

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 11, 2010

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by J. Delmonico at 5:55 p.m. Members welcomed Ife Michelle Gardin, who is awaiting confirmation of appointment to the Commission in the next Board of Alderman meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Revisit upon a quorum

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Project Storefront: DCA with the support of New Haven's Economic Development Corporation will begin a pilot program (building on similar programs in various cities throughout the country) in which DCA will negotiate with property owners for the use of empty storefronts on a temporary basis for use by arts/cultural entrepreneurs interested in testing a business idea. Storefronts in Downtown, Fair Haven and Whalley Avenue are being reviewed as potential sites. Clusters of 2-3 stores in two locations will be selected based on property owner negotiations for this 2010 pilot. The goal of the program is to drive new and expanded foot traffic to these retail districts to help entrepreneurs evaluate their ideas/programs while helping property owners to call attention to their spaces for long term renters.

DCA will work with property owners to negotiate three month commitments with the potential to add months if the space continues to remain unrented and entrepreneurs are interested in continuing. Selected applicants will be given a small stipend for space fit out, signage, etc. Assistance will be provided for those interested in developing a business plan through the Economic Development Department. A Call for Artists is scheduled to be released later in January.

Grants Submissions: DCA recently applied to the CT Trust for Historic Preservation in partnership with the City Plan Department to map public art on the city's GIS system. Additionally, part-time staff recently attended the Grantsmanship intensive training to improve grants writing skills.

Upcoming Events: New Haven Public Library will be presenting a poetry contest with various age categories in March 2010. DCA has agreed to co-sponsor the event. There will be a formal reception in April.

The Orchard Street Shul Cultural Heritage Artists Project exhibition is currently at the John Slade Ely House. Bitsie Clark encouraged all commissioners to see it before it ends.

The Ethnic Cultural Heritage Center at SCSU will be transferring its current exhibition on Immigration for display at city hall in March. DCA has agreed to co-host the reception along with New Haven Sister Cities. All Commissioners will be invited and are encouraged to attend the opening and to bring friends.

The "What We Learned: Las Vegas Studio" exhibition at Yale School of Architecture curated by commission member D. Sakamoto has received great reviews from the New York Times and is on display through February 5. A weekend symposium featuring a keynote address by Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown will happen Jan 22-23.

Percent for Art: DCA will convene the first meeting for the Hill Central Percent for Art on January 12. S. Carbonelli will be the Commission representative on the jury.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES REVISITED

J. Delmonico called for a motion to approve the November 2009 minutes. Motion by J. Wagner, seconded by B. Parker. Minutes unanimously passed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Plan: AMS has an upcoming meeting with the Mayor. Additionally, AMS will facilitate a half day workshop with DCA staff to review all the research, community leader interviews, and community focus groups in order to define the parameters of the departments new Strategic Plan. Commission members will receive a copy of the summary report as soon as it is available and Barbara urged all commissioners to review it and provide staff with any further ideas, feedback, etc.

V. NEW BUSINESS

None discussed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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