

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ARTS COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 26, 2009
3:00 p.m.
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 70

Draft Minutes

Commission President P.J. Johnston called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners Present

P.J. Johnston, President
Cass Calder Smith
Sherri Young

Commissioners Absent

Maya Draisin, Vice President
Jeannene Przyblyski

2. President's Report

President Johnston reported on the budget, and discussions about the inclusion of the City Hall Docent position in the Arts Commission's budget.

There was no public comment.

3. Director's Report

Mr. Cancel reported on the budget, and the cuts called for by the Mayor's office in light of reductions in Hotel Tax Fund and other revenue. The Committee discussed the possible impact of the cuts on grantees, Cultural Centers and other Arts Commission programs and staff. The Committee also discussed whether some fees should be increased, and where fundraising might be appropriate.

Mr. Cancel reported on the Mexican Museum, including information on new board members and the agreement with consultant Denise Bradley.

Finally, he reported on staff transitions.

There was no public comment.

4. Arts Commission Strategic Planning Process

Mr. Cancel reported on the proposals submitted by two independent consultants to facilitate the strategic planning process, as well as the proposal from the workforce development team from the City's Department of Human Resources ("DHR"). He compared the proposals, noting that the services were not exactly the same, and that the DHR proposal was substantially less expensive, and he recommended accepting the DHR proposal.

The Committee discussed the various proposals, and carefully weighed the fee differences and whether an independent and established firm was a better choice than a department familiar with the internal workings of the City government. The Committee also expressed concern about the impact of the planning process on staff workload.

There was no public comment, and the motion was unanimously approved as follows.

Motion to approve the selection of the Department of Human Resources Workforce Development Team as a strategic planning consultant for the Arts Commission (including corresponding workorder of funds).

5. San Francisco Symphony Summer and the Symphony Concert Series

Mr. Cancel and Finance Director Kan Htun reported on the agreement with the San Francisco Symphony, which was the same as the previous year. The Committee expressed some concern about the diversity of the programming; Mr. Cancel explained that the agreement specifically prevents the Arts Commission from making program decisions.

There was no public comment, and the motion was unanimously approved as follows.

Motion to authorize the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into contract with the San Francisco Symphony to produce the 2009 Summer and the Symphony concert series, in an amount not to exceed \$1,737,925.

6. Civic Design Review Authority

Director of Programs Jill Manton discussed the Civic Design Review program and its goals. She discussed some of the concerns expressed by client agencies. The Committee acknowledged the skill of Bureau of Architecture architects, and discussed the importance of treating City staff respectfully and understanding the tension between design excellence and budget and schedule constraints. The Committee requested that staff orient Commissioners on this program, and staff proposed working with client agencies to bring projects for review earlier in the process. The Committee also suggested that projects that are small or largely hidden from public view do not need the same rigorous design standards as more prominent projects. The Committee also observed that Civic Design Review has substantially improved many projects, and has encouraged

greater sustainability in building and landscape design.

There was no public comment.

7. Old Business

There was no old business.

8. New Business

Mr. Cancel reported on a possible capital campaign for Bayview Opera House, and the Committee asked about activity in mid-Market.

There was no public comment.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

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Language Accessibility

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