



MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 24, 2022

1 p.m.

Remote Meeting via video and teleconferencing

Minutes

President Ordeñana called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. He welcomed Commissioner Schnair to the committee for the remainder of the calendar year.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Agenda Changes, Land Acknowledgment (1:00)

Commissioners Present

Roberto Ordeñana, President
Janine Shiota, Vice President
JD Beltran (left meeting at 1:30 p.m.)
Charles Collins
Abby Schnair

Staff Present:

Ralph Remington, Director of Cultural Affairs
Joanne Lee, Deputy Director of Programs
Sandra Panopio, Senior Racial Equity and Policy Analyst
Denise Pate, Director of Community Investments
Coma Te, Director of Communications
Alyssa Ventre, Commission Secretary

President Ordeñana shared virtual meeting instructions.

Commission Secretary Ventre announced public comment instructions.

President Ordeñana began the meeting reading the Arts Commission's

land acknowledgement statement.

2. General Public Comment

(6:36)

There was no public comment.

3. Director's Report

(7:50)

Director Remington welcomed new staff member Public Art Program Project Manager Ari Gelardin. He also noted two new Community Investments Program Officers and a Galleries Program Associate will start in September. He added that staff are in the process of interviewing for the Galleries Director position and thanked Commissioners Collins and former Arts Commissioner Debra Walker for their participation as panelists.

He provided programmatic updates which included an announcement about the next Monument and Memorials Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 30 at 3 p.m. and subsequent community meetings. He announced several artist opportunities including a RFQ for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's City Distribution Division at 2000 Marin Street and a call for sculptural artists for the India Basin Shoreline Park project. He added that staff are preparing to issue a call for public comment for proposals for the Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation project. He announced the Southeast Community Center opening celebrations is planned for Saturday October 22.

He also reported that the Arts Impact Endowment – First Time Grantee Initiative recently closed and received over 100 applications. He said that staff are issuing a call for panelists.

He also announced the current exhibition in the Main Gallery, *Carlos Villa: Roots and Reinvention*, will close next Saturday, September 3. He provided more information about upcoming galleries events related to the exhibition. He also announced the next exhibition will open on Friday, September 30 titled: *Juanita: 30 Years of MORE!*

There was no public comment.

4. Racial Equity Update (13:47)

Senior Racial Equity & Policy Analyst Sandra Panopio provided a brief summary of the agency's priorities relating to phase 1 of the racial equity action plan. She provided more information about her work relating to the Arts and Economic Prosperity study (AEP6). She described the Arts Commission's involvement in leading the collection of surveys for San Francisco. She added that these surveys will look at the impact of arts on the economy. She said she is creating a list of events and asked commissioners to send any event details they may have. She noted that surveys will be collected until April 2023. She said the study is looking at centering equity and there is a focus on ALANA communities.

Commissioners discussed the study and asked questions about the Arts Commission's involvement. Ms. Panopio noted that events do not have to be funded by the Arts Commission and that she is planning to reach out to cultural centers, City partners, and current and past grantees for support. She went into more detail about staff involvement, protocols and potential events. She also confirmed participants would need to fill out the two-minute survey at each event. She noted there will be a separate survey regarding organizational and institutional information that will be conducted by AFTA. She also clarified that commissioners can send her the appropriate contact information for organizations and she will follow up with them.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Beltran left the meeting at 1:30 pm.

5. Cultural Center Lease Amendment (31:32)

Deputy Director Joanne Lee presented this item. She explained that the current four-year leases are aligned with the operating grant agreements. She said that this provides more stability and that the leases allow for amendments as needed. She said this request came from the cultural centers as they were hearing from small organizations and artists that the insurance requirements to hold events at the sites was a barrier. She noted that many times the requirements didn't apply to the users. She said staff worked with Risk Management and the City Attorney to reduce the insurance requirements for users. She noted if there is a big event, the cultural center staff have the ability increase insurance requirements if necessary. She thanked Compliance Officer Molly Barrons and Capital Program Manager Lisa Zayas-Chien for their support with making this amendment.

President Ordeñana said he supported this amendment. He noted the importance to create less of a barrier for artists and those organizations renting space from the centers.

Commissioner Shiota, seconded by Commissioner Schnair moved to amend the lease and operating agreements with the African American Art and Culture Complex, the Bayview Opera House Inc., Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts and SOMArts Cultural Center to: 1) reduce the amount of general liability insurance required by permittees from two million dollars to one million dollars, 2) update the auto liability insurance to be required only as applicable, 3) update the workers compensation insurance to be required only as applicable. These changes are to ease the administrative burden on permittee's; make the City-owned cultural centers more accessible to third party renters; and to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter lease and operating amendments with each organization listed above.

Public Comment:

Stephanie Shoffner, managing director of Loraine Hansberry Theatre asked

when AAACC will be open for the tenants. She noted the building has been closed for 2 and a half years.

Commissioner Collins thanked staff for their work. He noted it is a new reality to make sure the cultural centers are safe, sound, more affordable and more accessible.

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ordeñana, Shiota, Collins, Schnair.

President Ordeñana asked Director Remington to provide more insight under new business and announcements. Director Remington noted he doesn't have any information to add at this time.

6. Cultural Center Amendment

(40:18)

Deputy Director Joanne Lee presented this item. She explained the funds were work ordered from the Department of Children Youth and Families to the Arts Commission. She explained the funds support AAACC's general operating and programming for family and youth focused services. She noted they work ordered the funds and included the funds in the general operating grant to ease the grant administration process.

Commissioner Schnair, seconded by Commissioner Collins moved to amend action to amend grant agreement AAACC23-26 to the African American Art and Culture Complex ("AAACC") (authorized by Resolution No. 0509-22-086) to add funds from the Department of Children Youth and Families and increase the funding for activities at AAACC by \$139,500 from \$698,745, for a total of \$838,245 in addition to \$136,255 allocated to sub-grantee Queer Cultural Center under the grant, for a new not to exceed grant amount of \$974,500; and to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a grant agreement with AAACC not to exceed \$974,500 for fiscal year 2022-2023 at this time.

There was no public comment.

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ordeñana, Shiota, Collins, Schnair.

7. Dream Keeper Initiative Amendments

(44:10)

Director of Community Investments Denise Pate presented this item. She said the motions will add grant amounts and extend grant periods for those Dream Keeper Initiative (DKI) supported funding. She explained the DKI is a mayoral initiative to support black led organizations or orgs that target African American programming. She said another year of funding will help the organizations continue the work they've been doing. She confirmed that staff have received an interim report so they are aware of the grant project statuses.

President Ordeñana said he was excited to keep increasing investments in this work.

Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Schnair moved to amend the Dream Keeper Initiative Theater Companies grant agreements to the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company and the African-American Shakespeare Company (authorized by Resolution No. 0607-21-125) to increase each grant by \$200,000 and extend the grant term to January 31, 2024, and to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into grant agreements with each organization for amounts not to exceed the following at this time.

San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Company, \$300,000
African-American Shakespeare Company, \$300,000

There was no public comment.

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ordeñana, Shiota, Collins, Schnair.

Commissioner Schnair seconded by Commissioner Shiota moved to amend the Dream Keeper Initiative Theater Companies grant agreement to Idris Ackamoor and Cultural Odyssey (authorized by Resolution No. 0607- 21-125) to increase the grant by \$400,000 and extend the grant term to January 31, 2024, and to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a grant agreement not to exceed \$1,200,000 this time.

Public Comment:

Thomas Robert Simpson, founding artistic director of Afrosolo Theatre Company, said he is part of the initiative. He thanked the commission for awarding the monies received last year. He said they were very helpful in executing programming and better remunerate people for their services and work. He said he is grateful for extending the funding. He added that it takes one year to get started and the second year helps to move the work forward. He said he hopes the commission will pass the resolution.

Geoffrey Grier was unable to provide public comment due to technical difficulties. Commission Secretary Ventre suggested that he call into the meeting instead of accessing the public comment line instead of through WebEx mobile.

Idris Ackamoor thanked the Arts Commission and the DKI initiative. He echoed Thomas Simpson's comments. He said the African American Alliance for Independence is one of the few collaboratives of its kind in the country. He said the partnerships of AfroSolo Theatre Company, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, San Francisco Recovery Theatre and Cultural Odyssey have been an amazing chance to speak to San Francisco African American communities in San Francisco. He noted that this has been a long running collaboration and provide details about this collaboration began in 1998. He said he hopes the commission passes the amendment.

Commissioner Shiota asked for clarification regarding the events associated with this funding. Director Pate confirmed the community has been creative about their programming outside of the AAACC building. She said the interim reports have shown activity and that the organizations are making good use of the funds.

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ordeñana, Shiota, Collins, Schnair.

Commissioner Collins seconded by Commissioner Schnair moved to amend the Dream Keeper Initiative Artists and Creatives Collaborative grant to the African American Art and Culture Complex (authorized by Resolution No. 0607-21-126) to increase the grant by \$1,000,000 and extend the grant term to January 31, 2024, and to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a grant agreement not to exceed \$1,500,000 at this time.

There was no public comment.

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ordeñana, Shiota, Collins, Schnair.

Commissioner Collins seconded by Commissioner Schnair moved to amend the Dream Keeper Initiative Mini-Grants to Artists and Arts Organizations grant to the African American Art and Culture Complex (authorized by Resolution No. 0607-21-127) to increase the grant by \$1,000,000 and extend the grant term to January 31, 2024, and to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into a grant agreement not to exceed \$2,000,000 at this time.

There was no public comment.

The motion unanimously carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Ordeñana, Shiota, Collins, Schnair.

8. New Business and Announcements

(1:04:36)

Director Remington provided more details relating to the temporary closure of African American Art & Culture Complex (AAACC). He said that staff are planning to meet with the AAACC staff in September and will ask them for

clarification. He said this issue brings up a broader discussion of role of the cultural centers and he suggested to reexamine relationships and the charter language. President Ordeñana suggested that Director Remington work with staff on how to move the conversation forward and recommend the strategic planning process and the Community Investments Committee as potential avenues for the conversation.

There was no public comment.

President Ordeñana announced he will be traveling for the month of September. He said he asked Vice President Shiota to chair the September full Commission meeting.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Posted 9/8/2022, 12:30 p.m., adv
Approved 9/12/2022

Archives Available

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address: https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=153.

Language Accessibility

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