



**Cultural Affairs Commission
Meeting**

February 14, 2017

**Cultural Affairs Arts Center
(SPACE)**

6:00 P.M.

Minutes

Present: Brea Cali, Lisa Clark, Linda J. Evans, Dr. Rebecca Gaston-Dawson, Willia Johnson, Alix Laincy, Courtnay Papy, Mary Raines, Tanet Taharka-Myers

Eileen Baker, Director
Legina Jackson, Administrative Assistant
Rebecca Brown, Contract Coordinator
Erin Seals, Marketing Coordinator

Absent: Alexis Alexander, Esther Buchsbaum, Antwan Lang, Joyce Piersanti, Rene Teran, Lisa White

I. Minutes Approval

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Linda J. Evans, Chair. Motion to accept the minutes of December 13, 2016 was made and seconded. Motion carried.



II. Announcements

Commission Chair, Linda J. Evans, informed the Commission that the City Manager, Rob Hernandez, had a scheduling conflict that prevented him from making it to this evening's Commission Meeting.

III. 2017 Cultural Programs Overview

Ms. Baker directed the Commission to the agenda packets of the Cultural Contributions documents. She informed them that they are currently developing some of the contracts; therefore, all of the contracts are not complete. Ms. Baker said the Commissioners assigned to the remaining agencies that are scheduled for contract meetings are invited to those meetings to meet with the organizations.

Commission Chair Evans asked to be informed of any conflict of interest that anyone may have with the organizations.

IV. Assigned Agency Program Evaluation Report

- a. #People –
- b. Demographics of audience –
- c. Logistics of technical, marketing –
- d. Quality of event, levels of engagement, educational benefits –

TELFAIR MUSEUM OF ART

January 1 – December 31


Access to Art

EVALUATORS: **Esther Buchsbaum, Dr. Rebecca Gaston-Dawson, Antwan Lang**

Commissioner Cali attended the Opening Night Lecture on January 11. She commented that she appreciated the consistency, but the lack of evolution leads to stagnation and lack of engagement. Commissioner Cali reported that there were approximately 200 people in attendance, mostly adults ages 21 – 59.

Commissioner Cali also attended Medeology Collective event on January 11. She said she preferred this year's aerial setup instead of last year's space located inside of the atrium.

Commissioner Cali also attended The Odyssey Redux event on January 13. She stated that the program was disappointing. Commissioner Cali said the event



was scheduled for 6 p.m., the theater door notice said 6:15 p.m., and the performance began at 6:25 p.m. She noted that during the two hour performance, 12 people left. Commissioner Cali reported that there were approximately 45 people in attendance. She added that she feels that the free PULSE passes that the Telfair offered the Commissioners this year is a great incentive.

Commissioner Laincy attended Free Family Day on January 14. He noted that there were at least 400 people in attendance. He said that the event was very interactive and the participation this year was much better than the participation level from the previous year's event. Commissioner Laincy said the event was well organized.

Commission Chair Evans attended the Opening Night Lecture on January 11. She reported that the venue was almost filled to capacity; patrons had to leave due to insufficient seating. Commission Chair Evans said Lisa Grove recognized the Cultural Affairs Commission.

Commissioner Raines commented that the Nick Cave Exhibit is remarkable.

DEEP CENTER, INC.

January 1 – December 31

Young Author Project and Block by Block/DEEP Speaks

EVALUATORS: Brea Cali, Lisa Clark, Rene Teran

Commissioner Clark attended the DEEP Speaks Public Reading event on February 13. She said the event was somber instead of the usual high energy the event has exuded in the previous years. Commissioner Clark added that the audience was very diverse. She said the students presented their work amazingly. Commissioner Clark noted that the City's support was acknowledged.

Commissioner Cali attended the DEEP Speaks Public Reading event on February 13. She said the event was somber, but the children seemed excited to present their work. Commissioner Cali stated that the event was very organized.

Commissioner Laincy attended the DEEP Speaks Public Reading event on February 13. He said it was a very nice event and he enjoyed it.



SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY

January 28 – February 26

Savannah Black Heritage Festival

EVALUATORS: Alexis Alexander, Courtney Papy, Lisa White, Mary Raines

Commissioner Papy attended the Famous Blacks in Wax Exhibition on February 8. She stated that it is a beautiful exhibit and the Beach Institute is a treasured institution for our city. Commissioner Papy noted that the City's support was acknowledged.

Commissioner Papy also attended Grand Festival Day on February 11. Regarding the morning session, she commented that there were approximately 200 people in attendance for the health fair. It was an energetic audience. Regarding the afternoon session, she noted that there were approximately 500 people in attendance. She said there was possibly a schedule change, because Magic Marc performed for approximately one and a half hour at 4 p.m. instead of Antwan Smalls and DEEP performing for the Annual Youth Talent Extravaganza at that scheduled time.

Commissioner Cali added that she was informed that the collaborative organizations were not able to coordinate the event in enough time.

Commissioner Raines attended the 16th Annual School Day Extravaganza on February 2. She said the dancers were extraordinary. She noted that it was a challenging program for the dancers; it was well performed. Commissioner Raines noted that the City's support was acknowledged.

Commissioner Raines also attended Grand Festival Day on February 11. She said the audience was diverse regarding age.

Commissioner Raines also attended African-American Born Presidents Exhibits on February 12. She stated that the exhibit was very interesting, educating her on many facts that she was not aware of. Commissioner Raines noted that the City's support was acknowledged.

Commissioner Laincy attended the Famous Blacks in Wax Exhibition. He said it was very nice.

Commissioner Laincy also attended Grand Festival Day on February 11. He said he really enjoyed the event and he posted hundreds of pictures on Facebook, inviting all to view them.



Commissioner Cali attended The Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble on February 3. She said Cleo Parker Robinson's company is reputable in the dance world, adding that Ms. Robinson has been around for quite a while. Commissioner Cali said Ms. Robinson seems to understand Savannah's community, knowing how to interact and speak with the people of the community. She recommended more diversity among the attendees.

WEAVE-A-DREAM

January 19 & 20

Mountainfilm On Tour Savannah – Movies That Matter

EVALUATORS: [Lisa Clark](#), [Linda J. Evans](#), [Alix Laincy](#), [Courtney Papy](#), [Mary Raines](#)

Commissioner Laincy attended the event on January 19. He reported that there were approximately 4,000 children in attendance. He stated that it was a fantastic event. Commissioner Laincy said it is money well spent.

V. Weave-A-Dream Committee Report – Linda J. Evans

Commission Chair Evans reported that the Weave-A-Dream account balance is \$6,906.06.


VI. Chairperson's Report – Linda J. Evans

Commission Chair Evans asked for nominations for Vice Chair of the Commission, which will begin service immediately. She explained the expected role of the Vice Chair. Commissioner Brea Cali was voted Vice Chair.

Commission Chair Evans emphasized the importance of explaining to citizens that we are purchasing artistic services so that the citizens of this city can have access to arts activities; the Commission is not giving money to organizations. There are expectations for those services purchased.

VII. Director's Report – Eileen Baker

Ms. Baker informed the Commission of changes to the criteria of proposals for Weave-A-Dream. She added that the Vice Chair is normally the person that is also the Weave-A-Dream Chair.



Ms. Baker reported that she hopes to have an authentic public art program that is not reactionary, that will require a percent for art ordinance. She is also exploring the feasibility of investments that allow organizations or artists groups who are not registered as 501(c)(3).

VIII. Contract Coordinator's Report – Rebecca Brown

Ms. Brown had nothing to report.

IX. Upcoming Cultural Events

- ◆ Telfair Museum of Art – Access to Art – January 1 – December 31
- ◆ DEEP Center, Inc. – Young Author Project & Block by Block – January 1 – December 31
 - ∞ Block by Block Public Reading at Cultural Affairs – March 18
- ◆ Savannah Music Festival – January 1 – December 31
- ◆ Savannah State University – Savannah Black Heritage Festival – January 28 – February 26
- ◆ Savannah Philharmonic – Youth Education Programs, Concert Rehearsals – March 3
- ◆ Savannah Music Festival – January 1 – December 31
- ◆ Tara Feis Festival – March 11
- ◆ Next Commission Meeting – April 11, 2017 at 6 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned
6:36 p.m.