

MINUTES
BROWARD CULTURAL COUNCIL
Thursday, January 3rd, 2008 – 12:00 PM
Governmental Center – Room 430

PRESENT: (1st Meeting), Edith Gooden-Thompson, Chair (p1, a0); Estelle Loewenstein (p1,a0); Arthur Crispino, (p1, a0); Bonnie Barnett (p1,a0); Michael Bassichis (p1,a0); Dr. Claire Crawford (p1,a0); Patrick Flynn (p1,a0); Commissioner Sue Gunzburger (p1,a0); Teresa Hall (p1,a0); Roslyn Kurland (p1,a0); Anna Toms McDaniel (p1,a0); Amy Ostrau (p1,a0); Richard Simon (p1,a0); Diane Weinbrum (p1,a0);

ABSENT: Anthony Abbate (p0,a1); Rose Marie Cossick (p0,a1); Margaret Armand (p0,a1); Richard Gray (p0,a1); Commissioner Charlotte Rodstrom (p0,a1); Benjamin Williams (p0,a1);

GUEST(S): Meredith Lasher, President, The Women's Theatre Project; Nancy Fear, Administrative Coordinator (Commissioner Gunzburger)

STAFF: Mary Becht, Director; Earl Bosworth, Assistant Director; Andrea Froome, Assistant County Attorney; Jim Shermer, Grants Manager; Steve Glassman, Arts Education and Community Development Manager; Grace Kewl-Durfey, Project Manager; Rowena Nocom, Division Administrative Assistant; Barbra Aleman, Recording Secretary

Chair Edith Gooden-Thompson called the meeting to order and roll was called by Barbra Aleman at 12:06 p.m.

Chair Edith Gooden-Thompson welcomed back Commissioner Sue Gunzburger and Amy Ostrau to the council.

A motion was made by Bonnie Barnett, seconded by Patrick Flynn, to approve the minutes of the December 6th, 2007 Broward Cultural Council (BCC) Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Arthur Crispino, seconded by Richard Simon to approve items 1, 2, 3 and 4 on the consent agenda as follows:

2008 Cultural Council Annual Plan.

Designation of eligibility status for General Operating Program for the Association of Performing Arts of India, Inc. and The Girls Choir of South Florida, Inc. for FY 2009.

A recommendation to Broward County Board of County Commissioners for City Theatre, Inc. and the All Florida Youth Orchestra, Inc., for late submission of FY 2006 certified audited financial statements.

Commissioner Diana Wasserman-Rubin to serve on the Global Arts & Culture Committee.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Meredith Lasher, President of the Women's Theatre Project stated that the theatre has four main stage productions this year (one world premier and 3 southeastern premiers). The Women's Theatre Project is the only professional theatre company producing works that are written by women and performed by all female casts. Ms. Lasher stated that the theatres' goal is to seek more funding for marketing, provide employee salaries and secure an independent performance space. Richard Simon asked how the council could support the Theatre League of South Florida. Mary Becht recommended that Jim Shermer, Richard Simon and Meredith Lasher meet next week and make a recommendation to the BCC council in February. Discussion followed.

Discussion followed on the Emerging Cultural Leaders Program. Estelle Loewenstein asked council members to review the Ad-Hoc Committee Proposal and stated that the plan was based on the American for the Arts program to encourage, educate and involve young professionals to get involved in both the community and in the Arts. Ms. Loewenstein suggested that council forward any comments or suggestions to Grace Kewl-Durfey. Chair Edith Gooden-Thompson stated that in order to start the program on June 2008, the project will have to be approved at the February 14th BCC Meeting.

Chair Edith Gooden-Thompson reported that 2008 the Cultural Council committees and chair appointments have to be confirmed at the BCC Meeting in February and a large number of positions remain open. In addition, Chair Gooden-Thompson requested that council members sign up for 2008 evaluations.

Chair Edith Gooden-Thompson announced that Commissioner Charlotte Rodstrom will be presenting at the League of Cities Meeting on March 6th, 2008 and therefore is excused from attending the BCC Meeting in March. Chair Gooden-Thompson also stated that there are three vacancies on the council and asked members to recommend candidates to Commissioner Stacy Ritter and Commissioner John Rodstrom.

Director Mary Becht advised council that the 2020 RLI for the Community Cultural Plan was moved to the January 15th Commission Meeting. Discussion followed.

Director Mary Becht stated that Benjamin Williams was reappointed by the Broward County School Board to serve on the council. Ms. Becht also stated that the county budget process has started and noted that the federal government has increased funding for the National Endowment for the Arts by 20 million dollars this year.

Director Mary Becht announced that the Bonnet House was awarded full accreditation by the American Association of Museums. Ms. Becht also noted that information on upcoming grants is available on brochures and on the cultural division's website.

Chair Edith Gooden-Thompson recommended that a Proclamation be presented to the Bonnet House from Broward County Commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.