



CITY OF OAKLAND

Cultural Affairs Commission

Cancellation Notice

The City of Oakland Cultural Affairs Commission meeting on Monday, November 27, 2023 has been cancelled due to a special meeting of the City Council being called into session.

**Next regular meeting: January 22, 2024, 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
Regular Meeting Agenda
Monday, November 27, 2023
5:30 – 8:30 PM**

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

How to Make a Comment:

All Cultural Affairs Commission meetings are conducted in person. The Commission no longer accepts comments via Zoom or telephone. Dialogue during the meeting with Commissioners, City staff, or its guest speakers is not permitted outside of the two comment periods.

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.

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

Or One tap mobile :

+14086380968,,81844481118#,,, *262749# US (San Jose)

+16694449171,,81844481118#,,, *262749# US

Or Telephone:

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

877 853 5257 US Toll Free

888 475 4499 US Toll Free

833 548 0276 US Toll Free

833 548 0282 US Toll Free



CITY OF OAKLAND

**Cultural Affairs Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda
Monday, November 27, 2023
5:30 – 8:30 PM**

AGENDA

Roll Call/Call to Order

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Land Acknowledgement + Official City of Oakland Motto/Love Acknowledgement**
- 3. Action Item 1: Approval of Minutes from September 25, 2023**
- 4. Cultural Affairs Division Update**
- 5. Public Comment**
- 6. Cultural Affairs Commission Chair's Update**
- 7. Ad Hoc Team Updates**
- 8. Open Forum**
- 9. Announcements & Acknowledgements**
- 10. Closing**

Next regular meeting: Monday, January 22, 2024 at 5:30 – 8:30 PM

♿ 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. Để 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

LOVE LIFE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge "Love Life" as our motto as we denounce violence in all forms and the conditions that create violence. We commit to working against these conditions to create a safe space for all to operate in Love and Peace on our streets.

We acknowledge that when we demonstrate love we also manifest qualities of respect, kindness, grace, truth, understanding, humbleness, and forgiveness towards each other. We commit to acts of love as an intentional force to generate tangible solutions, in regards to all policies, declarations, recommendations, resolutions, appointments, and actions.

We recognize as leaders, we must set an example and precedent for those who have entrusted us with these duties. We accept the responsibility to make our city and community a better place by bringing inspiration instead of insults, contributions instead of complaints, constructive feedback instead of criticism, and even in our passion for all issues no matter how difficult, we lead with the guiding principle of love.

We ask that you share with us in this commitment and practice of exhibiting love, good faith, positive energy, and respect in how you comment, present information, report out, or inform. We appreciate all contributions to this space and even when expressing hurt, harm, disappointment, dispute, or disagreement, we request that we lead with love in your heart.

We acknowledge Love in practice even when there are differences in opinions, strategies, procedures, and process, and we will seek to find common ground, and tangible solutions that demonstrate love for our city, its residents, our community, and all constituents.

We acknowledge and recognize that when we model this practice of love, it will establish a norm that will resonate and be exemplified throughout our city and create the change we all wish to see in our communities.

We acknowledge that when we lead with love we are able to uplift a thriving city rooted in equity, equality, justice, inclusion, and opportunity for all regardless of race, gender, age, class, socio economic status, nationality, religion, sexual preference, housing status, or political affiliation.

We acknowledge that when we uplift love, we uplift those impacted by violence of all and any kind. We acknowledge that when we uplift love we uplift traditions of our ancestors, our arts, our culture, our businesses, our educators, our unhoused, our civic servants, and all who contribute to the fabric and well being of our community.

We commit to the action of "Love Life" as our motto and mantra.

LOVE LIFE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (abridged version)

We acknowledge that in service to our beloved city of Oakland, and all its citizens, adhering to the city of Oakland's official motto, "Oakland Love Life" we enter into this space committed to embody love as our guiding principle.

We acknowledge Love Life as our motto as we denounce violence in all forms and the conditions that create it.

We acknowledge that when we demonstrate love, we also exhibit respect and kindness towards each other.

We commit to acts of love as an intentional force to generate tangible solutions, in regards to all of our actions.

We recognize as leaders, we must set an example and precedent for those in community who have entrusted us with these duties.

We welcome and appreciate all contributions to this space, and even when expressing disagreement, we request that we lead with love in your heart.

We seek to find common ground, and tangible solutions that demonstrate love for our city, its residents, and all constituents.

We acknowledge that when we lead with love we are able to uplift a thriving city rooted in equity, equality, justice, inclusion, and opportunity for all.

We commit to the action of "Love Life" as our motto and mantra.



CITY OF OAKLAND

Cultural Affairs Commission
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 25, 2023
5:35 – 8:40 PM

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

Members Absent: Ilana Lipsett, Shannon Price

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

Guest Speakers: Laurie Earp (Huey P. Newton Foundation)

Roll Call/Call to Order

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Chair Whang at 5:35 PM.

2. Land Acknowledgement + Official City of Oakland Motto/Love Acknowledgement

As part of Chair Whang's Land Acknowledgement, she reminded meeting participants and listeners about the [Shuumi Land Tax](#).

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

3. Informational Presentation: Black Panther Party National Monument (Laurie Earp, Earp Events & Fundraising)

Laurie Earp, the Special Projects Lead of Huey P. Newton Foundation, presented an informational report to the Commission on the Foundation's efforts to designate [DeFremery Park as a U.S. National Park](#). This is an effort preserve highlight and preserve the history of Oakland's Black Panther Party. The Foundation is petitioning the National Park Service for the creation of a national monument in DeFremery Park through the deed of a parcel of land. This will not change open space designation at the park.

4. Public Comment

Daghe Esoimeme introduce himself to the commission.

5. Debrief on Advocacy Activities

Commissioner Whang thanked the Commissioners and the arts community for their advocacy efforts during the City’s latest budget process. She acknowledged Commissioner Lipsett’s efforts to create an online petition that resulted in approximately 1,200 signatures and comments from the community. She also acknowledged the Commission’s efforts to attend town hall and City Council meetings and schedule one-on-one meetings with elected officials. She invited the Commissioners present to debrief on their individual activities. Commissioner Santi Owen noted that he and Commissioners Lee and Lipsett met with Councilmember Kalb. He and Commissioner Easton met with Councilmember Ramachandran. Commissioner Santi Owen also noted that he co-hosted a virtual advocacy town hall with Visit Oakland and arts community leaders. Commissioner Easton noted that she spoke to a member of Assemblymember Mia Bonta’s staff to talk about arts policy at the state level. Vice Chair Choice noted that he attended Council President Bas’ town hall meeting and City Council meeting. He also share the petition with his network. Commissioner Williams noted that the Commission should strategize its framing of arts as essential workers.

6. Cultural Affairs Division Update

Roberto Bedoya provided an update on the Cultural Affairs Division’s activities. He invited Raquel Iglesias (Cultural Funding Program) and Kristen Zarembo (Public Art Program) to provide updates on their program’s activities.

7. Action Item 1: Approval of Minutes from May 22, 2023

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 22, 2023, made by Commissioner Easton; seconded by Chair Whang.

Choice	AYE
Easton	AYE
Lee	AYE
Lipsett	Absent
Santi Owen	AYE
Price	Absent
Whang	AYE
Williams	AYE

The motion passed.

8. Action Item 2: Vote on the Vice Chair Position (Term: July 2023 - July 2024)

The Commission voted to re-elect Commissioner Choice to the Vice Chair position for a term from July 2023 – July 2024.

9. Acknowledgement of Service on the City of Oakland's Cultural Affairs Commission

The Commission took a moment to recognize Commissioners Theo Aytchan Williams, Diane Sanchez, and Shannon Price for their contributions to the Commission and service to Oakland's cultural community, who were coming off of the Commission.

10. Cultural Affairs Commission Chair's Update

Chair Whang She invited the Commissioners to participate in an open discussion regarding their priorities over the next year. She noted that the Commissioners should work on a its community engagement strategy, so members of the public and cultural sector are actively invited to attend Commission meetings. She also noted that advocacy efforts in the midcycle budget and filling the five vacancies on the Commission are additional priorities. Vice Chair Choice agreed with Chair Whang's priorities, adding that Commissioners should be more active in advising elected officials and work more closely with the City's PIO's to increase visibility for arts and culture. He also noted that the advocacy ask should include a substantial increase for the Cultural Affairs Division. Commissioner Santi Owen noted that the Commission should recognize community members for their contributions to Oakland's cultural sector at meetings. Commissioner Williams agreed that the Commission's visibility and accessibility should be a priority. Commissioner Easton acknowledged the City's boards and commissions reception. She noted that Commission should broaden its approach to its advocacy strategy and draw the connection between arts and economic development. Commissioner Lee noted that community engagement needs to include intentional outreach efforts that make underrepresented communities feel seen.

11. Open Forum

No comment from the public was made.

12. Announcements & Acknowledgements

Commissioners took a moment to provide updates on activities and funding opportunities for the arts.

Commissioner Williams took a moment to remember Melanie Wofford who passed away recently.

13. Closing

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

DISCUSSION ITEM: DRAFT CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY FOR THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

OAKLAND GOVERNMENT ETHICS ACT

In 2014, the [Oakland City Council passed the Government Ethics Act \(GEA\)](#) which provides a comprehensive framework of ethics laws for public servants in Oakland, and pertain to your service as a Commissioner. Provisions in the GEA include conflicts of interests, misuse of City position/resources, gift restrictions, and more. The GEA mirrors the [State of California's Political Reform Act \(PRA\)](#) and codifies state ethics laws at the local level.

Conflicts of Interests and Personal Gain

The laws pertaining to conflicts of interest are broad and complex. It is important for Commissioners participating in City government to have a basic understanding of conflict laws so they know how to spot a potential conflict situation, should one arise.

Most financial conflict of interest laws are contained in the California Political Reform Act of 1974 ("PRA"). The PRA states that a financial conflict of interest may exist when a person influences a decision that will materially affect an economic interest connected to them or their immediate family. The Cultural Affairs Division and Commission have a responsibility to perform their roles while affirming fair and equitable access to opportunities, information, and resources. We ask that all sitting Commissioners refrain from applying for grants funded by the Cultural Affairs Division or enter into contract with the Cultural Affairs Division for professional services.

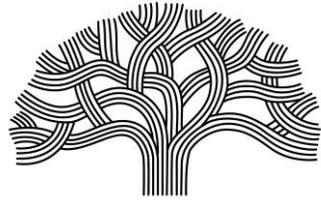
A person "influences" a government decision when he/she/they make or participates in making it; or when he/she/they attempts to use his/her/their official position to affect the outcome of the decision. It is often not enough just to refrain from voting on a matter that may involve a conflict of interest – the law requires that you completely refrain from all participation or attempts to influence the outcome. A Cultural Affairs Commissioner's role is to act as an advocate and ambassador of arts and culture in the City. The public's perception of Commissioner influence on grant or funding opportunities could result in a loss of trust for the Commission, Division, and City of Oakland.

The law identifies six basic kinds of "economic interests":

- business entities in which you, your spouse, or your dependent children have an investment;
- real property in which you, your spouse, or your dependent children have an investment;
- sources of income paid to you or your spouse 12 months before the governmental decision was made;
- business entities in which you hold a position of management, employment, or executive responsibility;
- persons who have given or promised you gifts totaling \$250 or more within 12 months before the time you make a governmental decision; and
- the personal finances of you and your immediate family.

Conflicts Of Interest Could Be:

- ✓ You or a member of your immediate family are an employee or paid contractor of an applicant to a grant opportunity with the Cultural Affairs Division;
- ✓ You are related to or have a familial relationship (includes romantic relationship) with a senior employee of an applicant to a grant opportunity with the Cultural Affairs Division;
- ✓ You have a past or pending legal dispute with the City of Oakland;
- ✓ You have a long-standing affiliation or relationship with an applicant and could be seen by the public to not be capable of having an objective stance towards them.



CITY OF OAKLAND

2024 Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting Calendar

January 22, 2024	5:30 – 8:30 PM
April 15, 2024	5:30 – 8:30 PM
July 22, 2024	5:30 – 8:30 PM
October 28, 2024	5:30 – 8:30 PM