

CITY OF OAKLAND

Cultural Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting Agenda

Monday, April 15, 2024

5:30 – 8:30 PM

Oakland City Hall

1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Hearing Room 1 (First Floor),

Oakland, CA 94612

How to Make a Comment:

All Cultural Affairs Commission meetings are conducted in person. The Commission no longer accepts comments via Zoom or telephone. Dialogue during the meeting with Commissioners, City staff, or its guest speakers is not permitted outside of the two comment periods.

There are two opportunities for the public to address the Cultural Affairs Commission and City staff. The first opportunity is during the "Public Comment" period. The second opportunity is during the "Open Forum" period.

You can choose to submit a written comment by 5:00 PM BEFORE the meeting starts to RBedoya@oaklandca.gov. Any comments received via email during the duration or after the meeting may not be entered into public record but will be shared with the Commission and City staff later.

Please click the link below to join the Zoom webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88040656016?pwd=eEr0aWCQOIbzXzKi4CnvbbsOFouOoW.1>

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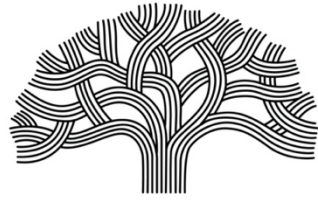
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CITY OF OAKLAND

Cultural Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting Agenda

Monday, April 15, 2024

5:30 – 8:30 PM

AGENDA

1. Roll Call/Call to Order
2. Welcome to New Commissioners!
3. Land Acknowledgement + Official City of Oakland Motto/Love Acknowledgement
4. Approval of September 2023 Meeting Minutes
5. Artist in the Spotlight
6. Cultural Affairs Division Update
7. Public Comment
8. Informational Presentations
 - Cultural Strategist-in-Government Program: Sabereh Kashi & Alisa Burton, Head Start
 - Henry J. Kaiser Community Advisory Board
9. Cultural Affairs Commission Chair's Update
10. Commission Ad Hoc Teams
11. Open Forum
12. Announcements & Acknowledgements
13. Closing

Next regular meeting: Monday, July 22, 2024 at 5:30 – 8:30 PM

Oakland Cultural Affairs Division of the Economic & Workforce Development Department
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 9th fl. Oakland, CA 94612

www.oaklandculturalarts.org

♿ This meeting location is wheelchair accessible. To request disability-related accommodations or to request American Sign Language (ASL), Cantonese, Mandarin, or Spanish language interpreter, please email RBedoya@oaklandca.gov or call (510) 238-2136 Or 711 (for Relay Service) at least five (5) business days before the meeting. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting as a courtesy to attendees with chemical sensitivities.

Esta reunión es accesible para sillas de ruedas. Si desea solicitar adaptaciones relacionadas con discapacidades, o para pedir un intérprete de en español, Cantonés, mandarín o de lenguaje de señas (ASL) por favor envíe un correo electrónico a NBalram@oaklandca.gov o llame al (510) 238-4949 o al 711 para servicio de retransmisión (Relay service) por lo menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión. Se le pide de favor que no use perfumes a esta reunión como cortesía para los que tienen sensibilidad a los productos químicos. Gracias.

會場有適合輪椅出入設施。需要殘障輔助設施, 手語, 西班牙語, 粵語或國語翻譯服務, 請在會議前五個工作天電郵 NBalram@oaklandca.gov 或致電 (510) 238-4949 或 711 (電話傳達服務)。請避免塗搽香氛產品, 參加者可能對化學成分敏感

Địa điểm tổ chức cuộc họp có đường dành riêng cho xe lăn. Để yêu cầu các phương tiện hỗ trợ phục vụ người khuyết tật hoặc yêu cầu thông dịch viên ASL, tiếng Quảng Đông, tiếng Quan Thoại hoặc tiếng Tây Ban Nha, vui lòng gửi email đến địa chỉ NBalram@oaklandca.gov hoặc gọi đến số (510) 238-4949 hoặc 711 (với Dịch vụ Tiếp âm) ít nhất năm (5) ngày làm việc trước khi cuộc họp diễn ra. Vui lòng không sử dụng các sản phẩm có mùi thơm khi tham gia cuộc họp này như một phép lịch sự đối với những người tham dự nhạy cảm đối với các chất hóa học.

Cultural Affairs Division - Economic & Workforce Development Department
Cultural Affairs Commission Contact – Roberto Bedoya, Cultural Affairs Manager
Phone: (510) 238-2136
Recorded Agenda: (510) 238-2386
Telecommunications Relay Service: 711

Welcome New Commissioners!

Olaywa K. Austin, Ebhodaghe Esoimeme,
Mandolyn “Mystic” Ludlum, and Candi J. Martinez

Olaywa K. Austin



Olaywa K Austin is a retired U.S. Air Force Medical Technician, Small Business Owner and Cultural Strategist. She is an Oakland native with a demonstrated history of cultivating environments and supporting platforms that are dedicated to improving the lives of Black people, Youth and LGBTQ communities through cultural education, design and social innovation.

Olaywa served a Tour of Duty during Desert Storm/Desert Shield; after returning to California, became a Case Manager for Mather Community Campus Employment and Rehabilitative Transitional Housing Program. Olaywa incorporated Creative Arts programming and Career Development in her case management work with foster youth, families with children and military veterans. Mather was awarded the Best Transitional Housing Program in the Nation, by President Bill Clinton. Mingling the Arts with their work in marginalized communities awakened Olaywa’s entrepreneurial spirit. In 2016 Olaywa founded TRiBE Oakland Performing Arts Incubator in West Oakland. TRiBE Oakland was quickly embraced by the community, becoming a safe space for gathering and local artistic expression. TRiBE Oakland was nominated for an Oakland Indie Award its first year in business. Olaywa has worked as an Independent Consultant with AIDS Housing Alliance; Oakland Pride; Rochester Black Pride, Washington Neighborhood Center - Sacramento, and GROW Organization SF Bay Area.

Ebhodaghe Esoimeme



A cultural strategist, creative director, and founder of DAGHE DIGITAL, a creative collective that specializes in visual storytelling, sound curation, and cultural activations. With over 10 years of experience in the creative industry, I have had the pleasure of working with leading brands such as Puma, Starz, Apple, and Nike; delivering authentic and trusted solutions that reflect a love for art, music and fashion. I am a dynamic and visionary savant with a proven track record of creating innovative solutions in all creative spaces. I am adept at identifying market gaps and forging strategic partnerships that drive positive growth and cultural shifts for businesses and local communities.

My background in digital marketing, brand development, and cultural impact showcases a unique blend of skills aimed at empowering emerging talent and cultivating inclusive spaces. Whether curating top-tier events and festivals or advocating for community interests, I excel in bridging the divide between creativity and community engagement. My career trajectory underscores a steadfast commitment to constructing influential brands, delivering unforgettable experiences, and effecting meaningful change within both the artistic and civic realms.

MANDOLYN “MYSTIC” LUDLUM



In these challenging economic and political times, arts and culture remain critical for healing, defining, imagining, creating, and strengthening the City of Oakland and our diverse communities. My myriad of experiences and qualifications make me uniquely qualified to participate as part of the Cultural Affairs Commission, and I am excited at the prospect of being able to contribute to the ongoing arts and culture work in Oakland.

I have been involved with the arts and culture for most of my 49 years as an artist, culture creator, culture keeper, advocate, educator, educationalist, mentor, researcher, and business owner. I am most publicly known as a

GRAMMY-nominated hip hop artist named Mystic, who explores and centers healing, community, social justice, and the power and beauty of our local and global communities within my music. I was recently inducted into the Bay Area Hip Hop Archives and also honored with a proclamation by Mayor Sheng Thao as one of a group of women artists who have contributed to hip hop culture in Oakland and beyond. Having released an album that year, I remain an active artist and run my own record label here in Oakland. Additionally, I am a Governor on the San Francisco Chapter Recording Academy Board and served last year as a co-chair of the Advocacy Committee. I also sit on the board of Diversify The Stage, which works nationally to diversify who works behind the lights in the music industry. As an educator, educationalist, mentor, advocate, and published researcher on equity in education in connection with policymaking and a researcher on the use of culturally relevant arts education, I am deeply interested in access to the arts and arts education, public art, who and what is recognized and valorized within the creation of culture and arts policy, and the power of arts and culture in connection with social justice and democracy.

I have developed and implemented arts curricula and deeply researched policy concerning the arts. I am currently part of the continuing Arts and Humanities Justice Coalition that worked with Congresswoman Barbara Lee's office to craft the Advancing Equity Through the Arts and Humanities Act to address systemic racism through arts and increase equity in funding for organizations and individuals who do this critical work through the arts. This policy work opened up powerful opportunities to advocate for arts and culture funding and artists' rights with Californians for The Arts and the Recording Academy on state and federal levels. I understand Oakland has competing demands in various areas throughout the budget. I also appreciate how complex it can be to navigate various stakeholders. Having the opportunity to use the plethora of knowledge and experiences I have, I can add a valuable voice to the Cultural Affairs Commission to educate and advise local government and the community on affairs pertaining to our city's arts and culture. I am also open to learning what I do not know and working with existing members of the Commission for the most significant benefit of our communities. My love of community and my strengths in research, collective work, advocacy, and a deep understanding of policymaking and public policy will allow me to make valuable additions to the already great work that has been happening. As a Black woman whose life has been guided by and saved by being a participant in the arts and creating culture, I am an emphatic believer that funding and public opportunities for artists and the creation of public and community arts and culture should be available to the most economically vulnerable communities and the most underserved populations and identities. I celebrate the Commission's work, and it would be my honor to be selected for one of the available spaces. I advocate for serving others, and I would love to have the opportunity to serve in this advisory capacity for and with the people of Oakland. Even with the challenges, we are in an exciting time in Oakland in terms of creating a sustainable future and seeking and reimagining new solutions. We can rise to our collective challenges while supporting a thriving arts and culture scene in our city—it is critical to who we are and want to be.

CANDI J. MARTINEZ



Greetings, My name is Candi Martinez (she / her). I am an Afro-Indigenous Xicana organizer with an excellent history of community advocacy, fostering equity and uplifting the arts. I have been a resident of Oakland for over 20 years and in the Bay Area for over 30 years and am proud of my contributions to supporting cultural arts through event production, curation, marketing and grant writing. I am passionate about empowering communities to heal from the harmful impacts of capitalism and systemic racism through arts, civic engagement, education, joy, and belonging. I am dedicated to equity, access, and intersectionality in all aspects of my work.

LOVE LIFE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge "Love Life" as our motto as we denounce violence in all forms and the conditions that create violence. We commit to working against these conditions to create a safe space for all to operate in Love and Peace on our streets.

We acknowledge that when we demonstrate love we also manifest qualities of respect, kindness, grace, truth, understanding, humbleness, and forgiveness towards each other. We commit to acts of love as an intentional force to generate tangible solutions, in regards to all policies, declarations, recommendations, resolutions, appointments, and actions.

We recognize as leaders, we must set an example and precedent for those who have entrusted us with these duties. We accept the responsibility to make our city and community a better place by bringing inspiration instead of insults, contributions instead of complaints, constructive feedback instead of criticism, and even in our passion for all issues no matter how difficult, we lead with the guiding principle of love.

We ask that you share with us in this commitment and practice of exhibiting love, good faith, positive energy, and respect in how you comment, present information, report out, or inform. We appreciate all contributions to this space and even when expressing hurt, harm, disappointment, dispute, or disagreement, we request that we lead with love in your heart.

We acknowledge Love in practice even when there are differences in opinions, strategies, procedures, and process, and we will seek to find common ground, and tangible solutions that demonstrate love for our city, its residents, our community, and all constituents.

We acknowledge and recognize that when we model this practice of love, it will establish a norm that will resonate and be exemplified throughout our city and create the change we all wish to see in our communities.

We acknowledge that when we lead with love we are able to uplift a thriving city rooted in equity, equality, justice, inclusion, and opportunity for all regardless of race, gender, age, class, socio economic status, nationality, religion, sexual preference, housing status, or political affiliation.

We acknowledge that when we uplift love, we uplift those impacted by violence of all and any kind. We acknowledge that when we uplift love we uplift traditions of our ancestors, our arts, our culture, our businesses, our educators, our unhoused, our civic servants, and all who contribute to the fabric and well being of our community.

We commit to the action of "Love Life" as our motto and mantra.

LOVE LIFE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (abridged version)

We acknowledge that in service to our beloved city of Oakland, and all its citizens, adhering to the city of Oakland's official motto, "Oakland Love Life" we enter into this space committed to embody love as our guiding principle.

We acknowledge Love Life as our motto as we denounce violence in all forms and the conditions that create it.

We acknowledge that when we demonstrate love, we also exhibit respect and kindness towards each other.

We commit to acts of love as an intentional force to generate tangible solutions, in regards to all of our actions.

We recognize as leaders, we must set an example and precedent for those in community who have entrusted us with these duties.

We welcome and appreciate all contributions to this space, and even when expressing disagreement, we request that we lead with love in your heart.

We seek to find common ground, and tangible solutions that demonstrate love for our city, its residents, and all constituents.

We acknowledge that when we lead with love we are able to uplift a thriving city rooted in equity, equality, justice, inclusion, and opportunity for all.

We commit to the action of "Love Life" as our motto and mantra.



CITY OF OAKLAND

Cultural Affairs Commission
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 25, 2023
5:35 – 8:40 PM

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

Members Absent: Ilana Lipsett, Shannon Price

Staff in Attendance: Roberto Bedoya, Neha Balram, Raquel Iglesias, Kristen Zaremba

Guest Speakers: Laurie Earp (Huey P. Newton Foundation)

Roll Call/Call to Order

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Chair Whang at 5:35 PM.

2. Land Acknowledgement + Official City of Oakland Motto/Love Acknowledgement

As part of Chair Whang's Land Acknowledgement, she reminded meeting participants and listeners about the [Shuumi Land Tax](#).

Vice Chair Choice read the abridged version of the City's [Love Acknowledgement](#).

3. Informational Presentation: Black Panther Party National Monument (Laurie Earp, Earp Events & Fundraising)

Laurie Earp, the Special Projects Lead of Huey P. Newton Foundation, presented an informational report to the Commission on the Foundation's efforts to designate [DeFremery Park as a U.S. National Park](#). This is an effort preserve highlight and preserve the history of Oakland's Black Panther Party. The Foundation is petitioning the National Park Service for the creation of a national monument in DeFremery Park through the deed of a parcel of land. This will not change open space designation at the park.

4. Public Comment

Daghe Esoimeme introduce himself to the commission.

5. Debrief on Advocacy Activities

Commissioner Whang thanked the Commissioners and the arts community for their advocacy efforts during the City’s latest budget process. She acknowledged Commissioner Lipsett’s efforts to create an online petition that resulted in approximately 1,200 signatures and comments from the community. She also acknowledged the Commission’s efforts to attend town hall and City Council meetings and schedule one-on-one meetings with elected officials. She invited the Commissioners present to debrief on their individual activities. Commissioner Santi Owen noted that he and Commissioners Lee and Lipsett met with Councilmember Kalb. He and Commissioner Easton met with Councilmember Ramachandran. Commissioner Santi Owen also noted that he co-hosted a virtual advocacy town hall with Visit Oakland and arts community leaders. Commissioner Easton noted that she spoke to a member of Assemblymember Mia Bonta’s staff to talk about arts policy at the state level. Vice Chair Choice noted that he attended Council President Bas’ town hall meeting and City Council meeting. He also share the petition with his network. Commissioner Williams noted that the Commission should strategize its framing of arts as essential workers.

6. Cultural Affairs Division Update

Roberto Bedoya provided an update on the Cultural Affairs Division’s activities. He invited Raquel Iglesias (Cultural Funding Program) and Kristen Zarembo (Public Art Program) to provide updates on their program’s activities.

7. Action Item 1: Approval of Minutes from May 22, 2023

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 22, 2023, made by Commissioner Easton; seconded by Chair Whang.

Choice	AYE
Easton	AYE
Lee	AYE
Lipsett	Absent
Santi Owen	AYE
Price	Absent
Whang	AYE
Williams	AYE

The motion passed.

8. Action Item 2: Vote on the Vice Chair Position (Term: July 2023 - July 2024)

The Commission voted to re-elect Commissioner Choice to the Vice Chair position for a term from July 2023 – July 2024.

9. Acknowledgement of Service on the City of Oakland's Cultural Affairs Commission

The Commission took a moment to recognize Commissioners Theo Aytchan Williams, Diane Sanchez, and Shannon Price for their contributions to the Commission and service to Oakland's cultural community, who were coming off of the Commission.

10. Cultural Affairs Commission Chair's Update

Chair Whang She invited the Commissioners to participate in an open discussion regarding their priorities over the next year. She noted that the Commissioners should work on a its community engagement strategy, so members of the public and cultural sector are actively invited to attend Commission meetings. She also noted that advocacy efforts in the midcycle budget and filling the five vacancies on the Commission are additional priorities. Vice Chair Choice agreed with Chair Whang's priorities, adding that Commissioners should be more active in advising elected officials and work more closely with the City's PIO's to increase visibility for arts and culture. He also noted that the advocacy ask should include a substantial increase for the Cultural Affairs Division. Commissioner Santi Owen noted that the Commission should recognize community members for their contributions to Oakland's cultural sector at meetings. Commissioner Williams agreed that the Commission's visibility and accessibility should be a priority. Commissioner Easton acknowledged the City's boards and commissions reception. She noted that Commission should broaden its approach to its advocacy strategy and draw the connection between arts and economic development. Commissioner Lee noted that community engagement needs to include intentional outreach efforts that make underrepresented communities feel seen.

11. Open Forum

No comment from the public was made.

12. Announcements & Acknowledgements

Commissioners took a moment to provide updates on activities and funding opportunities for the arts.

Commissioner Williams took a moment to remember Melanie Wofford who passed away recently.

13. Closing

A motion to end the meeting was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Easton.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Guest Speaker Bio: Alisa Burton, M.A. , Cultural Strategist-in-Government Program



Alisa Burton, M.A. (she/her) is a leader in Early Childhood Education with extensive knowledge and experience working with Head Start at the local, regional, and national levels. Alisa has been a City of Oakland Head Start Program Supervisor for over 25 years, and she has over 20 years of experience as an Adjunct Faculty for the local community college districts where she provides child development instruction and evaluation for college students. She previously served as a Senior Early Childhood Associate for Zero To Three, National Center for Infants and Toddlers and Families where she provided regional and national expert consultation to newly funded Early Head Start infant programs, and provided training and technical assistance on a national scale. Currently she is leading workforce development initiatives and partnerships for the City of Oakland Head Start where she is responsible for building and implementing a ECE career pipeline and registered apprenticeship program.

Alisa earned her Master of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Special Education, with an Infant Specialist certification from San Francisco State University in SF, CA; and she obtained her undergraduate degree from Spelman College, Atlanta, Ga. Alisa’s certification and training includes: Early Childhood Mental Health and Trauma for the 0-5 population; Supporting Inclusive Early Learning; Trauma and Racial Equity; and Early Childhood Program Leadership and Policy.

Alisa was recently selected as a Bank Street Early Childhood Policy Fellow in 2022 where she received expert coaching, participated in learning opportunities to deepen her understanding of early childhood systems and policy design, and focus on equity anchored in the examination of systems change. Alisa is passionate about infants and toddlers with special needs, family engagement, and realizing her vision of social justice through early childhood education.

Guest Speaker Bio: Sabereh Kashi, PhD, Cultural Strategist-in-Government Program



Sabereh Kashi, PhD is a documentary filmmaker and cultural strategist, passionate about connecting diverse communities through authentic storytelling. She has worked on award-winning films broadcast on PBS, BBC and international television networks and screened at IDFA, HOT DOCS and UNAFF. She made *“I’m Oakland”* (2022) in collaboration with the City about an African American homeowner struggling to preserve her home and legacy in Oakland. Kashi’s debut, the 35mm documentary *Lalezar Street* (2000) premiered at Fajr International Film Festival. She directed a web series about Iranian immigrant artists in North America (2008-2016). She edited and co-wrote the PBS documentary *Our Summer in Tehran* (2011) by Oscar-nominated Justine Shapiro and the award-winning short *Surviving International Boulevard* (2016). She was a staff editor for MTV networks. Her current film *The Patient Woman*, depicts her personal journey of searching for home in California as she peels the layers of her Iranian family and culture. She has won a Center for Cultural Innovation’s Investing in Artists award, a Berkeley Film Foundation grant, and a NATAS scholarship. She was an artist resident at SFFilm and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. She has co-founded Re-Present Media, a nonprofit that advocates for personal stories of underrepresented communities in non-fiction media.

Guest Speaker Bio: Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center

The Community Advisory Board for the Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center was created "to participate in the management of the Annual Fund for the Calvin Simmons Theatre (created through net project income from the Theatre), enforce the Community Benefits Agreement, and other responsibilities to be determined."