

**SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN ARTS COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Meeting Date: August 9, 1995
4:00 - 6:00 pm
Coloma Community Center
4623 T Street

For information, call (916) 264-5558

COMMISSIONERS:

Luke W. Breit
Vera L. Davis
Gerry N. Kamilos
Quan Van Le

Anthony P. Marquez
W. Kearse McGill
Charles Miller
Sandra Yee

- .. CALL TO ORDER - At the hour of 4:05 p.m. All commissioners except Commissioners Marquez and Miller.
- II. PRESENTATION(S)

"Cultural Arts Plan Status Report" - Ken Larsen, California Confederation of the Arts.

Mr. Larsen distributed materials for a six-month update on programmatic issues. He has met with representatives from Isleton and Galt to discuss their community functions. In the process Mr. Larsen discovered that the delta towns have much more to offer than realized, and that there are many possibilities for these communities. The following areas were discussed: "Information Access and Management;" "Bringing the Arts to People;" "Resource Utilization and Management;" "New Directions in Funding;" "More Cultural Opportunities for Youth;" "Stimulating Public Awareness" and "Available, Affordable and Accessible Facilities."

There are many issues to consider such as demographics, i.e., where are the various populations (age, gender, ethnicity, etc.) settling. Commissioner Kamilos suggested looking at the employment opportunities and where they are going. Director Walker noted that this information could be obtained from SACTO.

She also suggested adding the United Way study - charitable contributions in Sacramento County versus other counties. Commissioner Kamilos noted the need to consider the closing of Mather Air Force Base; Commissioner Le noted commute time from job to home - many people go straight home from their jobs and find it difficult to attend an arts event due to the time frame. Larsen is considering a tape library of local artists and/or other alternates to make access easier. Director Walker mentioned the need to consider the priorities of elected officials also.

Another suggestion would be to get technical assistance on-line via computer. This would also help the midtown and downtown areas which are not always aware of the many artistic resources available. There is also a need for a link between suburban and downtown areas for arts activities.

Director Walker commented on the need to train artists in accessing on-line computer assistance. Commissioner Kamilos noted other forms of communication that should be explored such as various daily or weekly publications through a clearinghouse kind of an organization. Richard Raisler mentioned that not everyone has a computer and/or on-line service. Utilize fax numbers of artists and arts organizations. Fax numbers can be given to Pacific Bell (or another appropriate company) to group fax information monthly. Director Walker also noted the possibility of access to computers in the libraries. Mr. Larsen noted that broadcast fax networks and e-mail work well, but he wants to utilize all of the available technologies. Commercial fax networks are another possible source to tap into.

Chair Yee noted that since Sacramento is still transitioning towards high tech systems, the on-line/fax information should be supplemented with printed material and television and/or radio. Mr. Larsen also noted the use of kiosks and other public displays. Mr. Raisler suggested looking at the on-line system in New York City, and Director Walker noted that the various museums in San Francisco are starting to use on-line systems also. Commissioner Le suggested a combined mailing with other commercial organizations utilizing their mailing lists.

"Bringing Arts to Where the People Are": Mr. Larsen stated that it is important to get the arts out into the various areas of the community. The delta communities need the Arts Commission's support and have rich ethnic cultures and histories to explore. Arts in the workplace are another method of bringing the arts to the community at large.

Commissioner Breit noted the collaborations between Regional Transit (RT) and some of the literary organizations in the area to put poetry on the busses. This is also done in New York City. Director Walker mentioned RT's Light Rail expansion to the Meadowview area and the possibilities available. The possibility of live performances at the various transit stations should be considered also.

"Convention Center Update" - Kathy Gee, Art in Public Places Program Assistant.

This presentation was tabled until the next Commission meeting.

III. APPROVE AGENDA OF AUGUST 9, 1995

Moved: Kamilos; seconded: Breit

Ayes: Unanimous

IV. APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 12, 1995. Correction to the Performing Arts Committee Update, "...retreat was held last year." Minutes approved as corrected.

Moved: Kamilos; seconded: Davis

Ayes: Unanimous

V. ACTION ITEM (A):

A. APPROVE NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) (YEE)

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE KEARSE MCGILL & JUAN CARRILLO AS MEMBERS OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEE AND CHARLES MILLER AS A MEMBER OF THE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMITTEE.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Moved: Kamilos

Ayes 6 Noes 0 Absent 2

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY - None.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Yee introduced Luke Breit as the newest member of the Arts Commission. He is the Director of Californians Against Waste; President of the Board of the Sacramento Poetry Center and an author of four books. He has worked on the Board of the California Poets in the Schools and teaches writing in the Arts in Corrections program. Commissioner Breit would like to have a forum initiated to support the arts and their importance to the individual person as well as the community at large. He views Sacramento as a city "creating its arts scene" - not like San Francisco or other major metropolitan areas with arts scenes already created and established.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT/PROGRAM UPDATE

Director walker noted a number of staff changes. Arts Program Assistant Mario Moreno has received a full-time teaching position at Delta College in Stockton and Commission Secretary Robi Holmen has transferred to the Neighborhood Services Department. Erika Jackson (formerly with the Yolo County Arts Council) will be assisting Arts Program Coordinator Laurie Heller. Erika was responsible for all of the programming at the Council and has an MA in ceramics. She looks forward to working with the Arts Commission and the Regranting Program.

Priorities from the Youth Initiatives workshop were (1) jobs & training and (2) cultural arts planning.

Please also read the recent Time Magazine article (enclosed) concerning the arts and government funding. Commissioner Breit offered to put together a one-page summary of the article. Ken Larsen noted that Time will print letters in response to the article.

By consensus of the Commission October 7 was selected as the date for the Commission Retreat.

IX. OLD BUSINESS - None.

NEW BUSINESS - None.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED - None.

XII. INFORMATION REPORTS - None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT - At the hour of 5:50 pm, a motion was made to adjourn in memory of musician Jerry Garcia. Moved: Breit; second: McGill. Motion passed unanimously.