

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING**June 18, 2014****10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC)

244 S. San Pedro Street #244

Los Angeles, CA 90012

(213) 628-2725

PRESENT:Council Members

Wylie Aitken, Chair
Susan Steinhauser, Vice Chair
Michael Alexander
Donn Harris
Charmaine Jefferson
William Turner
Rosalind Wyman

Arts Council Staff

Craig Watson, Director
Scott Heckes, Deputy Director
Patty Milich, Programs Officer
Caitlin Fitzwater, Public Information Officer
Diane Golling, Administrative Assistant

Other Attendees

Bo Lebo, NEO Inc.
Joyce Alexson, NEO, Inc.
David Mann, Mid-City West Community Council
Ali Meisel, Unusual Suspects Theatre Co.
Terence McFarland, LA Stage Alliance
Greg Day, LA LGBT Arts Alliance

ABSENT:Council Members

Christopher Coppola

MINUTES

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

At 10:09 a.m. the Chair calls the meeting to order. Golling calls the roll. We have a quorum. Watson passes out a sheet with Jason Jong's bio and photo, and tells the Council about this new hire. He will start on Monday as an Arts Program Specialist. Heckes adds that Jong has served on over ten of our panels. We had over 50 applicants, interviewed eleven, and hired Jason. There are two candidates coming back for second interviews for the second available position.

II. Public Comment

The Chair recognizes Meisel, development director for the Unusual Suspects, who produce play writing workshops for underserved youth, and Mann, arts chair for Mid-City West Community Council, producing an arts walk.

At 10:16 a.m. Jefferson arrives. At the Chair's request, Golling calls the roll again.

Aitken makes introductory remarks regarding the work before the Council today. We had a tremendous response. All the applications are good, but we cannot fund them all. We will be disappointing a lot of people, many of whom just rallied around us to support the CAC getting additional funding. He wants to spend a few seconds refocusing the Council on what we are trying to accomplish. We are looking for "bang for the buck," and stories we can take back to the legislature to say, "here is what we did with this money."

The Chair calls on Watson to go over what is written on the whiteboard. Watson explains that we have an interesting distribution happening already with the allocations of the \$2M from the Assembly: urban and rural, far north, central valley, across the state. We are reaching 23 counties through Turnaround Schools, Arts in Corrections, JUMP StArts, and Creativity at the Core. Watson notes that Arts in Corrections funds are separate from the \$2M.

III. Arts on the Air

At 10:25 a.m. Aitken moves the discussion to Arts on the Air. Milich asks that the council members now disclose conflicts of interest. Milich reads the conflict of interest policy aloud. Aitken asks if it applies to the Council or just panelists. He doesn't feel that the Council should be held to the same standard as panelists. Turner suggests that members declare their conflicts and follow the guidelines. The appearance of bias would taint the Council.

The members declare their conflicts of interest. Harris declares Oakland Museum for the Arts and Attitudinal Healing. Turner declares California Lawyers for the Arts (CLA). Jefferson declares Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and PBS SoCal. Alexander declares KPCC and KCRW as minor donations, and also declares the City and County of Los Angeles since his organization receives funding from both organizations. Staff interjects that the CAC has historically not viewed the receipt of grant funds as a conflict of interest for its panelists unless those funds are directly tied to a request before the reviewing body. Wyman declares the Music Center (Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles). Steinhauser declares KPCC and KCRW. Aitken declares no conflicts.

Aitken wants to address the conflict of interest policy at the next meeting.

Jefferson suggests that the council discuss the applications before thinking about the money,

because everyone in the room knows there isn't enough money.

Discussion of the Arts on the Air applications begins. Seven applications are called out to be discussed. The Chair calls on Fitzwater to give the gist of the programs with no panel feedback.

KQED is expanding a program called Spark, which looks at arts and social issues. It's a robust education platform serving 28 counties through their California Report.

KCET proposes to expand ArtBound, hour-long TV episodes. This has satellite distribution as well as local.

KCRW proposes to expand their independent radio producer projects to tell stories about individual artists and arts organizations.

Radio Bilingüe is producing a series highlighting innovative artists through short form features and call-in interviews, to be live-streamed and archived.

KPCC wants to develop a new afternoon art series to launch this fall on digital platforms as well as radio.

PBS SoCal is proposing to expand a current program called L.A. Art.

KPBS is offering a new program profiling immigrant artists for TV, radio and the web.

The council discusses the proposals in depth.

Alexander is concerned that we get broad distribution of our funding so that elected officials see that we are hitting different parts of the state. Aitken says we have to look at how large the audiences are too, for the different stations. Wyman says that she will vote for none of the Arts on the Air programs, because she feels the money should be spent elsewhere. Aitken says he thinks we get the biggest bang for the buck through TV. He suggests KQED and PBS SoCal would cover huge chunks of north and south, then Radio Bilingüe will reach the central valley. The council discusses Aitken's suggestion, including various scenarios aimed at reaching, but not exceeding, available program funds of \$200,000.

Turner notes that media reaches beyond geographical boundaries. They will be streaming it on the web, sharing with other public stations, sharing the content with schools, etc. Fitzwater points out that with the compromise the Council is considering, the CAC could reach 45-50 counties.

ACTION: At 11:58 a.m. Harris moves to allocate \$75,000 to KQED and \$50,000 to Radio Bilingüe. Turner seconds. The motion is approved by Aitken, Alexander, Harris, Jefferson, Steinhauser, and Turner. Wyman votes no.

ACTION: At 11:59 a.m. Harris moves to allocate \$75,000 to PBS SoCal. Turner seconds. The motion is approved by Aitken, Alexander, Harris, Steinhauser and Turner. Wyman votes no. Jefferson abstains because she is on PBS SoCal's African-American volunteer advisory council.

At 12:04 p.m. the council takes a 15 minute break.

IV. Creative California Communities

The Chair reconvenes the meeting at 12:20 p.m. to begin discussion of the Creative California Communities (CCC) program. CCC has been allocated \$750,000 of the \$2M the CAC received from the Assembly, so it will be the largest of the programs funded by this one-time augmentation. Aitken states that the good news is having so many great organizations who

applied, but the bad news is that we have insufficient money to go around. He says we will start by putting on the table all of the applications ranked 5 and 4 by the panels, which is 22 programs in all. The total requests on the table add up to \$1.5M, and that's before Council members bring up lower ranked proposals that they think should be included for review.

The Chair goes around the table. Turner says he suggests none from the lower ranked proposals. Harris has several: Arte Americas, Arts Council of Kern County, Cornerstone Theater Company, Muckenthaler Cultural Center, Friends of Olympia Station, Prophet Worldbeat Productions, Rhythmix Cultural Works, San Francisco World Music Festival, and Yuba-Sutter Regional Arts Council. Alexander brings up SPARC, Dell'arte, LA Stage Alliance. Wyman brings up Amador County Arts Council, Arte Americas, Dell'arte, East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, Harmony Project, La Plaza de Cultura y Artes, Laguna Art Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art. Steinhauser brings up City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. Jefferson brings up African American Shakespeare Company, CLA, Cornerstone Theater Company, Filipino American Development Foundation, Museum of the African Diaspora, Music Center for Los Angeles County, Oakland Museum, Skirball Cultural Center, SPARC, Watts Village Theater Company, Youth in Arts, Yuba-Sutter Regional Arts Council, Vallejo Community Arts Foundation. Milich announces that we now have 52 applications to review.

Steinhauser says that we need to review how we write our guidelines. A lot of the applications were unclear and did not provide the Council the information it needed. We need training or convening. Jefferson reminds her of the compressed timeline we had on this. Milich says that the staff did do a webinar on how to apply.

Steinhauser asks that the Minutes reflect a request for the Council to review the panelist process.

The Council agrees to work off the panel rank list when referencing applications, and projects that are supported by a majority of the members will be written on a chalkboard. At 12:39 p.m. discussion begins.

Friends Of Peralta Hacienda Historical Park. This is a discrete project, an interactive sculpture that will be installed. After discussion, it goes on the board by consensus.

Los Angeles County Arts Commission. The proposal targets Antelope Valley with an arts residency project. In favor: Jefferson, Steinhauser, Harris. Opposed: Wyman, Aitken, Alexander, Turner. It does not go on the board.

Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego: Arts Oasis. This project is about healing combat trauma through artistic experience. After discussion, it goes on the board with all members in favor.

A Reason To Survive. The project targets at-risk youth, a revenue-generating model. In favor: Steinhauser, Jefferson, Harris, Turner. Opposed: Aitken, Wyman, Alexander. It goes on the board.

Arts Council Napa Valley. They propose month-long events in Napa Valley in April. After discussion, no members are in favor. It does not advance.

Arts Council Santa Cruz County. They propose a river festival. In favor: Alexander, Jefferson, Harris, Steinhauser. Opposed: Wyman, Turner, Aitken. It goes on the board.

Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco proposes to do a solstice festival. After discussion, no

members are in favor. It does not advance.

Eagle Rock Cultural Association wants to create immersive installations by local artists in conjunction with their music festival. In favor: Jefferson, Steinhauser, Harris. Opposed: Wyman, Alexander, Aitken, Turner. It does not advance.

First Voice. This is a project to revitalize San Francisco's Japantown. In favor: Wyman, Alexander, Jefferson, Turner, Harris. Opposed: Aitken, Steinhauser. It goes on the board.

Gay Men's Chorus. This proposal is to tour a new stage work called *It Gets Better*, with an anti-bullying theme. After discussion, it goes on the board by consensus.

JACCC offers a traditional Japanese art initiative. In favor: Harris, Steinhauser, Alexander, Jefferson. Opposed: Turner, Wyman, Aitken. It goes on the board.

Kala Art Institute proposes a new creative placemaking project on San Pablo Avenue in the East Bay Area. After discussion, it goes on the board. In favor: Harris, Turner, Steinhauser, Alexander, Jefferson, Aitken. Opposed: Wyman.

Los Angeles Poverty Department. The proposal is to develop a skid row history museum and archive. After discussion, it does not advance. In favor: Harris. Opposed: Jefferson, Wyman, Steinhauser, Turner, Aitken. The Chair moves to the next item before Alexander votes.

Pasadena Arts Council is creating a science and arts festival hosting 115 artists over 17 days. After discussion, it does not advance. In favor: Harris, Jefferson, Alexander. Opposed: Turner, Wyman, Steinhauser, Aitken.

Pasadena Playhouse wants to do a production of *Pygmalion* with consensus building activities linked to the area's Latino communities. After discussion, no members are in favor. It does not advance.

Placer Arts seeks to offer free artist-led workshops for residents and visitors. After discussion, it goes on the board. In favor: Turner, Harris, Jefferson, Alexander. Opposed: Steinhauser, Wyman, Aitken.

Plumas Artisan Made. This is a project for the far north of the state to give local artists a business plan. After discussion, it goes on the board. In favor: Jefferson, Alexander, Wyman, Steinhauser, Harris. Opposed: Turner, Aitken.

Precita Eyes Muralists will provide a creative outlet for youth to brighten businesses. Murals on metal roll-down doors and lighting will be installed. After discussion, it goes on the board. In favor: Harris, Alexander, Aitken, Jefferson. Opposed: Wyman, Turner, Steinhauser.

San Benito County Arts Council. They propose to activate downtown Hollister through neighborhood revitalization. After discussion, all members are in favor. It goes on the board.

San Francisco Arts Commission. This is a proposal to serve the Tenderloin community. After discussion, no members are in favor. It does not advance.

YoloArts proposes to expand their Art in Agriculture events, pairing artists with restaurants to paint plates. After discussion, it goes on the board. In favor: Jefferson, Alexander, Steinhauser, Aitken. Opposed: Wyman, Turner, Harris.

Youth in Arts. Their proposal supports Creative San Rafael, a series of installations and events. After discussion, it goes on the board. In favor: Harris, Jefferson, Aitken, Turner, Alexander.

Opposed: Wyman, Steinhauser.

Amador County Arts Council. This project will harness the arts in two Sierra communities and the East Bay toward river appreciation. After discussion, it goes on the board. In favor: Alexander, Jefferson, Wyman, Steinhauser, Aitken. Opposed: Turner, Harris.

Arte Americas in Fresno seeks to expand their Día de los Muertos activities. After discussion, it goes on the board. In favor: Harris, Turner, Steinhauser, Aitken, Wyman. The Chair moves to the next proposal before Alexander and Jefferson vote.

Arts Council of Kern County. A high school art show is involved in this project, which touches Bakersfield and Delano. After discussion, it goes on the board. In favor: Turner, Harris, Jefferson, Wyman, Aitken. Opposed: Steinhauser. Abstain: Alexander.

City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs will expand an event pairing art with transportation. After discussion, it does not advance. Conflict abstentions: Wyman, Jefferson. In favor: Steinhauser. Opposed: Aitken, Turner, Harris, Alexander.

Cornerstone Theater offers a high-visibility project with statewide touring. After discussion, it does not advance. Conflict abstention: Alexander. In favor: Jefferson, Harris, Turner. Opposed: Wyman, Aitken, Steinhauser.

Dell'Arte International. Alexander and Wyman both brought this proposal forward, but now agree to withdraw it.

East Bay Center for the Performing Arts proposes a two-week festival for the Bay Area. After discussion, it goes on the board with all members in favor.

Filipino-American Development Foundation. This is a month-long festival with public programs, performances, and exhibitions across San Francisco. After discussion, it goes on the board with all members in favor.

Friends of Olympia Station will bring 25 concerts and 60 dance and performing arts classes to California's Central Coast, reaching underserved populations in King City, Salinas, Watsonville and Santa Cruz. After discussion, it goes on the board. In favor: Harris, Jefferson, Alexander, Wyman. Opposed: Turner, Aitken, Steinhauser.

La Plaza de Cultura y Artes. After discussion, Wyman withdraws this application from consideration.

LA STAGE Alliance. This project supports the Atwater Village project with support for artists, artist co-op space, and an arts center. After discussion, it goes on the board with all members in favor.

Laguna Art Museum proposes a project bringing together multiple partners around the topics of nature and science. After discussion, it goes on the board. In favor: Harris, Turner, Aitken, Wyman, Alexander. Opposed: Steinhauser, Jefferson.

Muckenthaler Cultural Center was brought forward by, and is withdrawn by, Harris.

Music Center/Performing Arts Center of LA would present three large participatory arts events, engaging diverse populations and activating underused community spaces. After discussion, it goes on the board. Conflict abstention: Wyman. In favor: Aitken, Turner, Steinhauser, Harris, Alexander. Opposed: Jefferson.

MUZEO Foundation's project would use art to combat gang violence. The proposal is brought forward by Alexander at Aitken's request. Conflict abstention: Aitken. Steinhauser also abstains. In favor: Wyman. Opposed: Alexander, Turner, Harris, Jefferson. It does not advance.

A five minute break is taken at 3:21.

Prophet World Beat Productions proposes events for a Balboa Park Centennial Cultural Arts Festival. After discussion, it does not advance. In favor: Harris. Opposed: Turner, Steinhauser, Alexander, Jefferson, Aitken. Abstain: Wyman.

Harris withdraws Rhythmix Cultural Works and the San Francisco World Music Festival.

Skirball Cultural Center proposes a puppet festival. After discussion, it does not advance. In favor: Wyman, Jefferson. Opposed: Steinhauser, Harris, Turner, Alexander, Aitken.

Alexander withdraws SPARC.

Yuba-Sutter Regional Arts Council's proposal would restore the local Bok Kai Festival. After discussion, it goes on the board. In favor: Harris, Steinhauser, Wyman, Alexander, Jefferson, Aitken. Opposed: Turner.

African American Shakespeare Company is looking to partner with other organizations in building the capacity of African American organizations in their community. After discussion, Jefferson withdraws it from consideration.

CLA will use the arts to educate the public about water issues. They plan demonstration booths at the state fair. Conflict abstention: Turner. After discussion, Jefferson withdraws it from consideration.

Harmony Project's proposal will touch three counties with pop-up performances. After discussion, it goes on the board with all members in favor.

Museum of the African Diaspora is seeking to engage the community in gathering stories and voices of African American males. After discussion, Jefferson withdraws it from consideration.

Oakland Museum of California project funds cross-cultural artists coming in for a Día de los Muertos festival. After discussion, it goes on the board. Conflict abstention: Harris. In favor: Jefferson, Steinhauser, Alexander, Wyman. Opposed: Turner, Aitken.

Community Arts Foundation is withdrawn by Jefferson.

Watts Village Theater Company's proposal uses performance to revitalize a space in Watts. After discussion, it goes on the board. In favor: Jefferson, Turner, Harris, Alexander, Aitken Steinhauser. Opposed: Wyman.

The total on the board is approximately twice what the Council can spend.

The Council goes over the items on the board one by one, cutting the numbers on all proposals that are asking above the minimum. After the first pass they are at \$1,207,477 and must still cut \$250,000.

Fitzwater shows the map of what counties are touched by our existing \$2M programs and initiatives. She also tells the Council which counties would be reached by the projects currently listed on the board for possible funding.

Alexander suggests that the Council eliminate the \$25K it was supposed to vote on today for the

China project, and address the China project after the budget is signed. The council agrees. The \$25,000 grant recommended for California Presenters for the China/California conference on cultural exchange is deferred to the next meeting, and \$25,000 is added to the CCC funding pool.

Alexander asks if the Council can borrow from next year's budget. Heckes says the Council can do this, but if the CAC does not receive its expected increase other programs must be cut down the road.

Harris is not comfortable from an accounting perspective with pulling money from a budget that isn't signed yet, and Jefferson says we had a clean two million from the Assembly and shouldn't spend more than two million. Aitken asks Harris to reconsider his position.

After further discussion, the council votes as follows:

ACTION: Aitken moves to fund the following organizations in the following amounts: \$50,000 to A Reason to Survive; \$40,000 to AmadorArts; \$60,000 to Arte Americas; \$30,000 to Arts Council of Kern; \$50,000 to Arts Council Santa Cruz County; \$50,000 to Filipino-American Development Foundation; \$50,000 to First Voice; \$50,000 to Friends of Olympia Station; \$50,000 to Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles; \$50,000 to The Harmony Project; \$30,000 to The Japanese American Cultural and Community Center; \$50,000 to Kala Art Institute; \$50,000 to LA STAGE Alliance; \$34,557 to Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; \$30,000 to Oakland Museum of California; \$50,000 to Peralta Hacienda Historical Park; \$70,000 to Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County (a/k/a the Music Center); \$30,000 to PlacerArts; \$40,000 to Plumas County Arts Commission; \$42,500 to San Benito County Arts Council; \$30,000 to Watts Village Theater Company; \$45,000 to YoloArts; \$30,000 to Youth in Arts; and \$30,420 to Yuba-Sutter Regional Arts Council. Harris seconds. The motion passes with the support of Aitken, Alexander, Harris, Steinhauser, Turner, and Wyman. Jefferson votes no.

Steinhauser voices concern that the Council is overfunding Los Angeles County. She's concerned that people will perceive the outcome as prejudiced by having so many Council members from Los Angeles County.

ACTION: At approximately 5:35 p.m. Turner moves that the meeting be adjourned. Harris seconds. The motion passes unanimously. The Chair adjourns the meeting.