



## CITY OF OAKLAND

### Cultural Affairs Commission

#### Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 28, 2022

4:31 – 7:00 PM

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

**Staff in Attendance:** Roberto Bedoya, Neha Balram, Raquel Iglesias, Kristen Zarembo, and Regina Acebo

**Guest Speakers:** Santiago Olin Preciado-Cruz, Claire Pelley (Goldman School of Public Policy Fellow)

#### Roll Call/Call to Order

##### 1. Welcome

Meeting called to order by Commission Chair Sanchez at 4:30 PM. Sanchez acknowledge that April is National Arts Culture and Creativity Month.

##### 2. Land Acknowledgement

Commissioner Fowler led the Land Acknowledgement:

I want to take a moment to honor the traditions and territory we are a part of. Those of us on the land we now know as Oakland and lands all the way up to Albany are in Huichin, the unceded territory of the Chochenyo-speaking Confederated Villages of Lisjan Ohlone. We stand with the Lisjan people and their right to legal recognition and benefits from the US Government.

##### 3. Artist Spotlight: Santiago Olin Preciado-Cruz

Oakland Unified School District student and poet read some of his poems with the Commissioners.

##### 4. Action Item 1: Adopt Resolution 22-03-04 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 the Resolution 22-03-04 made by Commissioner Whang; seconded by Commissioner Choice.

Chan                    AYE

Choice                AYE

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

**5. Action Item 2: Approval of Minutes from February 14, 2022**

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 14, 2022 made by Commissioner Chan; seconded by Commissioner Choice.

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

**6. Cultural Affairs Division Manager’s Update**

Roberto Bedoya noted that the Neighborhood Voices Project Grants will be delayed until the Cultural Funding Program Coordinator position is filled since there is only one permanent staff person supporting the program’s needs. He expressed needing assistance from the CAC to manage the community’s response. However, the Division will offer Neighborhood Voices Festival Grants and a grant opportunity through the recent NEA award the Division received.

**7. Public Comment**

Comments made by Benjamin Lee

**8. Cultural Affairs Commission Chair Update**

Chair Sanchez reminded the CAC that the mid-cycle budget revision is coming up and she will be asking CAC members to participate in advocacy meeting with City Councilmembers leading up to the budget revise. She noted that she has been actively engaged in broader arts advocacy efforts; something the CAC should consider participating in.

Commissioner Whang provided a presentation on the second round of Cultural Strategist in Government program (CSIG). Commissioner Whang was a consultant for the pilot program (2019-2020). She will return as the program manager for the latest round. Bedoya was able to secure funding for through a \$900,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The CSIG Program flows from the principles of the City’s Cultural Plan that lifts up the role of cultural equity in building a fair and just city. The Program seeks to pair City policymakers

with the cultural strategist from communities most impacted by structural inequities. She noted that the Cultural Strategist in Government program (CSIG) will help insert culture into the work of various City departments. Participants in the program:

**African American Museum & Library at Oakland/Oakland Public Library**  
**Citywide Communications/Office of the City Administrator**  
**Community Homelessness Services/Human Services Dept.**  
**Environmental Services Division/Public Works Dept.**  
**Office of the Mayor**  
**Office of the President of the City Council**  
**Planning Bureau/Planning & Building Dept.**  
**Public Art Program-Cultural Affairs Division/Economic & Workforce Dev. Dept.**  
**Department of Race & Equity**  
**Department of Transportation**  
**Department of Violence Prevention**

#### **9. Downtown Plan Discussion**

Sanchez noted a few places the CAC should have a voice in activities coming out of the Planning and Building Department. The Ad Hoc Team Community Cultural Development includes Commissioners Chan, Easton, Fowler, and Whang, former Goldman School of Public Policy fellow Jean Johnstone and present Goldman fellow Claire Pelley. While the draft Downtown Oakland Specific Plan was completed in 2019 (prior to the CAC being re-established) the team has been in conversation with Joanna Winter is exploring what a collective response from the CAC could be to the plan that will be released in the coming months.

Additionally, she noted that the General Plan process is underway, and the CAC can have a better opportunity to provide input in this specific process. Commissioner noted that the housing element will be adopted in the summer, so the team will work on draft recommendations with the Goldman fellows that advocate for arts and culture and live work spaces to City staff by the May CAC meeting. Commissioners Whang introduced Claire Pelley, who she is advising throughout this project. Claire introduced herself and provided an overview of the work she is doing for Cultural Affairs.

#### **10. Open Forum**

No comments were made during the Open Forum.

#### **11. Announcements& Acknowledgements**

#### **12. Closing**

Commission Chair Sanchez thanked the Commissioners, City staff, and the public for joining the meeting.

Commissioner Whang made a motion to dismiss; seconded by Commissioner Williams.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.