

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 13, 2009 (Due to Columbus Day)

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by J. Delmonico at 5:55 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.

B. Lamb reported on a recent discussion with Nilda Morales from the New Haven Board of Education's Integrated Arts Program about collaborating with DCA on arts education. Barbara and Nilda agreed that it would be good to work on advocacy and other issues to further advance the cause of Arts Education in the City. The creation of an Arts Education Advisory Group is being considered. Additionally, DCA has had an initial conversation with Yale's director for Public Schools Partnerships regarding how to better coordinate efforts to engage Yale's four graduate-level arts-related schools (Art, Architecture, Drama & Music) for improved public school arts education programs. One ultimate goal might be to create an annual arts fair similar to the science fair it currently hosts. Work is currently commencing on building collaborations between the 4 professional schools and Coop High School for the Arts & Humanities.

The update for the New Haven Cultural Guide which had been spearheaded by the Arts Council of Greater New Haven in partnership with Town Green Special Services, Market New Haven, the Chamber and DCA and the Arts Council was cancelled due to shortfalls in staffing following the economic downturn. NH Festivals, Inc., which had agreed to serve as the fiduciary agent returned all the monies that had been collecting including the grant money received from the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism.

Upcoming Events: As part of the larger Hispanic Heritage Month, Arte Inc is hosting a discussion of A Latino Perspective on the Arts featuring Ceasar Pelli, Jock Reynolds and Imna Arroyo on October 23 at 5:30 pm at the Knights of Columbus Museum.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Planning: AMS has completed a series of community Focus Group meetings in five neighborhoods (Dixwell, Hill, Fair Haven, Westville and Downtown) about the present and future roles of DCA. The meetings were well attended and reflected a cross section of backgrounds, ethnicities and interests. The possible next steps were discussed in depth based on the Commission's Leadership's desire to meet with the Mayor since AMS needs to meet with them as well. It was decided that the following scenario would be most expedient for all involved:

1. The consultants will finalize a synthesis of their meetings/feedback from the Focus Groups.
2. The consultants will meet with the Mayor, tying in all the proposed roles and initiatives for DCA to the Mayor's broader vision for the City and the major issues it faces, seeking his feedback and ideas.

3. The consultants will meet with the Commission leadership to review the Mayor's priorities and what he might see as our role while providing him an overview of the direction we are thinking.
4. A 4-5 hour staff retreat will be scheduled to review the research and consider possibilities.

Public Art Policy: DCA reported that the Guidelines/Policy paper it distributed at last month's meeting is undergoing a re-write by the department's corporation counsel. The guidelines incorporate policies for deaccession, purchase and maintenance of art works. Following those proposed revisions the Guidelines will be re-submitted to the Commission for its approval before forwarding to the Board of Aldermen for their consideration.

Communications Policy: At last month's meeting a communication from Arne Duncan, the U.S. Secretary for Education expounding the virtues of arts education for American students was discussed. Under consideration was how communication between City Boards and Departments should occur. It was decided that in the absence of a City policy on this issue, the Director should bring items of particular interest to the attention of the Commissioners and the Chair whereupon the Chair shall contact the Chair of the respective City Board or Commission if staff feels it is inappropriate for them to do so. It was noted that sometimes staff action may preclude the issue of communication however it was also noted that communication between the Cultural Affairs Commission and the Board of Education or other Boards and Commissions would readily identify the CAC as a commission of action and awareness.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Doug Hausladen reported on a meeting he attended with Elm City Cycling which seeks to create a bicycle map for New Haven integrated with a map of the City's cultural assets and sites. He will speak to Market New Haven the Arts Council and Town Green Special Services District to determine interest in pursuing.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9 AT 5:45 PM AT CITY HALL.