.

Vice Chair Choice introduced Cava Menzies and members of the CO-LLAB Choir, the artist spotlight for the meeting. Cava Menzies introduced a performance by the CO-LLAB Choir.

As the founder, director and guiding spirit of Oakland-based CO-LLAB Choir, Cava Menzies has created a powerful new vehicle for bringing musicians together for synergistic collaboration. The 24-member contemporary vocal ensemble develops new works by vocalists and singer-songwriters through a rigorous process of co-arranging and co-writing material. The ensemble also collaborates with professional artists on studio recordings and performances.

7. Update: Report on the State of the Arts: CA 2023-2024 (Jean Johnstone, Lecturer in Arts and Cultural Policy, UC Berkeley)

Jean Johnstone, a lecturer in arts and cultural policy and a member of the ad hoc team looking at the General Plan, Downtown Oakland Specific Plan, and other topical issues provided an informational update to the Commission on arts advocacy and arts education advocacy at the State level.

8. Update: Oakland Film Office (Jim MacIlvaine, Special Events Coordinator, EWDD)

Jim MacIlvaine discussed the current challenges facing the one-man operated Oakland Film Office and the film industry. He provided his perspective on what concessions and accommodations Oakland would need to make to make filming in Oakland more attractive and affordable for productions interested in filming in the City.

9. Public Comment

Comments from Dr. Mieko Hatano (Executive Director, Oakland Symphony), David Mack, Executive Director, Joe Goode Performance Group).

10. Cultural Affairs Division Manager's Update

FY2023-2025 Budget Cycle

The Cultural Affairs Division have been asked to work through a scenario where the division was cut by 20%. The cut would impact Cultural Funding Program's grantmaking capacity. In the last fiscal year the Cultural Affairs Division received a one-time allocation of \$1M through a City Council directive to support Festival culture and programs in the flatlands. The loss of these funds will have an impact on our ability to serve Oaklanders with an equity lens. The Division is a small unit in the City with a budget is less than 1% of the City's total budget. Yet the CAD is able to support community by building and supporting the social networks and cultural expression that make our city livable and safe.

Staffing

Fully staffed the CAD should have 6.5 employees. The CAD currently has 2.5 vacancies.

Grantmaking

The panel recommendations associated with Neighborhood Voices: Programs, and Neighborhood Voices: Individual Artists with being presented to the Life Enrichment Committee of the Council on April 25. Raquel Iglesias provided further detail on the funding recommendations.

April is Arts, Culture and Creativity Month

The proclamation from Mayor Sheng Thao declaring April as Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month in Oakland was read aloud.

11. Cultural Affairs Commission Chair's Update

Chair Sanchez noted that the Commission will discuss ad hoc team goals and activities at a later meeting. She provided a brief update on the Henry J. Kaiser development, noting that a search committee has been established to help hire a manager of the space and that Dr. Ayodele Nzinga is involved in supporting the Community Benefit Agreement requirements.

Commissioner Lipsett provided an update on the ad hoc team work she and Chair Sanchez have been doing on the Urban Forest Plan. Chair Sanchez noted that the Commission needs to work on identify new members. Additionally, she noted that staff have worked on a Division briefing book that has been shared with the Mayor's office and can be shared with Councilmembers. Chair Sanchez encourage the Commission to schedule meetings with Councilmembers to talk about the importance of preserving arts and culture in Oakland.

12. Open Forum

No comment was made by the public.

13. Announcements & Acknowledgements

The Commission took a moment to remember Robert Henry Johnson, Oakland choreographer, poet, and playwright who passed away in December 2022.

14. Closing

A motion to end the meeting was made by Vice Chair Choice, seconded by Commissioner Santi Owen.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.