

**Minutes
Broward Cultural Council
Executive Committee
Thursday, July 20th, 2009
Main Library, 6th Floor Bienes Ceremonial Room
100 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301**

Present: (4th Meeting) Edith Gooden-Thompson, Chair (p3,a1);
Estelle Loewenstein, 1st Vice-Chair (p4,a0); Anthony Abbate, Past Chair
(p1,a3); Arthur Crispino (p4,a0); Janet Erlick (p3,a1) Amy Ostrau (p3,a1)

Absent: Rose Marie Cossick, Member-at-Large (p3,a1)

Council Members Present: Bonnie Barnett, Robbie Kurland, Deborah Kerr, Patrick Flynn

Staff: Mary Becht, Cultural Division Director; Earl Bosworth, Assistant
to the Director; Ken Kahn, Public Art and Design Administrator;
Jim Shermer, Grants Manager; Barbra Aleman, Recording
Secretary

Chair Edith Gooden-Thompson called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm and roll was called by Barbra Aleman, Recording Secretary.

A motion was made by Arthur Crispino, seconded by Amy Ostrau, to approve the minutes of the June 18th, 2009 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Anthony Abbate, seconded by Amy Ostrau, to approve Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 on the consent agenda as follows:

Approval of the grant panel's recommendations for the Mini-Grant Program from the June 24, 2009 Panel meeting. Funding recommendations for grantees will commence October 1, 2009 and the next fiscal year and with later adjustments to funding awards to be made based on approval of the FY2010 grant budget sales tax budget.

Approval of a Grant Change Request for the Tamarac Theatre for the Performing Arts Inc. (GOP27-2009). Change From: Scope of Services: GRANTEE, Tamarac Theatre of Performing Arts, Inc., agrees to produce a minimum of five (5) mainstage full-length musical or theatrical productions. Change To: ...agrees to produce a minimum of Part (A), four (4) mainstage full-length musical or theatrical productions, and Part (B), two (2) mainstage musical cabaret programs Iris Revson (Iris and Company) and Joan Rose H.H. (Barbra Streisand). Each mainstage musical cabaret program shall be presented for a minimum of one (1) week, with a minimum of three (3) performances per week.

Approval of National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) advisory panel and review criteria for the \$200,000 sub-grants to arts organizations.

Approval of the final plan and final payment to artist Mikyoung Kim in the amount of \$12,000 for the Port Everglades Public Art Master Plan, pending PAD Committee approval.

Approval of Kasama Polakit to serve on the Public Art and Design Committee effective 10/1/09 to replace Jaap Vos pending PAD Committee approval.

Approval of Kasama Polakit to be added to the pool of Artist Selection Panelists.

Approval of final payment to artist Lorna Jordan in the amount of \$20,000 for the Long Key Natural Area Project, pending PAD Committee approval.

Approval of the Artist Selection Panel for the 2010 Update of the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport Expansion Public Art Master Plan 2005 and the Airport Terminals Interior Clarification Project for the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

Approval of Mindy Shrago and Charlotte Sundquist to the 2020 Cultural Plan Steering Committee.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion followed on the proposed budget reductions for FY2010. Chair Edith Gooden-Thompson stated that the 15% budget reduction for the Cultural Division was actually a 27% reduction for grants adding the elimination of the general fund for cultural division staff. It appears that the Cultural Division took the highest percentage of budget reduction for the smallest division in the county. In addition, the commission considered suspending all Public Art and Design projects.

Chair Edith Gooden-Thompson invited council to attend tomorrow's special 911 Cultural Executives Committee Meeting on July 17, 2009 at 3 pm at ArtServe and asked everyone involved to attend meeting. Patrick Flynn, Chair of the Finance Committee provided advocacy ideas and stated that the council should ask the commission and county administrator for fairness.

Robbie Kurland recommended that Chair Edith Gooden Thompson meet with County Administrator Bertha Henry to discuss proposed budget cuts. Chair Edith Gooden Thompson suggested that council members also arrange to meet with their county commissioners and she will also plan to attend. Robbie Kurland added that the public voters need to contact commissioners as well as council members to advocate for the arts.

A motion was made by Estelle Loewenstein, seconded by Arthur Crispino, to approve to move ahead with the Advocacy plan described above. The motion was unanimously approved.

Patrick Flynn stated that the most important thing is to get the organizations that are receiving the grants to ask the public to contact commissioners to effectively advocate for the arts is imperative. Currently there is no impact with the public in volume or numbers contacting commissioners. Message should be "Why are the arts asked to bear a 27 percent reduction compared to the rest of the county divisions taking a 10 to 15 percent reduction?" Message should be "Fair Share for the Arts" which appears to be around 10 percent budget reduction.

Anthony Abbate commented on his frustration with the recent events and how it would effect the Public Art and Design program.

Discussion followed on inviting important community leaders from arts organizations to join them in discussions with commissioners.

Discussion followed on the Proposed Grant Program Budget cuts for FY2010. Director Mary Becht stated that cuts to grants were made across the board in accordance with the Council's discussion at the June meeting. Earl Bosworth, Assistant to the Director, gave an overview of the budget reductions and stated that how they are now based on sales tax revenue forecasts. Mr. Bosworth also explained how the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Grant would be utilized. Ms. Becht explained NEA stimulus and that the funding needs to be awarded by October. James Shermer is finalizing the schedule and guidelines. They will be mailed for comment by the Executive Committee.

A motion was made by Anthony Abbate, seconded by Amy Ostrau, to approve the revised grants budget reflecting level 1 and level 2 reductions. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Arthur Crispino, seconded by Anthony Abbate, to approve the individual grant awards reflecting level 2 reductions. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mary Becht reported that the County Budget Workshop will be on August 18, 2009 at 10 am followed by two Public Hearings in September. The Community Services Department advised that the Public Art and Design Ordinance will be on the August 4, 2009 County Commission Agenda. The next 2020 Cultural Plan Meetings will be on August 6 and 7, 2009.

Director Mary Becht announced that the Broward County Sheriff's Office requested Broward Cultural Divisions Public records on all meeting agendas and minutes from 2008 to present, line item expenditures and budget from 2008 to 2009. Discussion followed.

Ken Kahn stated that Artist Michelle Oka Doner will allow Royal Caribbean Inc., Port Everglades and Cultural Council Members assist in the mother of pearl design component of her artwork on August 20th, 2009 at Terminal 18 at Port Everglades.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.