

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, August 10, 2009**

**Members Present:** Tia Blassingame, Alderman Frances Clark, Dorreth Cole, Douglas Hausladen, Robert Parker, Perkins Foss, Aleta Staton, Janna Wagner. **Staff Present:** Barbara Lamb, Kim Futrell. **Members Absent:** Su-Lin Carbonelli, Gabriela Campos-Matteson, Suzette Franco-Camacho, Jennifer Delmonico, William Denby, Randi Rubin Rodriguez, Dean Sakamoto.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by B. Parker at 5:50 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes to be revisited when a quorum is present.

**III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

B. Lamb updated the commission on New Haven Sister Cities and various other DCA projects.

Community Activities: DCA staff is working with the committee of the Dixwell Children's Art Festival which will be held on August 15 & 16 on the apron in front of the former Q House on Dixwell Avenue. The Festival includes a variety of hands-on arts and cultural activities taught by area professionals for children and youth with the intent of exposing youngsters to opportunities for careers and hobbies related to arts and design. Cultural Affairs will be coordinating a mural painting, the painting of a backdrop for the NH Jazz Festival stage and weaving activities on site.

DCA staff is continuing its marketing support of the New Haven Jazz Festival. The Festival will be held from 3-10pm on the New Haven Green Saturday, August 22.

Public Art: DCA in collaboration with the New Haven Free Public Library will unveil and dedicate the "READ" mural in front of the Stetson Library branch at 5:30pm on Friday, August 14. The mural project originated by Yale student Mindy Lu with artistic and teaching assistance of local artist Katro Storm included hands on participation from area youth. The finished mural highlights the contributions of numerous successful individuals from the Dixwell neighborhood.

A future mural project is being developed with Marrakech on Whalley Avenue. Cultural Affairs has hired mural artist JoAnn Moran to coordinate meetings between the community and Marrakech clients that will generate creative ideas for the mural and will train Marrakech clients on the laying out and painting of murals.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

Mayors Community Arts Grant Program: The grants panel met in June to review twenty-eight applications requesting funding for arts and cultural programs. Twenty-three applicants were selected for funding for the 2009/2010 grant cycle and shared the grants budget of \$25,000. Projects include community celebrations, exhibitions, historical reenactments as well as musical and theatrical productions.

Strategic Planning: AMS has submitted a draft Stage I draft report of next steps and an overview of its meetings with numerous community leaders which Lamb discussed. A copy of the draft report will be forwarded to all commissioners until such time as the final report is available. B. Lamb has added another stage to the process which will include 4-5 community meetings in various areas of the city. These meetings will be orchestrated such to provide the community "best practices" of Cultural Affairs

Depts. of other comparable US cities and seek feedback on the priorities that New Haven's Dept of Cultural Affairs should focus on. Upon completion of these meetings and an analysis of the results AMS will meet with Mayor DeStefano and then facilitate a "success workshop" with a small group comprising DCA and select Economic Development staff and other interested parties to determine the best plan for the Dept's future work.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES REVISITED**

A. Staton motioned to approve the May-June minutes; seconded by B. Parker. Minutes unanimously passed.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

None discussed.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 AT 5:45 PM AT CITY HALL.**