

**Minutes  
Broward Cultural Council  
Executive Committee  
Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Main Library, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Bienes Ceremonial Room  
100 S. Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301**

**Present:** (2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting) Edith Gooden-Thompson, Chair (p1, a1); Estelle Loewenstein, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair (p2, a0); Anthony Abbate, Past Chair (p1, a1); Rose Marie Cossick, Member-at-Large (p2,a0); Richard Simon (p1, a1)

**Absent:** Arthur Crispino (p1,a1)

**Guests:** Maureen Kohler, President, ArtServe; Hal Axler, Executive Director, Fort Lauderdale Film Festival; Irvin Lippman, Executive Director, Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale; Bonnie Barnett; Deborah Kerr

**Staff:** Mary Becht, Director; Earl Bosworth, Assistant Director; Andrea Froome, Assistant County Attorney; Jody Leshinsky, Acting Assistant Director; Rowena Nocom, Division Administrator; Barbra Aleman, Senior Secretary

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Chair Edith Gooden-Thompson called the meeting to order at 12:12 pm.

Edith Gooden-Thompson stated that the council will need to develop an action plan to advocate for the arts at the upcoming budget hearings and workshops. Director Mary Becht explained that the County is in phase-one reorganization and stated that Cultural Amenities is still one of the County's 20 Year Vision Statement goals. Ms. Becht reported that the division was asked to make a 10 percent reduction and may be reorganized and consolidated with another County department.

**A motion was made by Richard Simon, seconded by Estelle Loewenstein, to approve the minutes of the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Earl Bosworth explained the Results Team Proposal various funding at 10, 40 and 60 percent reductions, defined various programs and projects and made recommendations on what items to eliminate. Mr. Bosworth recommended straight line item reductions to the grants budget, preserve general operating grants to Majors and Regionals and ArtServe and eliminate project grants. Discussion followed. Chair Edith Gooden-Thompson thought it would be safer to cut across the board, while Richard Simon and Bonnie Barnett suggested prioritizing programs and organizations. Estelle Loewenstein suggested reviewing the mini-grant program more closing and to be more critical when awarding money to organizations.

Director Mary Becht announced that Assistant Director Earl Bosworth will be leaving the Cultural Division to take an interim position at the Animal Control Division and Marketing Director, Jody Horne-Leshinsky, will be promoted to Interim Assistant Director of the Cultural Division.

Anthony Abbate asked if division anticipated any loss of state funding. Director Mary Becht stated that if the division lost the local arts agency designation by being combined with another division, it may lose the license plate revenue. It is extremely important to keep the Cultural Division as a separate local arts agency, if significantly reduced in size it would lose it's designation.

Chair Edith Gooden-Thompson reiterated that it was extremely important for council members to advocate, meet with commissioners, attend budget hearings and workshops and wear buttons to show presence at meetings. Richard Simon agreed to be a spokesperson for advocating, coordinate meetings with commissioners, coordinate attendance at Budget Hearings and Workshops and send out email blasts, notices. Chair Gooden-Thompson asked that members contact Rowena Nocom when setting up appointments with commissioners and added that if more than one council member the meeting will have to be Sunshined.

Irvin Lippman asked if Cultural Tourist Development Tax would be a potential source of increased funding. Director Mary Becht stated that the issue is still under discussion.

Chair Edith Gooden-Thompson went over the bullet points to discuss with commissioners. Discussion followed on possible programs and projects to cut on budget. Chair Gooden-Thompson recommended that the council finalize a proposed budget cut.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.