

Cultural Arts & Marketing Division – Cultural Funding Program  
**FUNDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, November 12, 2008 5:30 – 7:30 PM  
Oakland City Hall, Hearing Room 2  
(One Frank Ogawa Plaza, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)

1. **Call to Order/ Determination of Quorum**

A Special Meeting of the Funding Advisory Committee was held in City Hall, Hearing Room 2, located at One Frank Ogawa Plaza, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Oakland, CA 94612. The meeting convened at 5:35 PM. A quorum was established. Denise Pate Chaired the meeting.

**Present:** Denise Pate, Lynn Rogers, Shalonda Ingram, Jenny Louie, Khan Wong. Lori Zook and Brian Vejby (Cultural Affairs Commission (CAC) liaisons)

**Absent:** Sherwood Chen (excused), Nives Wetzel de Cediel

**Staff:** Kathy Littles (Cultural Funding Program Coordinator)  
Jason Jong (Cultural Funding Program Assistant Coordinator)

2. **Open Forum**

There were no speakers for Open Forum.

3. **Oral Reports from Chair and Staff** – Update on Cultural Funding Program and Staff

Kathy Littles provided a detailed update on the 2008-09 revised budget proposal set forth by the Oakland City Council on October 16, 2008. Due to the current economic crisis the City of Oakland proposed a revised 2008-09 budget to make up for the 10 million dollar shortfall. The proposed revised budget included the “suspension of the Cultural Arts Program and the elimination of personnel funding for Cultural Arts and Public Art.” There were further proposed budget cuts to other departments. The cut to the Cultural Funding Program would essentially resend all grants that were approved by Council on May 15, 2008 and eliminate all staff. Subsequent meetings and strategy sessions were held by grantees, supporters and patrons of the arts in Oakland. On October 21, 2008 over 200 speakers addressed the Council regarding the need to retain arts funding for Oakland. After four hours of testimony the Council voted to “keep the Cultural Arts Grant Program (\$1.14 million). Eliminate funding for parades, runs and street festivals after January 1, 2009. Eliminate Program Analyst II, keep Program Analyst III, and Transfer personnel Public Art Fund to continue the program.” Other budgetary amendments were made to other city departments. The elimination of the Program Analyst II left just one person to run the Cultural Funding Program, which in its full capacity consists of three staff members. After subsequent meetings with Samee Roberts (Cultural Arts and Marketing Manager), Steve Huss (Cultural Arts Program Coordinator), Kathy Littles, and the budget office, it was

decided that the one remaining full-time staff position be split between the Program Analyst III and II. The Cultural Funding Program Coordinator (Kathy Littles) and Assistant Coordinator (Jason Jong) are currently permanent part-time employees working three days a week.

Before the amended budget the Cultural Funding Program had already begun its fall workshop schedule for the 2009-10 grant cycle. In addition, all marketing materials and applications for all three grant categories had already been heavily distributed. It was decided that the Cultural Funding Program would continue to accept applications and hold review panels in March 2009. Staff will inform all interested applicants that there is currently no budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. As a result during the review session applications will only be discussed, evaluated and scored.

Lynn Rodgers asked for clarification on Measure 00, to date we have no information regarding any amendment on this matter. Lynn also commented on the importance of leadership at this time and the necessity to think strategically about the future which may or may not include a ballot measure on the arts. Rodgers stressed the importance of making the connection between the arts and the Oakland economy. Other FAC members suggested that stakeholders meet with the City Council in what is typically called an informational “Road Show” with elected officials. Lori Zook suggested partnerships between the real estate community, merchants association, restaurant owners, Kaiser, and Children’s Hospital to name a few.

4. **Discussion Item** –Cultural Funding Program panel procedure, Meeting with grantees and Oakland artists/art based-non-profits  
FAC discussed ways to cut review panel costs. Jenny Louie suggested that the honorarium for panelists be eliminated. Denise Pate suggested that this recommendation would result in a panel lacking in diversity. Jenny Louie then suggested that the honorarium be voluntary and Lori Zook suggested that the panels be cut from 7 to 5 people.

**Action Item** - The FAC committee decided implement the following to cut costs for the 2009 application review panel: Panelists will have the option to accept a \$75.00/per day honorarium. Panelists will not receive an honorarium for the mandatory orientation; each panel will consist of five reviewers. Panelists will only score applications and will not formally rank applications (i.e. institute cuts). A motion was made by Jenny Louie to accept the 2009-2010 amended panel procedure. Lynn Rogers second the motion.

#### 5. **Announcements**

Pro Arts Gallery will host a series of meetings to keep artist/patrons/and stakeholders informed about the budget process and discussions. Interested citizens are also encouraged to visit [www.artvote](http://www.artvote)

**Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM by Denise Pate, Lynn Rogers second the motion.

