



CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
FUNDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 11, 2011

5:30 – 7:30 PM

CITY HALL, Hearing Room 2

(One Frank Ogawa Plaza, 1st Floor)

1. Call to Order / Determination of Quorum

A Meeting of the Funding Advisory Committee was held in City Hall, Hearing Room 2, located at One Frank Ogawa Plaza, 1st Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. The meeting convened at 5:40 p.m. A quorum was established. Khan Wong chaired the meeting.

Present: Ebony McKinney, Nives Wetzel de Cediel, Lori Zook, Marc Vogl, Khan Wong, Brian Vejby (Cultural Affairs Commission liaison)
Absent: Ted Russell, Suki O’Kane
Staff: Nicole Neditch (Acting Cultural Funding Program Coordinator) and Steven Huss (Cultural Arts Manager)

2. Open Forum (*total time available: 15 minutes*)

There were 3 speakers during Open Forum: Sanjiv Honda, Michael Fried and Mollie McFarland.

3. Welcome / Overview of Special Meeting

Acting Coordinator Nicole Neditch welcomed the committee and the guests, and provided an overview of the structure of the meeting. The committee and the guests introduced themselves.

4. Discussion Item – Oral report regarding the FY11/12 Adopted Policy Budget

Cultural Arts Manager Steven Huss led an oral report regarding the FY2011/2012 policy budget and how it will affect the Cultural Funding Program. He spoke of the advocacy efforts of the Oakland Cultural Trust and its success in restoring 100% of the Cultural Funding Program grants budget. He explained that while 100% of the grants budget was preserved, the 1.5 staff positions that were allocated to the program were eliminated.

5. Discussion Item – Implications of staffing reductions

S. Huss led an oral report on the implications of a staffing reduction. He informed FAC that staffing and infrastructure would remain with the program in FY11/12, but there may need to be a reduction to the grant funds in order to pay for administration. He explained that staff is reviewing options, but assured the FAC and guests that as much of the funding as possible would remain within the grants program. He added that Acting Cultural Funding Coordinator Nicole Neditch would remain a resource through the transition.

6. Discussion & Action Item – Propose a steering committee to help guide 11/12 grant process

Coordinator Neditch led a discussion on the need for a separate steering committee to discuss a new panel review process given the changes to the program. She announced that the Cultural Funding Program would be asking for the full applications using an online submission tool. One of the issues the steering committee must address is panelists – how to assign panelists without the stipends normally allotted. Some ideas that were discussed were having the FAC act as the panel review committee, and asking panelists to provide their time on a volunteer basis. Michael Fried of the Oakland Cultural Trust advocated for a panel that continued to have peer reviewers as well, as not to create a committee that had too much power. Committee member Zook reminded FAC that they had approved, though not implemented, an optional volunteer program. The steering committee was asked to look at how the panel review process could be expedited without losing too much of its fairness and transparency.. Nives Wetzel de Cediél, Ebony McKinney, Lori Zook, and Khan Wong all offered to be a part of the committee. Khan Wong suggested opening the committee to members of the Cultural Trust. Michael Fried offered to spread the word to the Trust and also to participate in the committee.

A motion was made by Marc Vogl to establish a Review Process Steering Committee and to appoint Ebony McKinney, Nives Wetzel de Cediél, Suki O’Kane, Lori Zook and Khan Wong to it; Lori Zook seconded; motion passed unanimously.

7. Action Item – Review and Approve Second Year of a Two-Year Award in the Funding Category of Organizational Assistance in an Amount Totaling \$516,381.35 from the General Fund to 18 Cultural Arts Organizations.

Coordinator Neditch presented the committee with the second-year Organizational Assistance Grant spreadsheet. Cultural Trust Executive Committee member Michael Fried expressed his concern that City Council could review the budget again in August or September and make additional cuts. He urged the committee to consider that when making a decision about passing the second-year OA grants at their predetermined amounts. Committee Chair Khan Wong suggested that a clause be added to the contracts that would outline what would happen if the program received fewer funds than currently allocated. The committee chose to approve this item with a provisional clause added to it that would allow for the grant amounts to be changed if the funding was reduced.

A motion was made by Lori Zook to Approve the Second Year of a Two-Year Award in the Funding Category of Organizational Assistance; Marc Vogl seconded; motion passed unanimously.

8. Action Item – Set the next date for a follow-up Funding Advisory Committee Meeting
The group discussed setting a new date for the Funding Advisory Committee meeting and agreed to leave the meeting on the previously scheduled date of August 8, 2011. No action was taken.

9. Announcements
Ebony McKinney announced that she would be moving to London in the fall to attend Graduate School and would be leaving the Funding Advisory Committee.

10. Adjourn
A motion was made by Nives Wetzel de Cediél to adjourn the meeting; Marc Vogl seconded; motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.