

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, March 30, 2009**

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by J. Delmonico at 5:50 p.m. Su-Lin Carbonelli, a new commission member, was introduced to members present. She is a social worker at the Hill Health Center and also a member of the Board of New Haven Sister Cities.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

J. Delmonico called for a motion to approve the January 2009 minutes. M. Sommer suggested modifications be made to the January minutes to reflect that she had noted at the December meeting that there should have been two abstentions, rather than one, on the motion to approve the election of Commission Vice-Chair.

L. Coniglio motioned to approve the minutes with minor modifications. Seconded by A. Staton. Minutes unanimously approved.

**III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

April 13 Meeting: The next scheduled meeting of the commission is April 13 which is also the day the Office of Cultural Affairs is requested to present to the Finance Committee of the Board of Alderman who are considering the 2009-10 budget. The presentation will focus on the importance of and the activities of OCA in partnership with Market New Haven, Pilot Pen Tennis, and the Shubert Theater.

Members present agreed to hold a brief meeting at 6:15pm allowing them to attend the Budget workshop at 6:30pm as a show of support for the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Membership: B. Lamb read the resignation letter from Sheila Murphy, the former Chair of the commission who recently moved out of the state. Discussion was held encouraging members to make suggestions on potential new commissioners from neighborhoods not currently represented such as the Hill, Newhallville and Fair Haven.

Other: DCA has been turned down for the Yale Presidential Fellow Program that provides a Yale Student during the summer months to assist with programs and events. This is the first year DCA will not have a summer fellow since 2001.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

Percent for Art Program: The jury for Roberto Clemente School selected artist JoAnn Moran for the project. L. Coniglio provided a quick summary of the meeting and noted the excitement of the school's principal and staff represented on the jury for the selection.

J. Delmonico called for a motion to approve the final report for the Roberto Clemente School Percent for Art jury proceedings. Motion by A. Staton. Seconded by B. Parker. Motion unanimously approved.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

Department of Cultural Affairs:

B. Lamb reported on the loss of DCA staff member, Brian Hornby to recent layoffs and its potential impact on future services and events produced by DCA.

B. Lamb informed members of the City of Hartford's very visible commitment to the arts with the Mayor's recent establishment of a \$1.7 million Arts Stimulus Package which he announced during his State of the City address last month.

J. Delmonico and B. Parker reported the commission on a recent meeting they had with Kelly Murphy, the Director of the Economic Development Administration of which DCA is a part, to discuss concerns stemming from Brian Hornby's layoff as to the future of DCA programs, staffing and funding. Commissioners were encouraged to continue to communicate to their alderman the importance of DCA and its services to the community.

DCA continues to seek additional funding to conduct a strategic plan which would help define a new direction while calling attention to the many activities performed by the Department as well as possible ways DCA could contribute more if allowed. B. Lamb is particularly interested how DCA can assist in furthering New Haven's "Creative Economy". She has suggested New Haven adopt a program called "Youth Design" (currently in Boston) in which youth are mentored by businesses in the creative fields (such as graphic design, web design, architecture, theatre set, lighting and costume design, furniture or industrial design) through paid summer internships. DCA has approached the City's Youth Services Department in hopes of partnering to implement a version of program here.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, April 13 AT 6:15 PM AT CITY HALL.**