



**Cultural Affairs Commission
Meeting
April 11, 2018
Cultural Affairs Arts Center
9 West Henry St.**

6:00 P.M.

Minutes

Present: Darren Bagley-Heath, Esther Buchsbaum, Brea Cali, Lisa Clark, Barbara Essig, Linda J. Evans, Andrea Hall-Houston, Janice James, Patrick Kelsey, Kareem McMichael, Antwan Lang, Sue Ruby

Eileen Baker, Director

Rebecca Brown, Cultural Services Contract Coordinator

Luciana Spracher, Director of Municipal Records and Archives and Interim Clerk of Council

Bridget Lidy, Director of Planning and Urban Design

Absent: Willia Johnson, Alix Laincy, Courtnay Papy, Tanet Taharka-Meyers, Linda Wilder-Bryan

I. Minutes Approval

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Brea Cali, Chair. There was a quorum. Motion made and seconded to accept the minutes of the February 14, 2018 meeting. Motion carried.

II. Announcements

Commissioner Cali announced that the City is accepting applications to serve on the Cultural Affairs Commission; applications are due the April 30th, 2018. Commissioner Cali stated that a survey for the scheduled meeting day and time was completed. The new meeting date will be on the second Wednesday of every other month. In 2019, the meetings will began in January.



Commissioner Cali stated that the Cultural Affairs Commissioners can now submit evaluations forms online; any questions can be directed to Rebecca Brown, Cultural Services Contract Coordinator.

III. Guest Speaker - Bridget Lidy

Commissioner Cali introduced Bridget Lidy, the Director of Planning and Urban Design. Lidy informed the Commissioners about the department’s mission to provide planning and design services to work towards the livable and sustainable community and the department’s new and existing projects. Cultural Affairs Commissioners asked questions about the new opportunities with the community.

IV. Cultural Program Assessment and Reports: January - March

Commissioner Cali stated that she would like the end of meetings to provide an opportunity for discussion. She encouraged Commissioners to be concise and thorough in the evaluation forms, and during the meetings to read from the evaluation sheets focusing on the statistics: the program, what type of programming, marketing, was the city recognized, if the program was leaning strongly toward “needs improvement” or “excellent”.

Commissioner Evans suggested that Commissioners provide a general overview if the organization had a lot of programming since the last time the Cultural Affairs Commission meeting.

DEEP, INC.

Commissioner Kelsey attended a workshop through the Block by Block program. Commissioner Kelsey reported that Deep Center was meeting the requirements. Commissioner Barbara Essig attended the Block by Block pot-luck; she reported they encouraged the participants to write about their experience of sharing food and that a historical group from South Carolina presented. Commissioner Kareem McMichael attended the *Deep Speaks!*; Commissioner McMichael reported that there was appropriate signage, a large number of participants, and youth were engaged in the program. The only concern Commissioner McMichael expressed was that the venue was small. Commissioner Essig stated that Deep Center’s program participants’ demographics are mixed and the programming is strong.

KING-TISDELL COTTAGE FOUNDATION

Commissioner Cali stated the Foundation had three lectures since the last meeting. Commissioner Linda Evans attended two lectures, and reported that lectures were well-attended, that she received invitations from the organization, and the programs were well-organized. Commissioner Evans stated that Dr. Larry Strokes was well informed, however, technical aspects of the presentation were not well-organized and the Duke



Ellington lecture was not well-attended. Commissioner Sue Ruby attended and noted that the lecturer did not use a microphone and went over the allotted time. Commissioner Janice James also noted the microphone issue. Commissioner James noted the music aspect of the lecture was well-presented. Commissioner Cali noted the organization provided a space to have difficult conversions.

MOUNTAINFILM ON TOUR SAVANNAH

Commissioner Darren Bagley-Heath attended the school screening on Thursday; he noted that two of the schools present were private schools. Commissioner Bagley-Heath stated that the programming had thought-provoking content and good guest-speakers. Commissioner Ruby attended on Thursday, noted the screening she attended was not a full theatre. Commissioner Cali stated there was multiple screenings, and the program she attended was full. Commissioner Ruby believed the program was completed professionally; she noted the presenters made the programming relevant to their audience (students). Commissioner Essig noted the program was well-done.

SAVANNAH PHILHARMONIC

Commissioner Essig attended the Orchestra Lab; no students from the public schools were in attendance. Commissioner Essig reported there were no African-American students present; she stated this might have been due to snow days or testing. Commissioner Essig reported the program was well-designed and engaged the students. Commissioner James reported that the program was very educational and that only one class was able to attend. Commissioner Cali also attended and agreed with the other commissioners on their assessment.

Commissioner Cali suggested to move the evaluations of Savannah Music Festival, Telfair Museum of Art, and Savannah Black Heritage Festival to the next Cultural Affairs Commission Meeting.

Motion made and seconded to move the evaluations to the next meeting. Motion carried.

V. Votes

Commissioner Cali instructed the Commission on the Vice-Chair voting process and that the Vice-Chair position would also be the Weave-A-Dream Committee Chair.

Commissioner Cali discussed the Cultural Affairs Commission Operations Manual document. Motion made and seconded to accept the Cultural Affairs Commission Operations Manual. Motion carried.

VI. Chair Report

Commissioner Cali reported on the Weave-A-Dream program, with a balance of \$22,906.06. Rebecca Brown reported that one application was submitted and in the



review process. Eileen Baker discussed potential partnerships within the Weave-A-Dream applications. Baker also discussed Weave-A-Dream criteria and eligibility.

Commissioner Cali announced the Weave-A-Dream committee members, including: Courtney Papy, Darren Bagley-Heath, Brea Cali, Linda Evans, Andrea Hall-Houston, and Linda Wilder Bryan.

VII. Directors Report

Eileen Baker announced the opportunity for Cultural Affairs Commissioners to join the Americans for the Arts (AFTA) membership program. Baker discussed what the AFTA does and the resources they provide. Baker instructed the Commissioners to email Rebecca Brown to join.

Baker discussed the departmental reports, including filling positions and the department's past and current programming.

Luciana Spracher discussed current exhibitions at City Hall, and the upcoming exhibition of W.W. Law photography collection at the Beach Institute. Spracher discussed the lecture program that is open to the public.

VIII. Contract for Arts Services Report

Rebecca Brown explained the evaluation form submission process.

IX. General Discussion

Commissioner Cali reported there was a tie for the Vice-Chair. Motion made and seconded to vote between the two candidates that tied. Motion carried.

Rebecca Brown reported the two Commissioners that tied were Courtney Papy and Patrick Kelsey.

After the second vote, Commissioner Cali announced that the Vice-Chair of the Cultural Affairs Commission will be Courtney Papy.

Commissioner Lang proposed an idea of a Cultural Affairs Commission meet-and-greet.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Commission will be held on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at 9 W. Henry Street.