

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ARTS COMMISSION

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

3:00 p.m.

25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 70

Draft Minutes

Commission President P.J. Johnston called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners Present

P.J. Johnston, President
Maya Draisin, Vice President
JD Beltran
Cass Calder Smith
Sherri Young

Commissioners Absent

None

2. President's Report

President Johnston thanked everyone for attending this special meeting, and he encouraged the Committee to focus on the planning process and not be overly focused on the budget deadlines over the next few months.

There was no public comment.

3. Director's Report

Mr. Cancel introduced Teri Jourgenson of the Department of Human Resources, who had worked with the Arts Commission on the strategic plan. They reviewed the timeline of the plan, effective with the beginning of the fiscal year in July 2010 and extending for three years. He too encouraged the Committee to focus on the plan's ideas and initiatives and not solely on the coming budget deadlines.

The Committee confirmed that its vote at this meeting was on the overall plan, not on approval of a specific program or expenditure, and that specific expenditures and actions would come to the Commission before being implemented.

There was no public comment.

4. **Strategic Planning Update**

Mr. Cancel and staff reviewed the plan and its goals in the areas of grantmaking, administration, development, Public Art, the Civic Art Collection, Civic Design Review, the Gallery, Community Arts and Education and the Street Artists program.

Public Comment:

Community Arts and Education Program Associate Robynn Takayama spoke in her capacity as Service Employees International Union shop steward. She discussed the importance of the process of developing the goals, and she said that some staff were working outside their classifications and all should be properly compensated as new initiatives and programs are instituted.

President Johnston agreed that labor should be literally at the table in these discussions, and thanked Ms. Takayama for her participation.

Lex Leifheit, Executive Director of SOMArts, said she had spoken with African American Art and Culture Complex Executive Director London Breed, and they wanted to be sure that the Cultural Centers were addressed in the plan. She requested clarification as to roles, assessment and other issues, and that the Centers were interested in long-term leases.

Jessica Mele of the Arts Providers Alliance said they were excited about some of the goals, but wanted to see more detail on advocacy and other issues.

There was no further public comment.

The Committee discussed the plan, asking for more specific detail, and expressing concern about what impending budget cuts would mean in terms of the goals. The Committee discussed the ongoing efforts to increase the Commission's visibility and to raise funds, and noted the challenge of long-term planning when there might be a new Commission President in a year, or a new Mayor in two years. The Committee expressed concern that staff responsibilities and compensation be clearly defined and appropriate, and that the plan didn't address staff reorganization, which was originally a goal of the process. The Committee questioned the motivations for some of the goals. They expressed support for Art in Storefronts, but were concerned about the proposed voucher program. They praised the improved agency communications.

The Committee discussed the various sources of revenue tied to the various programs, and the fact that funds from one source could be used only for particular projects or programs. They also discussed the role of a possible "Friends of the Arts" organization, and what it should and should not pay for. The Committee asked for more detail on how the plan proposed to address impending budget cuts.

5. **Old Business**

Mr. Cancel reported that the Mayor's office was still coordinating schedules with the Mayor's Art Award honoree.

There was no public comment.

6. **New Business**

Ms. Manton reported on discussions with the War Memorial Veterans Building on the creation of a "sacred soil" monument.

There was no public comment.

7. **Public Comment**

There was no further public comment.

8. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

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