

All Minutes are drafts until approved by vote of the Council

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

**Thursday, December 15, 2016
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**California Museum of Photography
3824 Main St.
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 827-4787**

PRESENT:

Council Members

Donn K. Harris, Chair
Nashormeh Lindo, Vice Chair
Larry Baza
Phoebe Beasley
Christopher Coppola
Kathleen Gallegos
Louise McGuinness
Steve Oliver

Council members absent: Juan Devis, Jaime Galli, and Rosalind Wyman

Arts Council Staff

Craig Watson, Director
Ayanna Kiburi, Deputy Director
Caitlin Fitzwater, Communications Director
Shelly Gilbride, Programs Officer
Mariana Moscoso, Administrative Analyst

Invited Attendees

Patrick Brien, Executive Director at Riverside Arts Council
Tyler Stallings, Interim Executive Director at UCR ARTSblock

Other Attendees / Members of the Public

Burma Lee Manns, Riverside Juneteenth Celebration
Miranda Ynez Botello, Master's student in Arts Administration
Jessica Ceballos, Writ Large Press
Jim Christian, California Desert Arts Council

Brittany Delany, La Quinta Arts Foundation
Robin Wayland, Studio 395
Ginger Griffin, Studio 395
Frances Vasquez, Inlandia Institute
Danielle Wallis, Arts Connection, SB County Arts Council
Cati Porter, Inlandia Institute
Dr. Gerda Govine Ituarte, COFAC
Valerie Found, Riverside Art Museum
Collette Lee, Riverside Arts Academy
Tammie Blackmore, CA PTA Arts Committee/CA Alliance for Arts Education
Douglas Angulo, SFAI Graduate Student
Eliza Trudor, Nevada County Arts Council
Cindi Neisinger, Inlandia
Drew Oberjuerge, Riverside Art Museum
Jacquil Constant, Haiti International Film Festival
Michael Valentine, California Chamber Orchestra and Murrieta Arts Council
Tanya Ko Hong, Korean American Writers Association
Barbara Babcock, San Bernardino City Fine Arts Commission
Scott Doyle, Freelance Writer/Leimert Park Village 20/20 Vision Initiative
Richard Archer, Moreno Valley Cultural Arts Foundation
Margery Haupt, City of Riverside

MINUTES

I. Call to Order, Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum

Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Moscoso took the roll and a quorum is established.

II. Welcome from Host

Brien from Riverside Arts Council welcomed the Council to Riverside and invited the Council to explore the city. Stallings from UCR ARTSblock introduced the program concept for the ARTSblock off-campus arts facility.

III. ACTION ITEM: Minutes of meeting on September 22, 2016

10:15: The Chair requested a motion to approve the minutes. Gallegos said she did not have time to read the minutes because they were sent two days before the meeting. Oliver asked if the minutes could be voted on at the following meeting. The Council echoed Oliver's request. The Chair approved the request to approve the minutes at the next meeting.

IV. Chair Report

At 10:18, Harris began the Chair's report with a brief history of the city of Riverside. Harris discussed his involvement in creating an arts program for English-learners. He also mentioned his participation at the Oakland Cultural Districts public meeting. Harris shared that he was invited to interview *American Conservatory Theater* artistic director Carey Perloff recently and he spoke proudly of the opportunity to introduce Venezuelan Maestro, Gustavo Dudamel, to an audience at Oakland's Paramount Theater. Harris also spoke about San Francisco's Proposition A, which provides \$100 million to the SFUSD ARTS Center under his charge. He concluded his report by sharing his experience at a conference he attended in Dallas, Texas for the national Arts Schools Network.

Coppola added to Harris's history of Riverside and the *American Conservatory Theater*. Lindo said many important actors come from *American Conservatory Theater*.

V. Director's Report

At 10:26, Watson began the Director's Report. He introduced the origami and brochures passed out before the meeting. Fitzwater added the brochure includes the CAC's year highlights. Fitzwater spoke of the origami ornaments and brochure that will be given to the Legislature in January. Watson described the origami images and hopes for a photo-op with the Legislature. McGuinness commented it is a nice gesture. Fitzwater said there are copies of the origami sheets for the Council to try to make them. Fitzwater honored the quality work of Wendy Moran, the graphic designer at the CAC.

Watson spoke about the recent event held to honor Senator Ben Allen for his sponsorship of TADA (Theatre and Dance Act). Watson had the opportunity of introducing Senator Allen at the event. He mentioned that Senator Allen is a champion of the arts and is ready to take on the next project to support the arts.

Ghost Ship fire in Oakland

Watson said he would like to agendize a deeper conversation about the Ghost Ship fire in Oakland because it deserves a separate conversation. He spoke of the CAC's public statement addressing the tragedy. Watson also discussed the challenges with affordable artist housing and added that the Assembly and Senate agree that artist housing is an issue that needs to be addressed. Additionally, he said the CA Strategic Growth Council has developed housing projects that reduce greenhouse gasses and have funded the development of artist housing in Santa Ana as a part of this project.

Oliver added to the discussion. He said CAST's (Community Arts Stabilization Trust) thought leadership is focused on the issue of arts organization space and artist housing in the Bay Area. Watson said the CAC took calls from artists being evicted in the aftermath of the Oakland fire. Harris shared his experiences as an Oakland native and the importance of spaces like the Ghost Ship. Gallegos asked if HUD could help with situations like this. Lindo spoke of the conflicts created by the art spaces and local businesses in Oakland. She added low-cost and safe housing availability is important.

FOLLOW-UP ITEM: Add a discussion on artist housing to the next meeting's agenda.

VI. Grant Guidelines 2016-2017

At 10:36, Beasley provided an introduction and overview of the guidelines to be voted on. Gilbride said each guideline would be voted on individually and asked for the Council to give permission for staff to fine tune and publish the guidelines as part of their vote.

Veterans Initiative in the Arts

Gilbride explained that as part of the guidelines review process, the programs team is reaching into the community to find experts in the field, or “readers”, to review program guidelines and provide feedback. Readers for VIA included staff of veterans service agencies and veteran artists, as noted in the council item. She noted that partnerships with other organizations were removed from the program requirements because they were found to be prohibitive to feasible project timelines and to utilizing the funding within veterans organizations.

Watson said he spoke with the head of Veteran Affairs for the state, Vito Imbasciani, MD. He added that Vito has directed his staff to work with the CAC staff on the grant program. He shared his hopes that the relationship with Veteran Affairs could lead to more interagency collaboration.

Harris asked to honor Keith Jeffreys from the Veterans’ Arts Alliance in Culver City and Elizabeth Washburn in San Diego for the work they do with veterans. Gilbride added that both of these individuals were readers of the guidelines.

Gallegos asked about outreach to veteran organizations. Gilbride responded that Jason Jong is doing outreach and that the modifications to the guidelines will hopefully make it easier for veteran organizations to apply. Watson said the application is designed so non-arts organizations may apply. Watson spoke of a recent meeting the CAC held in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts “Creative Forces” program, to obtain greater insight on how to better include community arts organizations in San Diego where the national program is expanding to serve Camp Pendleton. Many of the CAC’s grantees attended the meeting. Baza added there was input from veteran spouses dealing with health issues and what is being learned through arts and culture.

Harris spoke about the needs of the veteran population. Lindo commented many veterans have used the GI bill to go to art school. Coppola commented on recent veteran arts films and about military stations as art hubs. Gilbride spoke to the isolation of the veteran community and how the program addresses this.

Gilbride returned to Gallegos’s initial question and clarified that organizations, whether arts or not, need to have a program that has at least 2 years history of programming.

Gilbride concluded with comments that the outreach plan for VIA is still in the process of being developed.

ACTION ITEM: At 10:39, Oliver moves to approve the VIA guidelines and to give the staff authority to fine-tune and publish the guidelines. Lindo seconded. The motion passed at 10:54 with 8-0 yes votes from Baza, Beasley, Coppola, Gallegos, Harris, Lindo, McGuinness, and Oliver.

Research in the Arts

At 10:55, Gilbride began the discussion for Research in the Arts. She said the new program will be the first of its kind in the nation.

Gallegos asked if individuals may apply to the program. Gilbride said researchers must to be associated with an organization. Gallegos proceeded to ask how the funds can be used. Gilbride elaborated on the development of the program and the conversations with the UC system and others. She said funds can be used for salary during the summer months but not for ‘academic course buy-out.’ language vetted by university sources. Gilbride added that the guidelines use the jargon of academia so university institutions may feel the program is accessible to them.

Coppola asked about the possibility of sabbatical professors using the funds for students. Gilbride responded that the grant funds must be used for research; however matching funds could be used for other purposes.

Gilbride said that the program is amenable to experimental research. McGuinness said the guidelines are thoughtful. Gilbride honored Josy Miller’s efforts in creating the guidelines.

ACTION ITEM: At 10:55, Oliver moves to approve the Research in the Arts guidelines and to give the staff authority to fine-tune and publish the guidelines. McGuinness seconded. The motion passed at 11:03 with 8-0 yes votes from Baza, Beasley, Coppola, Gallegos, Harris, Lindo, McGuinness, and Oliver.

Arts and Public Media

At 11:04, Fitzwater introduced the guidelines for the Arts and Public Media program. She elaborated on the differences of the current guidelines to the old “Arts on the Air” program and the broadening of the program. Fitzwater said the guidelines also provide a redefined reach of the program to be more equitable. She added the program goals now include live public events and digital media. Projects that include civic engagement and build bridges between cultures are also promoted in this program. She also added the request amounts are different from the previous program in order to have more grantees.

Coppola asked if artists can apply for more than one grant. Fitzwater clarified the funding avenues and conflicts.

Gallegos asked why a Cultural Data Project (CDP), newly named DataArts profile is not required. Gilbride said it was an omission and will be added to the guidelines. She said the arts community needs to be able to use standardized economic data. Gilbride added that panelists are only using the profile for financial data. She acknowledged completing the balances sheets are a challenging task for organizations to tackle but it is an experience that is often ultimately appreciated.

Gallegos and Lindo asked if there is training on DataArts. Gilbride said that training information is available in the body of the application and extensively on the DataArts website. Watson said it could be possible to create a blog or post to promote outreach on DataArts training. Lindo asked for more information on the application.

FOLLOW-UP ITEM: CDP profile needs to be added to the guidelines.

FOLLOW-UP ITEM: Provide the Council with further information on DataArts.

ACTION ITEM: At 11:02, Coppola moves to approve the Arts and Public Media guidelines and to give the staff authority to fine-tune and publish the guidelines. McGuinness seconded. The motion passed at 11:16 with 8-0 yes votes from Baza, Beasley, Coppola, Gallegos, Harris, Lindo, McGuinness, and Oliver.

Jump StArts

At 11:16, Gilbride began the discussion of Jump StArts. She said the grant program is currently undergoing an evaluation. Gilbride added that the language of the guidelines was revised, allowing programs to continue services to students when they leave juvenile justice settings. She also said applicants will be required to have a designated program coordinator in an effort to build positive relationships with the juvenile system. Gilbride also mentioned staff and professional consultants are still evaluating the best methods of assessing the impact of the program. Harris added he has worked with transitional youth groups. He emphasized the importance of these programs, especially in dropout prevention. He also spoke about continuation schools and their art programs.

McGuinness asked if it is an option for staff of grantee organizations to do the assessment. Gilbride said student progress is difficult to assess given the transient nature of these programs. She said that a standard assessment is currently in development. She also added that grantees have marked socio-emotional and cognitive growth as an important program outcome. McGuinness said these programs can be amorphous.

Gallegos had questions about program coordinators and Gilbride responded the program coordinators are selected by the grantees. Baza asked about the number of programs that applied for planning support. Gilbride said possibly six applied for planning grants.

ACTION ITEM: At 11:21, Gallegos moves to approve the JUMP StArts guidelines and to give the staff authority to fine-tune and publish the guidelines. McGuiness seconded. The motion passed at 11:23 with 8-0 yes votes from Baza, Beasley, Coppola, Gallegos, Harris, Lindo, McGuiness, and Oliver.

Open Call for Panelists

At 11:23, Kiburi reminded the Council of the upcoming adjudication of grantee applications in the spring and the open call for panelist application deadline on Dec 31. Kiburi added diverse panelists are needed. She said any questions can be directed to Jaren Bonillo. Gilbride added there is a need for at least 75 panelists and the approved list, known as the panel pool, should be at least double, and could be triple.

Beasley asked if there has been outreach online. Fitzwater responded affirmatively. Kiburi said that research for panelist compensation continues. Gilbride added panelists enjoy the experience. McGuiness asked if there are more applicants compared to the previous year. Gilbride said there are definitely more applicants this year.

11:31 Break

VII. Program Final Report 2014-2015

At 11:40, Gilbride asked the Council to turn to a handout with an overview of the demographic data modeled after the NEA demographic reporting model. She provided an introduction to the Program Final Report for 2014-2015 and shared some general statistics, noting that over a million individuals were reached and 550,000 artists participated in grantee programs. Additionally, she noted that the reach to the Hispanic/Latino community is consistent with the population of the state. However, Gilbride acknowledged that the diversity of staff and board are not yet representative of the general population.

Gilbride proceeded to speak about the Creative California Communities Final Report. She elaborated on the grantee operational size, adding that in 2014-15 smaller organizations were funded as well as larger organizations. Gilbride also made a few comments on culture heritage organizations. Gilbride then asked specific Council members to present on the programs assigned to them.

Beasley introduced the Artists in Schools (AIS) final report. She spoke of her experience as a teacher. She presented the report on the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena, granted \$11,400. She shared the program was for Title 1 schools, whose participants were second and third grade English-learners. Beasley provided an overview of the program.

Gilbride had asked Devis to present the Statewide & Regional Network grantee, the National Association of Latino Independent Producers, Inc. (NALIP). Watson noted Devis's absence is due to the flu and reminded everyone Wyman is ill as well.

Lindo introduced the Veterans Initiative in the Arts (VIA) final report and highlighted the Los Angeles County Arts Commission's work with the L.A. County Veteran Association. These two organizations worked with the Craft and Folk Art museum to produce veteran focused exhibitions. The exhibition, *Art and other Tactics*, was the first of its kind that explored craft produced by veteran artists. The exhibition was accompanied by an episode titled "Service" in the PBS program, *Craft in America*. She added the exhibition would travel to San Francisco's Museum of Craft and Design. Lindo also acknowledged her friendships with veteran artists.

McGuinness presented the Lenora Lee Dance group in the Bay Area, a Local Impact grantee. Spoke of a specific dance performance which explored the Asian-American experience of racism and fascism during World War II.

Coppola introduced two grantees: Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project, a Local Impact grantee, and the Bay Area Video Coalition, a Creative California Communities grantee. He said the Queer Women Media Arts program did several films that followed gay Muslims and also produced a film about women who fight against rape. He said the Bay Area Video Coalition helped artists in media. They created a multimedia event to celebrate immigrants.

Gilbride concluded the presentation. She said there were excellent programs from all around the state; she spoke about the Mariposa County Arts Council work with Yosemite, which connects visitors with the residents of the area and Ventura County's program with the Boys & Girls Club to help homeless youth. They created a teen center within a blighted park. She mentioned the most cited benefit from grantees was that CAC funding allowed them to pay artists, and she commented on the critical importance of this success given that the CAC is only able to award grants to organizations.

Gallegos asked if in the future Final Reports could be presented on a regular basis. Gilbride said this type of reporting will be done on an annual basis. Gallegos asked a question about a chart on the handout. Gallegos asked Gilbride if it was possible to create a webinar for budgets. Gilbride said it could be considered, and reminded the Council that assistance is regularly provided to applicants on an individual basis.

VIII. Cultural Districts

At 12:20, Harris introduced the topic of Cultural Districts and asked the Council to consider the program as a whole. Watson continued the discussion and acknowledged that nearly every Council member participated in at least one Cultural Districts public input meeting. Watson expressed gratitude for the work of consultants Jessica Cusick and Maria Rosario Jackson on the project. He stated that the presentation at the Council meeting would be the recommendations for the first steps for a sustainable and long-lived program. He invited Cusick to begin her presentation.

Cusick said she and Jackson were glad to work on this project. She acknowledged Fitzwater's help throughout the research. Cusick presented a PowerPoint overview of their research, considerations, and recommendations. Cusick expressed excitement for the program and opened the floor to questions.

Harris asked if the program will interfere with naturally occurring cultural districts. Cusick said the program will be beneficial to existing districts at any point in their lifecycle.

Watson continued the discussion. He said the initial cohort will likely be between 12-15 districts and said one initial challenge will be how to create a partnership cohort in urban areas. Cusick recommended that the initial definition of Cultural Districts should be loose. Watson added that Cultural Districts should also be seen not only as geographical areas but also the people in the community.

Coppola asked if cultural centers can ask corporate partners for funds. Fitzwater responded and said the pilot program will be the process for refining recommended local funding models. Watson said there will be co-learning between districts.

Gallegos asked if the letter of intent could have a stipulation to protect individuals living in the communities. Cusick answered that it will be addressed because retention of the existing community is important. She also added that it is important to keep in mind that each community is different and there cannot be an overarching rule because of the state's diversity. She said applicants will need to address the ways to sustain the community and artists and referred to the cultural asset inventory tool that will be provided. Gallegos is concerned about the pilot program and said she wants to ensure the community's voice is heard. Fitzwater explained the recommended application process and the ways in which community members would be a part of the process. Gallegos asked if the letter of intent has a clause to protect artists and low-income individuals, in particular to protect individuals with rent control. Cusick and Fitzwater said such a clause is considered. Harris wanted the minutes to acknowledge the concerns of the Council and the importance of considering these concerns during the implementation of the pilot program.

Watson reminded the Council that potential applicants will have site visits to ensure the district is authentic to a local community, and that the CAC will not be a tool of development. Cusick reminded the Council that the concerns of the entire community voiced through the extensive public input process were considered in the recommendations. Lindo shared Gallegos's concern, she reminded the council about the public meeting in Oakland and the deep concern of the community.

Lindo asked if artist colonies/communities could be considered a Cultural District. Fitzwater answered affirmatively. Lindo concluded her comments with concern for low-income artists and residents. Kiburi contributed to the discussion and said all community and Council comments are heart-felt and will be considered in the process of finalizing the application process, including a stipulation that low-income residents be included in the process.

Oliver said he has worked in the area of cultural districts for over 30 years. Oliver spoke of his positive experiences as a developer in this area. He also commented on a program he helped create which requires developers to dedicate a percentage of building development costs to the arts. He concluded his comments stating that building communities where artists are in control and integrated into the community is important.

Harris asked how the guidelines will be constructed. Fitzwater proceeded with an overview of the appendix and stated the application process will open in January. The first step of the application process will be the prompt for the letter of intent, which will also outline how applicants will utilize the designation and will be asked to address the areas of concern. Harris asked to continue discussion later and Fitzwater requested that Council complete discussion at the current time because Cusick was available to answer any concerns. Watson agreed that it is best to conclude the conversation on Cultural Districts and that the minutes will record the concerns of the Council to be addressed.

McGuinness acknowledged the administration of the Cultural Districts pilot will be a large endeavor. Watson responded to McGuinness's concern and said that a new program team member will be hired to oversee this program. McGuinness asked if the program person would be hired from internal staff. Watson added that it will be assigned to a new staff person.

Lindo asked Cusick what the \$5,000 stipend in the recommendations would be used for. Cusick said the amount would be a stipend that may be used to compensate a primary coordinator in the district.

Oliver asked what is expected at the end of the pilot process. Cusick responded that the initial cohort would provide a learning experience to improve future iterations of the program. Cusick reminded the Council that the legislature gave the CAC a mandate to certify Cultural Districts. The recommendations provided in the presentation are the beginning of the program and the execution of the pilot program will be an important part of developing the future of the program, emphasizing that the first cohort will provide the learning opportunity for all parties because the program will not be perfect at its inception. Harris endorsed Cusick's comments.

McGuinness asked if the initial \$5000 provided in the pilot program to each Cultural District and the hiring of new staff warrants asking the legislature for additional money. Watson said it is a good question and reminded the Council of his remarks at the last meeting about the Massachusetts Cultural Districts example, where a state program began without funding and later received a state budget line-item. He continued to acknowledge with the help of champions like Assemblymember Bloom and Senator Allen, it is likely in the future there will be state funds considered for this program.

Baza commented on the recommendations calling for an evaluation team. He asked where would the funds come from and when the call for the evaluation team would be available. Fitzwater responded to Baza's questions. She said a budget is currently being developed and the expenses would come out of the agency's administrative operating budget.

Gallegos asked how the districts will be chosen and who will be on the panel. Fitzwater said the initial panel description is in the Appendix, page 7. Cusick said initially the panel will be multi-sector and multi-discipline.

1:07 Harris adjourned for a Personnel-Closed Session.

IX. Grantee Spotlight: Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network and The Unusual Suspects

At 2:02, a performance and talk was given by two grantees who work in juvenile justice settings, The Unusual Suspects and the Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network. The Unusual Suspects is a member organization of the Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network working with Los Angeles probation program for juveniles. The goal of the program is to transform the juvenile justice system and use art as prevention, intervention, reinvention strategy by giving youth a path into the creative economy. The performance was an excerpt of a play written by the youth in the program.

Harris invited the Council to ask questions of the performers.

X. Public Comment

At 2:34, Harris calls for the Public Comment. The following individuals provided public comment:

■ Patrick Brien, Executive Director at Riverside Arts Council

Asked for more operational support grants and for the CAC to reward organizations for what they already do.

■ Jessica Ceballos, Writ Large Press

She suggested Los Angeles not be part of the pilot Cultural Districts program. She added there is a serious housing problem and the program would cause more problems. Inclusivity and diversity in arts organization executive roles need to be in place before creating a Cultural Districts program because of the potential unintended consequences.

■ Douglas Angulo, SFAI Graduate Student and resident of Riverside

Has taught drawing at community colleges. He emphasized the importance of art courses for non-artists because it helps develop confidence. He also elaborated on the importance of art accessibility and visual literacy.

■ Dr. Gerda Govine Ituarte, COFAC

She spoke about a program she helped institute at City Council. She said poetry is read at the beginning of every City Council meeting.

■ Jacquil Constant, Haiti International Film Festival

Constant shared concerns over the Cultural Districts program. He spoke about his emerging nonprofit film festival that shows international Haitian films to bring together the community. He concluded thanking the CAC for their work.

■ Teresa Flores, Artist and educator Armory

Flores spoke about her positive experience at the Cultural Districts public meeting in Fresno. She thanked Council for coming to Central Valley. She said the community is concerned that rural areas will not be competitive in the program. She also spoke about the mapping mural project found on the website "Creative Fresno."

■ Scott Doyle, Freelance Writer/Leimert Park Village 20/20 Vision Initiative

He expressed his concerns over Cultural Districts. He also spoke about his concern over the program inadvertently becoming tools for developers to value economic growth over community, especially impacting low-income residents.

■ Michael Valentine, California Chamber Orchestra and Murrieta Arts Council

He asked for the Cultural Districts program not to inadvertently leave out the low-income individuals. Valentine added a letter of intent can ensure this does not become a problem. He mentioned his local community is in the beginning stages of forming arts council.

■ Frances Vasquez, Inlandia Institute

Thanked the Council for going to Riverside. She asked the Council to consider the importance of the literary arts. Vasquez recounted that the Inland region was hit hard during the recession with a high unemployment rate. She said that the arts and culture helped people in the region heal. They had free writing workshops and author events. Thanked Council again for being art advocates.

■ Collette Lee, Riverside Arts Academy

She is the President of Riverside Arts Academy. Lee provided a background of the academy and recounted how their program has helped over five thousand children from underserved communities access arts education.

■ Tanya Ko Hong, Korean American Writers Association

She elaborated on a program she authored that will share immigrant stories in January. She wanted to recognize Korean poets in her L.A. Korean writers group. She spoke about the linguistic gap between first generation Korean poets and writers in the community. She said that it is important to have groups of "inter-language" literacy through the arts. She manages a program that addresses issues in the Asian community and she wants to celebrate Korean-American history.

■ Margery Haupt, City of Riverside

She spoke about Riverside's commitment to the arts and discussions in the community. She acknowledged the city's commitment to the arts and its fiscal impact. Haupt also shared her thoughts on Cultural Districts as a positive opportunity for a community like Riverside.

■ Barbara Babcock, San Bernardino City Fine Arts Commission

She introduced herself as the Vice Chair of the San Bernardino City Fine Arts Commission. She elaborated on the commission's commitment to commercial developments in her city to invest in the arts. She concluded thanking the Council for their work.

■ Tammie Blackmore, CA PTA Arts Committee/CA Alliance for Arts Education

Thanked the Council for being in Riverside. She spoke about her involvement in the legislation for K-12 arts education and the PTA's partnership with the CAC as leadership members of Create CA. She shared her enthusiasm for the VIA program.

■ Richard Archer, Moreno Valley Cultural Arts Foundation

Archer began by thanking Brien for his dedication, the resources he has made available, and the insights he gave Archer to build the nonprofit he currently runs. Archer shared that Moreno Valley had the highest foreclosure and unemployment rates during the recession. Then he elaborated on the social justice and art programs the gallery has, which has made it a key cultural asset in Moreno Valley.

XI. Council Updates

At 3:00, Harris asked the Council to provide updates.

McGuinness began the discussion with her visit to the symphony at the Paramount Theater. She also visited the Richmond Arts Center. She concluded her updates with mention of her participation in Women's Board at the Oakland Museum.

Baza congratulated Cusick and Jackson for their excellent work with Cultural Districts. He acknowledged his participation in multiple public input meetings and the complexity of the issue. He reassured the individuals in the public that the work being done is considering their expressed concern for the low-income individuals in the communities, and that their voices were being heard.

Beasley spoke about the California Armenian Caucus's "Human to Human Interaction" scholarship award deadline March 1st. She acknowledged the work of Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian. Beasley said the first prize will have their work displayed in the Capitol. Assemblyman Kansen Chu, Arts Chair for the Assembly, expressed his admiration to Beasley regarding the CAC's work. Beasley also spoke of the Superintendent of L.A. School District's desire to work with CAC. Beasley concluded her updates with her visit to the Harmony Project. Beasley mentioned Wyman's gift of candy canes and cookies to the Council though she was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

Lindo acknowledged the public's concerns over gentrification in Oakland and Cultural Districts. Lindo also mentioned a conversation with Maureen Hurley regarding Poetry Out Loud (POL) in Oakland schools. She said that Hurley has had challenges finding a person to supervise the program. Lindo said she contacted individuals in her network to help and Hurley has received responses to help more high schools to pursue POL. Lindo acknowledged the CAC's dedication to the literary arts. Lindo also discussed community concerns after the Ghost Ship fire and spoke of a filmmaker connected to a CAC grantee that died in the fire. She also spoke about the City of Oakland looking at funding to provide housing for artists in the city and the contentious relationship between artists and local businesses.

Coppola mentioned the presence of his son Dexter and his wife. He also spoke of the first film by Rocky Cappella on a juvenile justice hall. He said the funds made by the film will go to juvenile halls. Coppola said that he plays a godfather in the film. During the filming, the crew was affected by the Oakland fire because the person working on the lights was at Ghost Ship and was injured during the fire. Coppola also spoke about a story he is working on about Eden Ahbez, a Californian Beatnik, who wrote "Nature Boy" performed by Nate King Cole.

Gallegos provided a summary of a financial summit she attended. She said met with Heidi Kershaw, Director of the California State Summer School Arts Foundation and Kershaw sent her greetings to the Council. Gallegos also spoke about a conversation she had with the Department of Transportation about a new initiative called “Speed Kills” to use arts to educate on safety. She also spoke about a study from the Center for Nonprofit Management.

Harris said the reports are wide-ranging and acknowledged the momentum for the arts is growing. He also spoke about the Cultural Districts and the prompt for the letter of intent. Harris said that it is important for the application to make a firm statement on the Council’s stance and concerns to address the unintended consequences.

Watson responded to Harris’s comments. He then went on to state that many individuals at the Capitol are worried about the potential impacts on California given the current national climate. He wanted to remind the Council that the election could have unintended consequences on the overall state budget, and as a result, CAC’s budget. He says the risk is that there may not be room to grow in this period.

XII. Future Agenda Items

Harris opened the floor to future agenda items. Coppola asked to see the minutes from the very first Council meeting. He said that there is a lot that could be learned from the first Council because they were all artists. Watson shared background of the first Council members. Lindo remarked that there are many working artists currently serving on the Council.

Coppola said the president of the San Francisco Art Institute, Gordon Knox, should to come speak to the Council. Coppola spoke of the transformative role of the arts in society and the importance to address how artists can survive while making art. Watson said the issue of housing would be agendaized for the following meeting.

Coppola asked if the SFAI graduate housing at Fort Mason could apply for a grant. Gilbride told Coppola to review the grant guidelines.

Gallegos asked if a grant workshop would be held after the meeting. Gilbride answered affirmatively.

XIII. Adjournment

The Council honored the memory of Gordon Davidson, Leonard Cohen, Pauline Olivera, Ramon “Chunky” Sanchez, Will Sims, and the victims of the Oakland Ghost Ship Fire. Harris adjourns the meeting with closing comments.