

**SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN ARTS COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Meeting Date: May 10, 1995
4:00 - 6:00 pm
Belle Cooledge Community Center
5699 Lo. Land Park Drive
For information, call (916) 264-5558

COMMISSIONERS:

Vera L. Davis	W. Kearse McGill
Gerry N. Kamilos	Sandra Yee
Quan Van Le	Dennis Yep
Anthony P. Marquez	

- I. CALL TO ORDER - At the hour of 4:12 pm. All Commissioners present.
- II. APPROVE AGENDA OF MAY 10, 1995
Moved: Kamilos; seconded: McGill
Ayes: Unanimous
- III. APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 1995
Moved: McGill; seconded: Le
Ayes: Unanimous
- IV. PRESENTATION(S) - "Arts Education Artists in Schools Program" - Victoria Plata, Arts Education Consultant, Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission

The Artists in Schools (AIS) Program is a new program with the Arts Commission. Applications were sent out and received last January. Interviews were scheduled shortly thereafter. The AIS Program is a matching grant program, with \$180 of funding for each school coming from the California Arts Council (CAC), the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and \$180 from each participating school. Thirteen schools applied for the program and all received funding. Artists are placed in the schools to work with 5th grade students. The programs run for eight weeks in schools located in all of the supervisorial districts. Most residencies will run till May 26, through some will run through the summer at the year-round schools. Ms. Plata has gone on site visits to most of the 13 sites; others will be completed next week. Agency staff, including clerical, participated in site visits yesterday as well, providing a better understanding of the richness of the programs. It was suggested that future site visits be arranged up for Commissioners, Committee members and elected officials (in their districts) as well.

The students participating in the program at Freeport Elementary School will leave an anthology of poetry for their school as a result of what they have been learning with artist Joey Garcia. Students at Caleb Greenwood Elementary School will leave a completed quilt for others to enjoy.

A video was shown of one of the completed residencies in which three, fifth grade classes, including special education students, from the Rio Linda School District gave a final performance of Aztec dancing and drumming to the school parents. In addition, a segment of this particular program was to create Aztec rattles and costumes. The educational component included discussion of the Aztec culture, which is usually not learned in the schools until the 7th grade.

Feedback from school officials, artists, and students has been extremely positive. The general consensus is that they want the program to run longer than the eight weeks, and open the program to more grades. The budget of \$3,000 helped to fund programs in 18 classrooms of 13 schools. Remaining funds will go towards programming for next year. The artists are dedicated to bringing educational and artistic experiences to their students and in reaching out to schools in traditionally underserved areas.

The programs are so successful, that it is hoped they can serve more students next year. Commissioner Kamilos suggested that local businesses could also contribute funding through participation in an Adopt-A-School program through Friends of the Arts Commission.

The Cultural Resource Directory (CRD), a listing of local artists, will be mailed out soon to the schools so they can plan their budgets for next year's programming. AIS applications will be mailed out in June. The number of artists listed in the directory has doubled in size from its original publication just a few years ago. On June 3, the Artists' Showcase will be held in conjunction with the Children's Festival, at Old Sacramento. The purpose is to showcase some of the artists listed in the CRD, with literary, visual and performing arts demonstrations.

V. PUBLIC TESTIMONY - None.

VI. ACTION ITEMS (A-D):

A. APPROVE NOMINATIONS FOR COMMISSION CHAIR FOR 1995-1996 (YEE)

A MOTION WAS MADE TO NOMINATE SANDRA YEE FOR COMMISSION CHAIR FOR 1995-1996.

COMMISSION ACTION: Moved: Le; seconded: Yep
Ayes 6 Noes 0 Absent 1 (Davis absent for this vote)
Motion passed unanimously.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR COMMISSION CHAIR

COMMISSION ACTION: Moved: Kamilos; seconded: McGill
Ayes 6 Noes 0 Absent 1 (Davis absent for this vote)
Motion passed unanimously.

B. APPROVE NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS (YEE)

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS: JUDITH LOWRY AND JOSETTE BORLAND (ALTERNATE); PERFORMING ARTS COMMITTEE.

COMMISSION ACTION: Moved: Le
Ayes 6 Noes 0 Absent 1 (Davis absent for this vote)
Motion passed unanimously.

The application of Laura Lea Parker was referred back to the APP Committee for review.

C. APPROVE ARTIST FOR NORTH LAGUNA CREEK PARK APP PROJECT (GEE)

Arts Program Assistant reviewed the staff report with the Commission.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE ARTIST TEAM OF J. GARR UGALDE AND JOHN DELIRA FOR THE NORTH LAGUNA CREEK PARK APP PROJECT.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Moved: Kamilos; seconded: Yep

Ayes 6 Noes 0 Absent 1 (Davis absent for this vote)

Motion passed unanimously.

D. APPROVE RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO THE CULTURAL ARTS AWARDS PROGRAM POLICY AND PROCESS (HELLER)

Grants Program Coordinator Laurie Heller reviewed the staff report with the Commission.

In addition to recommending changes to the Sacramento Cultural Arts Awards (SCA) Program, as a result of a lengthy process of meetings, which began last September with the arts community, large and small organizations, and an Ad Hoc Committee, an Ad Hoc Cultural Equity Committee is being formed. Currently, staff has invited four individuals to become members: Commissioner Vera Davis, Commissioner Quan Le, Awards Committee member Carlo Visante, and community member Ed Jefferson.

The following handouts were distributed: Draft updates of the SCA Guidelines and Panelists Handbook, a Commissioner Kearsce McGill's recommendations for revisions to the SCA Program, and a letter received from Stephen McGough, Director of the Crocker Arts Museum.

Staff recommends making various minor revisions as well as the following significant revisions:

Revise the last paragraph of the Appeals Process section to read - Since applicant organizations may provide written comments to the panel during the panel review, in order to address the reviewing panel's remarks, the Arts Commission anticipates that there will be very few cases where an appeal of the reviewing panel's decision and adjustment of an applicant's final score is warranted. To facilitate a fair and orderly appeals process, all appeals will first be examined by a pre-selection committee, consisting of Review Panelists, Awards Committee members, or Arts Commissioners. The pre-selection committee will determine if an appeal sufficiently alleges a problem of processing or misstatement of fact to which the applicant organization was not provided an opportunity to address during the panel review. The pre-selection committee will recommend those appeals which state a sufficient basis for review to the Appeals Panel. The Appeals Panel will examine the allegations of each recommended appeal and will decide if any adjustment of the applicant's score is warranted, up to a maximum adjustment of five (5) points on the applicant's final score. The decision of the Appeals Panel is final

Add language to the Assurance of Compliance Form which states there will be no discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Include Commissioner Kamilos's recommendation that a notation be added on the Application Form asking if an applicant is in default with the City, County, State, Federal, or any other creditor.

Add population and percentage statistical information for the City to the Demographics page.

On the Worksheet page, exclude government funds from either the County or the City when determining the Total Adjusted Cash Income (TACI).

The Chair asked if anyone wished to give public testimony. Carlo Visante was asked to speak as a representative of the Ad Hoc Committee and arts organizations. Mr. Visante acknowledged Commissioner Le for having attended most meetings during the lengthy process of reviewing the SCA Program. Visante stated

that there was a good representation on the Ad Hoc Committee of both large and small organizations, as well as a balance of ethnic diversity. During the process, the general consensus was how to move forward. Programs of other major metropolitan arts centers were reviewed. It was felt that the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission was at par with other agencies of similar size around the country. Small organizations looked at how to apply revisions to their needs while large organizations compete for the same pot of money. There was a lot of hard work and debate along the way to come to consensus.

Ms. Heller stated that the way in which funding is now awarded, organizations receive funding based on rank and budget. (An organization with a low rank/high budget could received more funding than an organization with a high rank/low budget.) This is an issue being addressed throughout the country, including healthy debates regarding limitations of past budgets and moving forward with additional programming. Director Walker stated that perhaps it would be good to have a public forum on these issues. Discussion could include how to help organizations get to a next level based upon past works/accomplishments, not just past budgets.

Carlo Visante commented on the professionalism of facilitator Sal Streett, a corporate mediator. Streett consistently made the Ad Hoc Committee focus on policy issues and procedures. All personal opinions brought up were "caught" by Streett and through his guidance those opinions were discussed as general philosophical issues or policies applying to all.

During the community meetings, discussion arose whether any government organization should be able to apply for funding. It was determined that they could. However, the issue of local government funding (other than from the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission) was discussed. The Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation was not to allow City or County funding to be used in the overall budget calculation, as it increases the budget size and provides an advantage to those organizations. The Commission recommended a 2-year phaseout of City/County funds. Director Walker stated that this compromise would provide organizations with time to plan and prepare for adjusting their budgets.

The issue of project support vs organizational support was discussed. They are judged on the same criteria, however, when applying for project support, there must be a 1-year history, when applying for organizational support, a 2-year history.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER KAMILOS AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAVIS TO 1) ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE 1996 CULTURAL ARTS AWARDS PROGRAM, 2) PHASE OUT THE USE OF CITY/COUNTY FUNDS WITH REGARDS TO THE TOTAL ADJUSTED CASH INCOME (TACI) AS FOLLOWS: APPLY 80% OF FUNDS THE FIRST YEAR, 50% OF FUNDS THE SECOND YEAR, NOTHING THE THIRD YEAR, AND 3) MAIL OUT A LETTER TO ALL ORGANIZATIONS, UNDER THE CHAIR'S SIGNATURE, IN RESPONSE TO ALL THE NEW CHANGES AND THE '96 PUBLIC SCA GRANTWRITING WORKSHOPS.

Mario Moreno reminded the Commission that 80%, 50%, 0 phaseout reductions would be across the board for all organizations receiving City/County funding. All organizations would be equally affected and judged on artistic merit, management and accountability, and impact and outreach to the community. Chair Yee stated that it is important to recognize that these issues had been addressed for several months (six) in public meetings and in public Ad Hoc Committee meetings.

Commissioner Le pointed out that there was a strong recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee and the public meetings of arts organizations that absolutely no city or county funding other than the Cultural Arts Awards grants be used in the calculation of the budget requests. Additionally, Le pointed out that this issue has been brought up each year since the mid-80's.

COMMISSION ACTION: Ayes 5 Noes 2 (Yep/Le) Absent 0
Motion passed.

E. APPROVE 1995 FELLOWSHIP AWARDS FOR VISUAL ARTISTS (MORENO)

Mario Moreno gave a report on the Fellowship Awards process. Moreno stated that grantees must wait four years before applying for another Fellowship Award. The next cycle of Fellowship Awards may be granted in the area of literature or dance.

COMMISSION ACTION: Moved: Yep; seconded: McGill
 Ayes 7 Noes 0 Absent 0
 Motion passed unanimously.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

In an effort to streamline reports back from Committees, reports will be included in the Director/Staff/Committee Program Update. Special presentations will be made to the Commission from Committee Chairs, staff and/or as issues or special events arise. Chair Yee asked that Commissioners also think about future topics for presentations and provide a list to her for review. Chair Yee also mentioned she would attend Council budget hearings.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT/PROGRAM UPDATE

An organization chart identifying some of the Agency's programs was handed out. The budget cut proposal for the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission is \$23,000, and the elimination of one clerical position.

IX. OLD BUSINESS - None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Le distributed a press release regarding Downtown Plaza's Wednesday night performances. The premier performance is June 7, at 7 pm.

Laurie Heller passed out flyers for the FringeArts Festival, to be held May 20.

XI. ADJOURNMENT - At the hour of 6:40 pm, a motion was made to adjourn. Moved: Kamilos; seconded: McGill. Motion passed unanimously.

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Dear Sir,
I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the above-mentioned matter.
I am sorry to hear that you are unable to attend the meeting on the 15th inst. I am sure that you will be able to attend the meeting on the 22nd inst.

Yours faithfully,
[Signature]

10. 11. 1954

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