



CITY OF OAKLAND

Cultural Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 25, 2022

5:32 – 7:54 PM

Members in Attendance: Diane Sanchez (Chair), Michelle Mush Lee (Vice Chair), Roy Chan, Kev Choice, Jennifer Easton, J. K. Fowler, Vanessa Whang, Theo Aytchan Williams

Members Absent: Arnell Pleasants, Shannon Price

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

Guest Speakers: Nadia Elbgal (Oakland Youth Poet Laureate), Ashley Bonifacio (Oakland Public Library)

Roll Call/Call to Order

1. Welcome

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

2. Land Acknowledgement

Vice Chair Lee led a land acknowledgement stating that we are meeting on the unceded land of the Ohlone people.

3. Action Item 1: Adopt Resolution 22-07-06 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 22-07-06 made by Commissioner Whang; seconded by Commissioner Fowler.

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

4. Action Item 2: Approval of Minutes from May 23, 2022

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 23, 2022 made by Commissioner Choice; seconded by Commissioner Easton.

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

5. Artist Spotlight: Nadia Elbgal, 2022 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate

Commissioner Fowler introduced Nadia Elbgal, the 2022 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate. Nadia graduated from Berkeley High School this past June and is currently taking a gap year and serving Oakland as its 2022 Youth Poet Laureate. She is an active member in her community where she has mentored Yemeni students in OUSD elementary schools and is an activist for the Middle Eastern and Muslim communities.

Nadia is a songwriter who uses poetry daily and feels it is essential to writing her music. Poetry has always made her feel empowered and hopeful. It is a place where she can get her emotions out and is a form of therapy for her.

Nadia shared four original poems.

6. Cultural Affairs Division Manager's Update

Staffing Concerns

Chair Sanchez noted that Cultural Funding Program Coordinator position has still not been posted or filled, since Denise Pate's departure in October 2021.

Budget

Roberto Bedoya walked the Commission through the FY22-23 Grantmaking Scenarios Bedoya clarified that new funds allocated to Economic Workforce Development Department by the Mayor's office is directed to the Special Events Permitting Division with the intention of animating or revitalizing Frank Ogawa Plaza (\$350k) and the Lake (\$150k) with commerce and vendors. While Bedoya is an advisor, he is not sure what cultural elements will be infused in the result.

7. Public Comment

Comments were made by Assata Olugbala and Queen Ari of Jump Squad.

8. Action Item 3: Vice Chair Vote (Term August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023)

Chair Sanchez thanked Vice Chair Lee for her service in the Vice Chair position.

Commissioner Kev Choice was the only candidate for the Vice Chair position. The Commissioners voted unanimously in favor of Commissioner Choice to serve as the next Vice Chair.

9. Cultural Affairs Commission Chair's Update

Chair Sanchez asked interested Commissioners to reach out to her regarding the staffing issues. She noted that an email with a chart explaining Commissioner terms will be distributed to CAC after the meeting so that Commissioners can start thinking about recruitment and timing. Sanchez proceeded to highlight the priority areas that the ad hoc work would be required in the new fiscal year including: advocacy around the new mayor's budget, District 6 & 7 outreach and relationship building. She welcomed the CAC to provide other suggestions for priority areas. Commissioner Easton suggested a General Plan group and a focused advocacy group. Commissioner Choice suggested focused advocacy for Cultural Affairs, communications, and youth programming. Commissioner Whang noted that the CAC should deepen and strengthen the work the CAC has started, improve communications with the general public and Cultural Affairs staff.

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

A report out was postponed for a later meeting when the other CAC members could be present. Commissioner Choice noted that the members of the District 6&7 Ad Hoc Team:

- Kevin Choice - CAC
- Arnell Pleasants -CAC
- Shannon Price - CAC
- Carolyn Johnson - Black Cultural Zone
- Selena Wilson - EOYDC
- Candice Elder - East Oakland Collective
- Champ Bailey - Scraper Bike Team

11. Ad Hoc Team Update: Community Cultural Development – Downtown Oakland Specific Plan

Commissioner Chan provided an update on the Downtown Oakland Specific Plan and the CAC's involvement in providing researched and written comment on Zoning Amendments that impact our cultural community. These amendments will be reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission and later the City Council by the end of 2022. The complete presentation slide deck is included at the end of the meeting minutes. Commissioner Chan noted that a letter with recommendations about the zoning amendments will be submitted to the Joanna Winter in the Planning Department after this meeting.

12. Ad Hoc Team Update: Oakland Mayoral Candidate Town Hall

Commissioner Fowler noted that an Ad Hoc Team includes himself, Commissioners Lee, Choice and Williams with assistance from Chair Sanchez and other Commissioners as requested. The plan is to host an arts Town Hall at Life is Living Festival in West Oakland on October 8 at the public library. Commissioner Lee expressed that the CAC found it valuable to highlight Oakland's arts and culture community prior to the election and use the Town Hall as a platform in the CAC's advocacy efforts in 2023. The Commissioners discussed and determined that all candidates for Mayor should be invited to participate.

13. Open Forum

No comment was made by the public.

14. Announcements& Acknowledgements

The Commissioners spent some time sharing the various civic and cultural activities they have participated in or attended.

15. Closing

A motion to end the meeting was made by Commissioner Fowler, seconded by Commissioner Williams.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.