



CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION  
**FUNDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 19, 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. Suki O’Kane Chaired the meeting.

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

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

There were no speakers for Open Forum.

**3. Oral Reports from Chair and Staff**

Acting Coordinator, Nicole Neditch updated the committee on the status of the 10/11 contracting process. All grant allocations have been approved by council and have received their contracts. Contracts are due back by January 25<sup>th</sup>. They have already begun to be returned and processed.

Neditch updated the committee on the quest for identifying sources for Online Grant Software. The two sources that have been looked into are CitySpan and Fluxx. We are also pursuing the idea of doing an in-house development that would be tied to the contracting and document management systems that CEDA is currently working on. Neditch gave an update on the upcoming Grant workshops and applications. Applications to be distributed by February 10<sup>th</sup>, and workshops to take place March 22<sup>nd</sup> in City Hall.

**4. Action Item** – Approval of October 14, 2010 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Ted Russell to accept the October 14, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes; Nives Wetzel de Cediél seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**5. Action Item** – Approval of December 13, 2010 Special Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Ted Russell to accept the December 13, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes contingent on all E's being removed from Marc Vogl's last name; Ebony McKinney seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**6. Action Item** – Approval of Lori Zook as a new member of the Funding Advisory Committee

Coordinator Nicole Neditch led the discussion on the qualifications of Lori Zook and what a great addition she would make to the funding advisory committee. Cultural Arts Manager Steve Huss added to the dialogue and affirmed that she would make an excellent addition to the committee. A motion was made by Ted Russell to appoint Lori Zook to the Funding Advisory Committee; Nives Wetzel de Cediél seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**7. Discussion** – Oral Report and evaluation of the council decisions made at the December 14<sup>th</sup> Life Enrichment Committee Meeting

The November 16, 2010 Life Enrichment Committee approved recommendations for three of the four grant categories and directed staff to return to the December 14, 2010 Committee with alternative proposals for the section on Organizational Assistance Grants, which should include keeping the recommendation as originally proposed or reducing the funding for selected grantees and add the 3 applicants who were not selected based on scoring.

Staff returned to the committee on December 14<sup>th</sup> with three options. Staff only recommended the option to uphold the panel process and keep the recommendations as originally proposed; the second option that was presented was to extend the funding to all 26 organizations that were eligible for funding; and the third option was to extend the funding to the three organizations that fell within a point of the scoring cut off, including Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir.

Council member Brooks made a statement that the Council directive was only to extend the funding allocations to the three organizations that fell within a point and took option two off of the table. She asked that all speakers only address their support for options one or three.

21 speakers were present. Some of the speakers including Matais Pouncil, AXIS dance company, Attitudinal Healing and Stagebridge supported keeping the recommendation as originally proposed, while others, Friends of Peralta and Oakland Ballet supported extending the funding to the additional three organizations. Other organizations advocated funding the arts to the highest extent possible but did not take a specific stance. Jean Quan asked about the gap between these organizations and the next group – She also mentioned that we need to keep in mind that there will be 10% cuts citywide during the next fiscal year and that we should consider how we can distribute the smaller amount of funds to more organizations.

Jane Brunner voted to keep the allocations as recommended while the rest of the committee members voted to extend the funds to the additional three organizations.

Moving forward, we should –

1. Show the breakdown of scores to Council in the report

2. Consider having Council approve policy when they approve the budget amounts.
3. Make sure we have ample FAC and panel representation at the council meeting.
4. Really look at how we can spread the dollars out further.

**8. Discussion** – Selection of a committee to Review the allocation process and Funding Goals for future funding cycles

A discussion was led by Coordinator Neditch about the need for a separate committee to discuss Funding Goals and process. The committee decided that we would start with doing research and report back at the April meeting where we would vote in a larger committee (when more FAC members were present) and schedule a special meeting. A motion was made by Suki O’Kane to establish an Allocation Process & Funding Goals Committee and appoint Ebony McKinney and Nives Wetzels de Cediël to it; Ted Russell seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**9. Discussion Item**- Discussion of reallocating Jeffery Wong’s Individual Artist Grant to the California Chinese Orchestra

Coordinator Neditch led a discussion on the possibility of reallocating Jeffery Wong’s grant to the California Chinese Orchestra. Mr. Wong, who was a 10/11 recipient of an Individual Artist Grant died in October 2010. The California Chinese Orchestra whom Wong worked closely with requested that the funds be reallocated to them to perform a piece that Wong had written. Neditch had asked the inquiring members of the committee to be present to speak on the request, but no one was able to attend. Neditch was to consult with the City Attorneys office to see what the legal process would be. No motion was made at this time.

**10. Discussion Item**- Public Art Review Process & Community Arts Project Category

Cultural Arts Manager Steve Huss led a discussion on the Public Art Review process for Cultural Funding Grants. Huss gave a visual presentation of a mural project by Rocky Baird that was funded by an Individual Artist Project Grant and that was to be painted on private property, but that was in the public view. The mural ended up being considered controversial to some and because the City paid for the mural, it should have gone through a Public Art Review process, but didn’t.

Moving forward, we need to establish a policy for how public art related projects are treated in the Cultural Funding Program.

For the short-term there will be a pre-proposal meeting opportunity set up at a scheduled PAC meeting for applicants wishing to create work in the public realm. We will highlight the need for a Public Art Review at the informational workshops and within the guidelines, we will make sure to flag applications that have a Public Art component, and have members of the Public Art Committee on the Organization Project and Individual Artist Project panels.

For the long-term, in considering other funding models and categories, we may want to consider a Community Arts Category. A new category could potentially follow a unique process and be directed at art in the Public view.

**11. Agenda Building**- Streamlining of grants process, panelist suggestions, online grant systems update, Report from Funding Goals Committee, Update on the status of Jeffery Wong's IAP grant

**12. Announcements**- Next FAC meeting – August 8th, 2011

**13. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Ted Russell to adjourn the meeting; Nives Wetzel de Cediel seconded; motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.