



# Cultural Arts Programs

## *Cultural Arts & Marketing Division*

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**To:** Cultural Affairs Commission  
**Attn:** Matais Pouncil, Acting Chair  
**From:** Steven Huss, Cultural Arts Manager  
**Date:** April 25, 2011

**Re: RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT LORI ZOOK TO THE CITY OF OAKLAND FUNDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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### **SUMMARY**

On January 19, 2011, the Funding Advisory Committee (FAC) voted to recommend to the Cultural Affairs Commission the appointment of Lori Zook to a three-year term on the FAC. The term would commence April 25, 2011, and expire April 24, 2014.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Acceptance of this recommendation will not result in any new expenditure of City funds. The FAC is a volunteer advisory body and there is no financial appropriation for this committee. Expenses for the administration of the committee, such as agenda mailings, preparation of meeting materials and staff time, are incorporated within the operating costs of the Cultural Arts & Marketing Division.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Funding Advisory Committee of the City of Oakland's Cultural Funding Program is a volunteer advisory body to staff and the Cultural Affairs Commission in matters relating to funding programs, policies and procedures for Oakland-based artists, cultural organizations, and activities that reflect the diversity of the city for the citizens of and visitors to Oakland.

The FAC consists of seven voting members and a minimum of one non-voting Commission liaison. The seven voting members are recruited from the arts community by fellow FAC members, Cultural Arts Programs staff and the Commission, with the Commission having final approval of all recommended appointees. Non-voting Commission liaison(s) to the FAC are appointed by the Commission Chair. Community members selected to participate on the FAC must have direct ties to and/or be well acquainted with the Oakland arts community. It is not a requirement that members reside in Oakland. Members are appointed to staggered terms of three years, commencing upon the date of appointment by fellow FAC members, unless declined by a formal action of the Cultural Affairs Commission.

To fill vacancies on the FAC, staff and the members of the committee identify and contact potential candidates on an as-needed basis. Criteria for membership include cultural, ethnic, and gender diversity, relevant professional background and experience, and dedication and commitment to the goals of the Cultural Funding Program. At its meeting on January 19, 2011,

the FAC reviewed the qualifications of nominee Lori Zook, who is well-known and highly respected in the California arts funding community. The FAC unanimously voted to recommend the appointment of Ms. Zook to the FAC for a three-year term.

Lori Zook has been an Oakland resident since 1986 and involved in its arts community since 1991, when she began working with local theater companies. She was the executive director of Oakland Opera Theater, where she served from 1998 to 2005. During her tenure, the company developed an organizational structure and grew exponentially, both in programming and budget size. She also co-founded the company's venue, the Oakland Metro, in 2001 at its original location on Broadway. Ms. Zook is a grantwriter with Quinn Associates, a firm serving small to mid-sized non-profit arts organizations throughout the Bay Area. She served on the Oakland Cultural Affairs Commission from May 2006 through June 2010, and was Acting Chair of that body from June 2007 through October 2009. She has served on arts funding panels for the City of Oakland and Arts Council Silicon Valley, currently serves on the Bay Area Girls Rock Camp board of directors, and is secretary of the Associated Parents and Teachers (APT) board at Oakland School for the Arts. She currently resides in Oakland.

Ms. Zook's experience, skills and knowledge will add considerably to the FAC's collective expertise relating to grants funding, policies and procedures.

#### **KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS**

It is critically important that a public cultural funding program have guidance from an advisory body that is knowledgeable about the arts, art administration, grantmaking and the grant application process, aesthetics and regional and community issues. In order to accomplish its tasks and fulfill its responsibilities, the FAC must have a full slate of members. The nominee Lori Zook will bring aesthetic and professional diversity to the FAC and will enhance the wide range of skills and knowledge currently represented on the board.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Funding Advisory Committee and Cultural Arts staff recommend that the Cultural Affairs Commission approve the recommendation to appoint Lori Zook to the FAC for a three-year term.

Respectfully submitted,

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Steven Huss  
Cultural Arts Manager