

**Minutes
Broward Cultural Council
Executive Committee
Thursday, June 18th, 2009
Main Library, 6th Floor Bienes Ceremonial Room
100 S. Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301**

Present: (3rd Meeting) Estelle Loewenstein, 1st Vice-Chair (p3,a0); Arthur Crispino (p3,a0); Rose Marie Cossick, Member-at-Large (p3,a0); Amy Ostrau (p2,a1)

Absent: Edith Gooden-Thompson, Chair (p2,a1); Anthony Abbate, Past Chair (p0,a3); Janet Erlick (p2,a1)

Staff: Ken Kahn, Public Art and Design Administrator; Andrea Froome, Senior Assistant County Attorney; Jim Shermer, Grants Manager; Rowena Nocom, Division Administrative Assistant; Thomas Adams, Arts Assistant

Vice Chair Estelle Loewenstein called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Vice Chair Estelle Loewenstein reminded council members that the Mini-Grant Panel Review will be on June 24, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in the Bienes Ceremonial Room. Discussion followed. Vice Chair Loewenstein stated that she hope that all members would be more proactive in obtaining and reviewing grant proposals.

A motion was made by Amy Ostrau, seconded by Marie Cossick, to approve the minutes of the April 16th, 2009 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Arthur Crispino, seconded by Amy Ostrau, to approve Items 1, 2 and 3 on the consent agenda as follows:

Approval of a 30-day (60-day total) extension from Bailes Ferrer, Inc., for late submission of the FY 2008 certified financial audit.

Approval of artist Cliff Garten and his design concept for the Supervisor of Elections Office Project in an amount not to exceed \$185,000, (\$165,000 art; \$20,000 contingency), with artist Jim Sanborn and his design concept as the alternate.

Approval for Anthony Lauro to be considered to serve on the Public Art and Design Committee effective 10/1/09 to replace Irvin Lippman.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Ken Kahn reported on the June 17, 2009 County Commission Budget Workshop and stated that the Commission is working on a level 1 and 2 funding reductions. This would signify a merging of funds, eliminating the Assistant to the Director position and the loss of Part Time 19 positions. The Commission recommended suspension of the Public Art and Design program by not approving any

new projects. Existing projects would be completed, but the concern would be how it could be done with the reduction in staff. Discussion followed.

Jim Shermer stated that grant prioritizing was recommended in April and the funding amount will be decided in the future. Some programs may fall away by attrition. Options are being explored as to whether the funding should be spread over a year or a shorter term. Mr. Shermer stated that the division is surveying grantees on what would be the best disbursement method for them as well as what amounts they can live with as organizations. Choices can be made “across the board” versus elimination of specific programs and soon grant agreements will have to be written with the idea of awarding less than in previous years, “downsizing” as opposed to cutting.

Arthur Crispino said he thought it would be helpful if the Division could prepare a spreadsheet to show the Board members where the grants are going and a proposal as to what can be eliminated. Then the Board can look at it and get a clearer picture overall.

Estelle Lowenstein is concerned about the education component and stated that people like to see programs for children. If these are affected, people will take notice. Arthur Crispino noted that once we see “the spreadsheet” the Board can discuss it effectively. Viability of institutions with funding cuts is a concern.

Ken Kahn briefly mentioned the startup of the 2020 Community Cultural Plan and said it is timely that the future of arts, culture and tourism will be discussed so broadly by the community during the budget procedures.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.