



CITY OF OAKLAND

**Cultural Affairs Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 23, 2023
5:30 – 8:09 PM**

Members in Attendance: Diane Sanchez (Chair), Kev Choice (Vice Chair), Jennifer Easton, Michelle Mush Lee, Vanessa Whang, Theo Aytchan Williams

Members Absent: J. K. Fowler, Shannon Price

Staff in Attendance: Roberto Bedoya, Neha Balram, Kristen Zarembo, Regina Acebo

Guest Speakers: Poinciana Hung-Haas, Sorell Raino-Tsui

Roll Call/Call to Order

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sanchez at 5:30 PM.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Sanchez called for a moment of silence for the recent lives lost due to gun violence in communities across California.

She then led a land acknowledgement noted that the City of Oakland's repatriation of land to the Sogorea Te' Land Trust is a step towards progress and reminded the commission of their commitment to hold up Oakland's Indigenous community.

3. Action Item 1: Adopt Resolution 23-01-09 Determining that Conducting In-Person Meetings of the Cultural Affairs Commission and its Committees would Present Imminent Risks to Attendees' Health, and Electing to Continue Conducting Meetings Using Teleconferencing in Accordance with California Government Code Section 54953, a Provision of AB-361

This item was voted on later in the meeting when quorum was achieved.

Motion to adopt Resolution 23-01-09 made by Commissioner Sanchez; seconded by Commissioner Choice.

Choice	AYE
Easton	AYE
Lee	Abstain
Sanchez	AYE
Whang	AYE

Williams Abstain
The motion passed.

4. Action Item 2: Approval of Minutes from November 28, 2022

This item was voted on later in the meeting when quorum was achieved.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 28, 2022, made by Commissioner Easton; seconded by Commissioner Whang.

Choice	AYE
Easton	AYE
Lee	AYE
Sanchez	AYE
Whang	AYE
Williams	AYE

The motion passed.

5. Artist Spotlight: Poinciana Hung-Haas

Vice Chair Choice introduced Poinciana Hung-Haas, the youth artist spotlight for the meeting.

Poinciana Hung-Haas is a youth artist and fashion designer from Oakland, CA. She is inspired to share stories of growing up in a town engulfed by a rich culture; one that is filled with a diversity of people, music, food, and street art. For the past seven years, Poinciana has developed her fine art and fashion design skills through her education at Oakland School for the Arts. Her pieces have been exhibited at the Exploratorium in San Francisco and throughout Downtown Oakland, and she has worked as the lead designer for Oakland equestrian celebrity Brianna Noble. Poinciana also drew a design representing Oakland Chinatown, which is sold by Oaklandish to raise funds to rebuild Chinatown's recreation center. Most recently, she created an exhibit shining light on Asian American history and youth artists through quilted portraits, a painting, and poetry, which has been displayed at 811 Broadway, the Oakland Asian Cultural Center, and at Alameda County Supervisor Lena Tam's swearing in ceremony. She strives to continue drawing attention to causes and amplifying the voices of others by captivating the audience through her arts.

Find the Drago Power Merchandise on Oaklandish:

<https://www.oaklandish.com/collections/hometown>

6. Cultural Affairs Division Manager's Update

Staffing

Roberto Bedoya noted that interviews for the Cultural Funding Program Coordinator position will begin this week.

Meetings with Newly Elected Officials

He said that he has requested an introductory appointment with Mayor Sheng Thao.

FY23-24 Budget Update

He noted that preliminary internal discussions about the FY23-24 budget have indicated that the City will face a budget deficit of \$178M in the first year and \$171M in the second year of the

upcoming budget cycle. He said that this deficit is larger than the last recession. A possible scenario is 20 percent reductions across City departments. The Cultural Affairs Division should anticipate cuts to its General Fund and Transient Occupancy Tax budget.

Cultural Funding Program

Bedoya noted that The Creative Economies of Belonging Jobs, Network and Catalysts Grant Opportunity for Oakland Cultural Organizations."

7. Public Comment

No comment was made by the public.

8. Cultural Affairs Commission Chair's Update

Chair Sanchez noted that she, staff, and Commissioners Whang and Easton have been working on a briefing book with Division (administrative, programmatic, and budget) and CAC information. The briefing book will be shared with the Mayor and elected officials during one-on-one meetings.

The Alameda County Arts Commission awarded a total of \$1M in its second round of Arts Relief Grants. Of the total 339 grants awarded in round one and two, 40% of the grants went to Oakland artists. The East Bay Cultural Alliance continues to work on arts advocacy for Alameda County. Chair Sanchez encouraged commissioners to participate in advocacy activities at the county and state level during Arts, Culture, and Creativity month.

She reminded commissioners to engage with the Oakland arts community through event and community meeting attendance.

9. Update: Cultural Strategists-in-Government (CSIG) Public Art Program – Sorell Raino-Tsui

Commissioner Whang facilitated a presentation and Q&A period with the Public Art Program's Cultural Strategist, Sorell Raino-Tsui, and Public Art Coordinator Kristen Zaremba.

[Sorell Raino-Tsui](#) has been curating, showcasing, and producing public art in Oakland for the past decade. With the lived experience of creating permanent public art installations, Raino-Tsui hopes to build bridges between city government and the artist communities that feel disenfranchised from the public art world. The [Public Art Program](#) will work with Raino-Tsui to find creative ways to reach, recruit, and orient emerging and established Oakland BIPOC artists to the specialized knowledge and the lengthy and complex processes that public art projects can entail in order to bring more diverse voices into the civic realm.

10. Discussion Item: CAC Work Planning for FY22-23 and FY23-24

Chair Sanchez asked the commissioners to reflect on past ad hoc committee work and have an open discussion on new priority areas. See end of minutes for complete notes on the conversation.

11. Open Forum

No comment was made by the public.

12. Announcements & Acknowledgements

The Commission took a moment to remember Anita Pointer, member of the Oakland's The Pointer Sisters who passed away in December 2022.

13. Closing

A motion to end the meeting was made by Vice Chair Choice, seconded by Commissioner Lee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Notes on Agenda Item #10: CAC Work Planning FY 2022-23 and 2023-2024

Group discussion: What should be the next priority areas of ad hoc team work for the Commission for the remainder of FY22-23 and FY23-24?

Commissioner	Recommendations	Additional Notes
Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an artist directory. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A cultural map - An online platform to search - Updateable by the individual or arts org 	<p>√ Easton: Agree on Williams’s idea and would like to see a sample of how this has been done and how they made it useful</p> <p>√ Choice</p>
Easton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of CA putting substantial dollars into cultural districts - how can we leverage this for Oakland? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note: Current cultural district discussions at the state level imply property ownership, but it’s just not tenable in a place like Oakland. This is a missing piece of the CA Arts Council (CAC) because we can no longer just take property and convert it – this is a misdirected property based idea. - Call for more education on cultural districts, hubs (Sanchez) 	<p><u>Cultural Districts</u> The budget provides a one-time \$30 million General Fund augmentation for the council’s cultural district program. These funds will support the existing 14 cultural districts and expand the program to support traditionally underserved communities.</p>
Whang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting to know new elected officials and maintain existing relationships; develop shared talking points on areas of interest (i.e. budget cuts, etc.) 	
Lee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit workplans, especially the work during the last budget cycle and the formation of the Artist in Action coalition • FAC – how can we reconsider fewer grants at larger sizes if staffing is down and budget it cut? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What would be talking points for this (Sanchez) • RE: workplan: Formation of a Development/Fundraising advisory group to raise resources for culture 	
Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What’s the power of the Commission? • How do we advocate for CAD and for the Manager? We should be leaving every meeting with an action item 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would like to hear about cultural projects of other Commissioners	
Sanchez	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City of Oakland has no cultural facilities policy• Creating a plan for when Commissioners term out; member recruitment	

Additional questions/comments

(Williams)

- What's the Commission's authority to co-sponsor activities?
 - Roberto: We'll need to speak with our lawyer
- As a Commissioner, are our respective organizations taken out of any grant opportunities?
 - Yes, for grants coming out of the Cultural Affairs Division that could appear as a conflict of interest.

(Lee)

- What's the possibility of FAC or Commission serving as fund panelists?
 - Roberto: By law, all public funds go through a deliberation process. Also, serving on the advisory bodies like the Commission make folks ineligible for honorariums.