



CITY OF OAKLAND

**Cultural Affairs Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 19, 2022
5:30 – 7:58 PM**

Members in Attendance: Diane Sanchez (Chair), Kev Choice (Vice Chair), Roy Chan, Jennifer Easton, J. K. Fowler, Michelle Mush Lee, Shannon Price, Vanessa Whang, Theo Aytchan Williams

Members Absent: Arnell Pleasants

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

Guest Speakers: Jada Imani

Roll Call/Call to Order

1. Welcome

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

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair Sanchez led a land acknowledgement noting that the City of Oakland and the Sogorea Te' Land Trust are working on plans to return approximately five acres of land in Joaquin Miller park to Indigenous stewardship. This is one of the first cases of a municipality giving land back to Native people.

3. Action Item 1: Adopt Resolution 22-09-07 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 54953E, a Provision of AB-361

Motion to adopt Resolution 22-09-07 made by Commissioner Fowler; seconded by Commissioner Whang.

Chan	AYE
Choice	AYE
Easton	Abstain
Fowler	AYE
Lee	Abstain
Pleasant	Absent
Price	AYE
Sanchez	NAY

Whang AYE
Williams Abstain

The motion did not pass.

4. Action Item 2: Approval of Minutes from July 25, 2022

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 25, 2022 made by Commissioner Choice; seconded by Commissioner Chan.

Chan AYE
Choice AYE
Easton AYE
Fowler AYE
Lee AYE
Pleasants Absent
Price AYE
Sanchez AYE
Whang AYE
Williams AYE

The motion passed.

5. Artist Spotlight: Jada Imani

Commissioner Choice introduced Jada Imani, the artist spotlight for the meeting.

Jada Imani is an East St. Louis-born, Bay Area-raised Hip-Hop R&B artist and organizer. At 15, Imani began curating live performances at Oakland's First Friday Festival in the Alan Blueford Center for Justice, where she built a community while hosting hundreds of artists over the course of three and a half years.

Imani finds her ultimate passion is in grassroot projects. She has a newly launched merchandise line around her latest singles and music videos in partnership with local women-of-color owned businesses including AVOCURL, The Well and most recently Oaklandish.

6. Cultural Affairs Commission Chair's Update

Staffing

Chair Sanchez noted that Cultural Funding Program Coordinator position has still not been posted or filled, since Denise Pate's departure in October 2021. She expressed concern for the stress staff is under the current understaffed conditions. She encouraged the Commissioners to organize and reach out to elected officials and the City Administrator.

Departing Commissioners

Chair Sanchez acknowledged the service of two Commissioners terming off on September 30— Arnell Pleasants and Roy Chan. Chair Sanchez acknowledged Commissioner Pleasants contributions to the Ad Hoc Team: District 6 & 7. Commissioner Easton spoke to the many contributions Commissioner Chan made during his service including the relationships he built across the City, the

input he provided on the General Plan, provided input on Downtown Oakland Specific Plan, provided comments on suggested amendments to the municipal code regarding the Parks and Recreation, cultural mapping research, partnering with other Commissioners and community members to organize a town hall calling for Black and AAPI solidarity in response to increased violence against AAPI community members.

The East Bay Cultural Alliance

Chair Sanchez and a group of Alameda County arts community leaders have been able to successfully advocate for \$1M from the Alameda County Board of Supervisors that was distributed to 182 arts grant applicants.

Additional Updates

Commissioners Whang, Chair Sanchez, and Cultural Affairs staff Kristen Zaremba have been asked to provide input on design features for the public space in a plan for the housing project at Broadway and 4th below Interstate 880.

7. Cultural Affairs Division Manager's Update

Staffing

Roberto Bedoya noted that after the Cultural Funding Coordinator position is posted and filled, the position to support Kristen Zaremba in Public Art will be posted. Finally, a permanent part-time position will be hired to fulfill some administrative and communications needs.

Cultural Funding Program – Festival Culture

Bedoya noted that the available \$1.186M in re-granting funds are recommended by the Funding Advisory Committee to be awarded to 49 applicants. City Council will review the recommendations in October.

Research Projects

Bedoya is working on research for building infrastructure particularly in District 6 & 7. Additionally, he needs to conduct research on the economic and social impact of the arts in Oakland. Finally, he acknowledged the research work being conducted by the Goldman School Fellow Claire Pelley.

8. Public Comment

Comments were made by Jim Santi Owen.

9. Program Update: Cultural Strategists-in-Government

Chair Sanchez noted in her update that this agenda item will be moved to the November 28, 2022 meeting to allow for a more robust update.

10. Ad Hoc Team Update: Oakland Mayoral Candidate Forum

Vice Chair Lee, Commissioners Fowler, Choice, and Williams provided an overview of the program for the Mayoral Candidate Town Hall happening in October 8th as a part of the Life is Living Festival in West Oakland, and in partnership with Youth Speaks and California Humanities. Commissioner Fowler acknowledged the contributions by Commissioner Whang and Chair Sanchez to draft the invitations to the candidates.

The Commissioners discussed the purpose and goal of the town hall, the format, and the process for educating candidates, and engaging community members.

11. Open Forum

No comment was made by the public.

12. Announcements& Acknowledgements

Chairs Sanchez mentioned the partnership between the City of Oakland and Saint Denis, France and the upcoming exhibit at Oakstop in Downtown Oakland about this cultural partnership. She also highlighted the Oakland author Leila Mottley and her recent success and national recognition.

The Commissioners spent some time sharing the various civic and cultural activities they have participated in or attended.

13. Closing

A motion to end the meeting was made by Commissioner Choice, seconded by Commissioner Fowler.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.