

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES -REVISED
Monday, December 8, 2008

Members Present: Tia Blassingame, Gabriela Campos-Matteson, Dorreth Cole, Laurel Coniglio, Jennifer Delmonico, Perkins Foss, Sheila Murphy, Robert Parker, Randi Rubin Rodriguez, Mimi G. Sommer, Dean Sakamoto. **Staff Present:** Barbara Lamb, Kim Futrell. **Members Absent:** Alderman Frances Clark, Suzette Franco-Camacho, William Denby, Aleta Staton.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by S. Murphy at 5:48 p.m. S. Murphy called for an introduction of new member present – Tia Blassingame, Perkins Foss and Randi Rubin Rodriguez.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

S. Murphy called for a motion to approve the October, September and November 2008 minutes. J. Delmonico motioned to approve. Seconded by B. Parker. Minutes unanimously approved.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

S. Murphy called for nominations for Commission Chair. After discussion, B. Parker motioned to nominate J. Delmonico as Chair. Seconded by D. Cole. Motion unanimously approved.

J. Delmonico called for nominations for Commission Vice-Chair. L. Coniglio nominated B. Parker for Vice-Chair. Seconded by J. Delmonico. B.Parker nominated L. Coniglio for Vice-Chair. Seconded by R. Rodriguez. After discussion, J. Delmonico requested a vote. L. Coniglio received 2 votes and B. Parker received 5 votes as Vice-Chair. There was 1 abstention. B. Parker was elected the new Vice Chair.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

B. Lamb distributed a written report of OCA current and future activities.

Tree Lighting: OCA presented a successful and very well attended Tree Lighting Ceremony on the Green. Thursday, December 4. The event offered various free activities for children such as letter writing to the North Pole, carousel rides, hayrides and live entertainment. This year's tree was decorated with energy efficient LED lights, saving the city an estimated 90% of energy costs over 2007.

Arts Advocacy: OCA is working with the Arts Council of Greater New Haven and the Convention and Visitors Bureau to increase advocacy efforts in support of arts funding at both the municipal and state levels. Lamb reported on a recent meeting she attended which encouraged all arts administrators, board members and staff to become engaged. Each commissioner was asked permission to supply their names and e-mail addresses to a master Arts Council list which will provide future advocacy updates. Futrell will compile an agreed upon list. Sommer asked that since she does not utilize e-mail on a regular basis that she be called or mailed any pertinent information.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Percent for Art Program: The three artists proposals for the new Roberto Clemente school will be on display in the lobby of the Clemente Leadership Academy (temporary location: 133 Leeder Hill Rd, Hamden) until Friday December 12. They will then be exhibited in the Courtland Seymour Wilson (Hill) Library (303 Washington Avenue) from Monday December 14 to Monday, December 21. The three artist finalists are JoAnn Moran, Mollie Bornstein and Ellen Carey.

Nine Squares Installation: A decision was made to postpone production/installation of the Dehaemer project due to current economic conditions until possibly 2010. Lamb and other members of the jury will meet with the Joy Wolke team in the interim to explore what it would cost to experiment with implementing a small portion of their proposal during the summer of 2009.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

The proposed schedule of 2009 meetings was distributed and confirmed. The Commission meets on the second Monday of the month with the exception of Columbus Day.

B. Lamb updated members present on the recent passing of Mary Boyle, an active member of the New Haven area arts and culture scene. Boyle also sat on the Freetown, Sierra Leone Sister City Committee and had served as the former head of the Board of Education's Comprehensive Arts Program for many years.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2008 AT 5:45 PM AT CITY HALL.