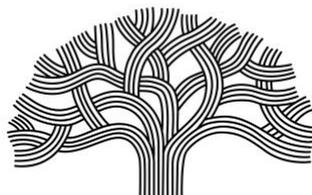


CITY OF OAKLAND



CITY OF OAKLAND

Cultural Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

4:00 – 6:30 PM

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, 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 use this link to join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/93015302079>

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +16699006833,,93015302079# or +14086380968,,93015302079#

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 +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923
Webinar ID: 930 1530 2079

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/aeDI1x3HAF>

COMMENT: DUE TO THE SUSPENSION OF THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE ALL PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS WILL BE TAKEN UNDER AGENDA ITEMS 6 AND 9.

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 • To comment by Zoom video conference, click the “Raise Your Hand” button to request to speak when Public Comment 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.



Cultural Affairs Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, September 29, 2020
4:00 – 6:30 PM

AGENDA

Roll Call/Call to Order

- 1. Welcome & Acknowledgement of Land**
- 2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes from July 27, 2020**
- 3. Call to Presence**
- 4. Cultural Affairs Division Manager's Report**
- 5. Update on Cultural Site Visits**
- 6. Public Comment**
- 7. Ad-Hoc Team: Covid-19 Recovery & Re-imagine**
- 8. Invited Speakers on COVID-19 and Impacts on the Cultural Sector**
 - **Oakland Art Murmur**, Jean Marie Durant, Board President
 - **Black Cultural Zone**, Randolph Belle
 - **SambaFunk!**, Damon Rowden, MSN, RN, Board Member
 - **Alameda County Public Health Department**
- 9. Public Comment**
- 10. Commissioner Discussion Period**
- 11. Artist Spotlight: Tureeda Mikell**
- 12. Announcements**
- 13. Closing**

Next regular meeting: October 26, 2020 via Teleconference

Adjourn

Oakland Cultural Affairs Division of the Economic & Workforce Development Department
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 9th fl. Oakland, CA 94612
www.oaklandculturalarts.org

♿ This meeting location is wheelchair accessible. To request disability-related accommodations or to request American Sign Language (ASL), Cantonese, Mandarin, or Spanish language interpreter, please email NBalram@oaklandca.gov or call (510) 238-4949 Or 711 (for Relay Service) at least five (5) business days before the meeting. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting as a courtesy to attendees with chemical sensitivities.

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 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.

會場有適合輪椅出入設施。需要殘障輔助設施, 手語, 西班牙語, 粵語或國語翻譯服務, 請在會議前五個工作天電郵 NBalram@oaklandca.gov 或致電 (510) 238-4949 或 711 (電話傳達服務)。請避免塗搽香氛產品, 參加者可能對化學成分敏感。

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 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



CITY OF OAKLAND

Cultural Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting – Minutes

Monday, July 27, 2020

4:00 – 6:00 PM

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

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Roberto Bedoya, Neha Balram, Jim MacIlvaine, Denise Pate, Kristen Zarembo

Guests: Dr. Ayodele Nzinga

*Indicates partial attendance

1. **Welcome**

Meet was called to order by Commission Chair Diane Sanchez at 4:00 PM.

2. **Centering Exercise**

A recognition of the meeting space as Huichin territory, the unceded land of the Chochenyo Ohlone led by Commissioner Jennifer Easton. She asked for the group to reflect on the following questions:

- How does this acknowledgement relate to the work you are doing?
- What intentions do you have to disrupt colonialism in support of Ohlone and other native communities beyond this territory acknowledgement?

3. **Tribute to Rep. John Lewis and Rev. C.T. Vivian**

A spoken and musical tribute led by Commissioner Kev Choice in memory of the recently departed Representative John Lewis and Reverend C.T. Vivian.

4. **Overview of the Cultural Affairs Commission**

Commissioner Chair Diane Sanchez provided a brief overview of the re-establishment of the Cultural Affairs Commission and a description of its roles and responsibilities as advocates and ambassadors for arts and culture in Oakland.

5. **Action Item #1: Vote on Vice Chair Position**

Commissioners cast their vote for Vice Chair for either Commissioner Kev Choice and Commissioner J.K. Fowler. Commissioner Choice was elected to the Vice Chair position with seven votes. One abstention and one absence.

6. **Public Comment**

The following members of the public made comments: Indi McCCasey, Deborah Vaughn, Zakiya Harris.

7. **Cultural Affairs Division Manager's Report**

Roberto Bedoya provided updates and comments on the following items:

- a. **FY20/21 Budget** - cuts to the Division resulted in the zeroing out of support for the City's Festival Fund, zeroing out the City's sponsorship of the Art & Soul Festival and a modest cut to our grantmaking program. The budget deductions were linked to Transit Occupant Tax and the loss of those revenues.
- b. **Cultural Funding Program** - Postponed spring 2020 grant round. Cultural Affairs Division secured resources needed to honor the 2nd year Organization Assistance FY20-21 will include categories for: Neighborhood Voices, Youth Voices, and Spaces.
- c. **East Bay/Oakland Relief Fund for Individuals in the Arts - \$416K** allocated to Oakland artists in June; Seeded through the Mayor Schaaf's COVID-19 Relief Fund and the Cultural Affairs Division
- d. **Oakland Creative Works** (Organization Projects & Individual Artist Awards) - Designed to invest in our diverse communities that has been impacted by COVID-19, our contracted economy, the calls for equity and the work of realizing a Just City. Will support projects that address our civic needs, foster social cohesion and create feelings of belonging in a time of physical distancing by offering up ways that animate civic recovery and well-being.
- e. **Racial Equity Impact Analysis** - Oakland-based firm LeaderSpring hired to conduct analysis of Cultural Affairs Division programs as part of phase 1 of the Cultural Plan.
- f. **Oakland Murals Art for the Movement** - The East Oakland Black Cultural Zone Collaborative and the Black Cultural Zone Community Development Corporation (collectively the Black Cultural Zone or the BCZ), along with other Black-led organizations and Black artists, are leading this effort to hold the conversation and frame a path forward, which will include working with artists to re-mount ongoing exhibitions. The Oakland Museum of California, Oakland Art Murmur, and a host of allies have committed to support the Black Cultural Zone's goal of lifting Black voices in the pursuit of justice and equality.
- g. **Belonging in Oakland: A Just City Fund** - new multi-year program that turns to Oakland cultural practitioners of color to radically reimagine a racially just city. In Year One of the program, Reflect & Reimagine grants will support breathing space and idea generation for what a just Oakland could look like, feel like, and be. 113 applications were received; 12 Reflect & Reimagine grants of \$25,000 each; award announcement expected late summer-early fall
- h. CARES Funds – Cultural Affairs Division received \$1.8 Million funds from Federal Government; funds will be used to support individual artists and arts organizations with the assistance of an intermediary non-profit organization; funds need to be spent by December 30, 2020.

8. **Open Forum**

The following members of the public made comments: Indi McCCasey, Jean Marie Durant, Destiny Muhammed

9. **Commissioner Comment Period**

10. **Ad Hoc Teams Chair Report Out**

a. **Community Cultural Development**

- Spaces: Community Benefits Agreement
- Festival Culture-Cultural Commons: Cultural Mapping
- Civic Engagement/Civic Narrative of Belonging:
 - Poet Laureate Program
 - Fellows Program

b. Covid-19 Recovery & Re-Imagine

- Racial Equity
 - Devoted to working with Oakland’s arts and culture economy to strategize how City resources are accessed, as well as adequately and equitably, distributed, especially in ways that better serve artists and communities disproportionately affected by displacement and poverty.
- Cultural Infrastructure support - Teaching Artists, Individual Artists, Cultural Gig Workers, Arts Organizations
 - What do we need to understand in order to support artists to thrive in spaces of technology and innovation? What assistance do our teaching artists need in order to effectively remote teach? What are ways artists and gig workers can monetize arts-based teaching experiences?
- Jobs Program for Cultural Workers - Artists and cultural workers positioned to lead workforce trainings and public health protocols for events, festivals and concerts (post-Covid-19)

c. Revenue Streams & Advocacy

- Build trust within the arts and culture communities
- Research current and potential revenue streams into the Cultural Affairs Division
- Partnerships: Grow cross-sector relationships internal/external relationships
- Platform: Improve Cultural Affairs portal for more equitable access to information

11. Artist Spotlight: Ayodele Nzinga

Commissioner J.K. Fowler introduced Dr. Ayodele Nzinga who recited her poem called “Roll Call” (poem on next page).

12. Announcements

Commissioner Williams announced that Samba Funk! is moving forward with the Oakland Carnival virtually in August on Fridays from 7:00 – 10:00 PM and on September 4 they will host a live virtual Carnival Dance Party. Commissioner Choice announced that his band Black London will perform live virtually at the Piedmont Piano Company on August 13 6:00 PM. Commissioner Roundtree-Baaqee announced new online art auction she founded and curates called “The Art of It All” (Instagram: theartofitall_bayarea) supporting local artists and non-profits.

13. Closing

Commission Chair Sanchez thanked the Commissioners and the public for participating and staff and KTOP for their support and assistance.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM

ROLL CALL

Ayodele Nzinga

the curtains are pulled back
lights up & here we sit
in the mist of the muddle of Babylon
lead by mumblecrats
who babble on
wielding ink like a wand
stalwart stewards of the status quo
deciding the borders between here & there
& who has the right to air
we are here
in the doorway
breathless
after crossing redlines
after sundown
after being
studied vilified
unbenignly neglected
surrounded & drowned
washed on to sidewalks
tent cities under freeways
& next to exit signs pointing
the way out of town
after generations of
building up
pouring out
& sanctifying
after suns setting on our sons
through wars on drugs
& other wars on us
balloon bombs eating houses
& the ground they stood on
after leveling those posted on
by trains ran on us
we are here
realities ruptured
as wheels turn
deals are made
the status quo safe
is a town just a place
or the people
hearts beating
drums sounding
something about to burst
we are here
amongst the jackhammers & cranes
as the ground shrinks
and the sky recedes
water rising
with bruised real lives
that read like make believe

instructed by history & memory
no resting place
since refugees dreamed
the shades of blue
flowing from & to
the 16th St. train station
building in the narrows
determined to live
the narrative
of us thriving
we are here
the storm again
arrival called for
by survival
here in the doorway
& we see you
we see you
? are your eyes open
tomorrow is listening
? can you hear us
shrill horns
rumbling piano keys
refrains of constraint
echoing through halls
REPORT THIS AD
stretched like shadow
painted on tall walls & eclipsed
by taller walls
beyond resource seeking recourse
can you hear us?
starving on broken promises
we won't take beads & fire water this time
are your eyes open
all roads lead here now
to bridges
built or burnt
cymbals crashing like waves
we will write the story of
you this place this time
this moment calling
across the land for
heroes tall dreams
all in the pot
you with us or you not
speak now or mumble on
& that's what we'll put in the song
we are the storm
The Town
forever embedded in discourses of liberty
we remember to remember

bleeding for the world
that's still watching still waiting
we are here
speak clearly they are listening
here in the midst of the muddle
of Babylon decide which character
you will play in the history
we make
the path is clear
the stage is yours
but the story is ours
we are here
the cameras are rolling
& everybody pays for their mistakes
no retakes
this is one shot
ready or not
close ups baby
we here
so clear some seats
set out the feast
we here to make sure
everybody eats
no surrender no retreat
stand up straight
so we can see
if you hit the right notes
this your moment
don't choke
yup that mic is hot
sang
make it a banger
we can bang
from the flats to the hills
rising in effervescence over the lake
the sound of the peoples will
let it reverberate
while we cruise
all beautiful free to
be
in crystal clarity of early mornings
in the balmy bloom of late night
in the glow
of our own lovely light
& just chill
cuz' we here
still
film at 11



author portrait by Arthur Johnstone

Ayodele Nzinga is the founding producing director of the Lower Bottom Playaz, Inc. Founded in 1999, they are Oakland's oldest North American Theater Company, currently in the 21st Season of continuous production. Described as a renaissance woman, Nzinga is considered a multi-disciplined creative force—she is a producing director, playwright, poet, dramaturg, actress, performance consultant, educator, and community advocate. She is the founder of Lower Bottom Playaz Summer Theater Day Camp, established in 2017, a performance-based literacy camp that serves youth 5-18 free of charge. She is the Founding Director of the Black Arts Movement Business District Community Development Corporation, Oakland, (BAMBD CDC) and Founding Producer of BAMBD FEST, an annual multi-venue month-long arts and cultural festival celebrating the Black Arts Movement and Business District in Oakland, CA. Nzinga holds an MFA in Writing and Consciousness, and a Ph.D. in Transformative Learning. Work for the page includes *The Horse Eaters* published by Nomadic Press, *A Narrative Inquiry into Performance Pedagogy*, work in *Vision Magazine*, two volumes of the *Journal of Pan African Studies*, *14 Hills Journal*, *Magnolia Journal*, and in the anthologies *Environmental Terrorist* and *Say it Loud*. Nzinga's work for the stage has been reviewed internationally. Stage productions include *Mama at Twilight: Death by Love*, *Mack: A Gangsta's Tale*, *Lifer*, and *Beyond the Bars: Growing Home*. Film credits include *The Everlasting Coconut Tree*, *So Beautiful*, *Protection Shields*, *Cleanse*, *The Story of a King*, and *Tent City* produced by 393 Film. Nzinga is credited with directing the longest-running African American play in North America, *One Day in the Life*, and is the only director to produce a fully-staged play in the iconic African American Museum and Library at Oakland, CA. Nzinga is a Cal-Shakes Artist Investigator Alumni, the founding Artistic Director of the original Recovery Theater, a Helen Crocker Russell Arts Leadership Fellow, and a member of the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame, inducted for contributions to Arts and Culture. Nzinga is recognized by Theater Bay Area as one of the 40 faces in the Bay Area that changed the face of theater in the Bay Area. She is also recognized by the August Wilson House as the only director in the world to direct the complete August Wilson Century Cycle in chronological order.

Her full-length book of poetry, *SorrowLand Oracle*, is forthcoming with Oakland-based Nomadic Press and will be available in 2020.

Cultural Affairs Commission – September 29, 2020 – Guest Speaker Bios

Agenda Item #8 Invited Speakers on COVID-19 and Impacts on the Cultural Sector

Oakland Art Murmur, Jean Marie Durant, Board President

A curious thinker, change agent and leader of creative teams for retail organizations such as Old Navy, Gap, Gymboree, Blockbuster and most recently Banana Republic. Jean is passionate about growing Oakland's diverse and electric visual arts communities by connecting the public to the arts and creative spaces that make the Town so special. You'll see Jean around Oakland riding her Public bike, walking Lake Merritt or searching out new street murals and pop-up art spaces.

For more information on the Oakland Art Murmur, please visit

<https://www.oaklandartmurmur.org/>

Black Cultural Zone, Randolph Belle

Randolph Belle has enjoyed close to 25 years as an artist, entrepreneur, and program administrator. A San Francisco native living and working in Oakland since 1991, has launched numerous commercial and civic endeavors, encouraging responsible community development and capitalizing on the vast wealth of arts activity in the Bay Area. Randolph is the founder and Executive Director of Support Oakland Artists, a nonprofit art and community development corporation that works to enhance local artists' ability to thrive and fuel economic development throughout the region. Randolph has served as the President of the Board of Directors at Pro Arts Gallery in Oakland and Vice Chair for the City of Oakland's Cultural Affairs Commission. Randolph is currently on the board of the Museum of Children's Art, the Oakland Film Society, the Advisory Board of the Crucible and is the Education and Workforce Development Director for the Oakland Media Center.

For more information about the Black Cultural Zone, please visit

<https://www.blackculturalzone.org/>

SambaFunk!, Damon Rowden, MSN, RN, Board Member

Damon Rowden is currently the Clinical Adult Services Director at Kaiser Permanente Fremont and an active board member and performing with SambaFunk! He's been a member of SambaFunk! since 2012.

Damon began his nursing career as a staff RN at Highland Hospital where he worked on a Telemetry/Oncology inpatient unit. He began his nursing leadership career as the manager of the Intermediate Care Step Down Unit at Highland Hospital where he managed for over 5 years. Damon moved on to Kaiser Permanente Fremont to take a position as the Clinical Adult Services Director for Nursing.

Prior to his career in Nursing, Damon enjoyed a 12-year career in Television Production, working for the City and County of San Francisco's Government channel SFGOV. There he was staff production member prior to becoming the program director. He participated in the founding of SFGOV2, the entertainment arm of SFGOV TV.

Damon Graduated from Clark Atlanta University with a degree in Mass Communications with a concentration in Television production. Damon completed his nursing education at Merritt College before moving on to Chamberlain College of Nursing for his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Nursing. Damon has three children and enjoys playing the bass guitar and traveling throughout the world.

For more information about SambaFunk!, please visit <https://sambafunk.com/>

Alameda County Public Health Department

For up-to-date information about Covid-19 and public health in Alameda County, please visit <http://www.acphd.org/>

Agenda Item #11 Artist Spotlight: Tureeda Mikell

Tureeda 'Ture Ade' Mikell, Story Medicine Woman, award winning poet published nationally and internationally, Qigong healer, workshop leader, storyteller, lyricist, performance artist, astrologer, and Bay Area Writing Project Teacher Consultant Fellow, '96; is an activist for holism. She has published over 70, CA Poets in the Schools student anthologies since 1989 throughout 5 Bay Area school districts, and perform storytelling in schools, libraries, and universities, public and private events including the National Association of Black Storytellers, Lawrence Hall and Golden Gate Academy of Sciences, MoAD, Museum of the African Diaspora, Randall and Oakland Museums, and was featured poet/storyteller for The Black Panther's 50th Anniversary, Octavia Butler's 70th Birthday, and an Eth-Noh-Tec Nu Wa delegate as poet/storyteller in Beijing, China in collaboration with the University of Beijing in 2018. And most recent performance was for the deYoung Museum's Soul of a Nation, February 2020.