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# African American Cultural Center Community Advisory Committee Meeting #3

## MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, April 30, 2019  
5:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Expo Arts Center  
4321 Atlantic Ave.  
Long Beach, CA 90807

### **Attendance:**

*Co-Chairs:* Erroll Parker, Program Director, Success in Challenges, Inc.; Max Viltz, Owner, Village Treasures

*Working Group Members:* Daysha Austin, District Director, California State Assembly; Monte B. Beard, Sr., NAACP Long Beach; Darcelle Bradley; Charles Brown, Vice President, Non-Profit Sector, Lyde Enterprises; Gerald Burford, Member, 100 Black Men of Long Beach, Inc.; LaVerne Duncan, Executive Director, Andy Street Community Association; Carl Kemp; Sharon Mclucas, Owner, Forgotten Images; Renee Quarles, CEO, Shades of Afrika; Ahmed Saafir, Administrator Vice President, 100 Black Men of Long Beach, Inc.; Sakkara Thomas, Founding President, Queens Historical Society, Inc.; Dr. Felton Williams, Board Member, Long Beach Unified School District

*Community Advisors:* Sarah Fitzgerald, Museum Curator and Educator; Pamela A. Lewis, Director, Community Partnerships and Student Success Initiatives, California State University, Long Beach; Dr. Alex Norman, Professor Emeritus, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs; Uduak-Joe Ntuk, Board Member, Long Beach City College; Griselda Suarez, Executive Director, Arts Council for Long Beach

*Staff members:* Kevin Jackson, Deputy City Manager, City of Long Beach; Tracy Colunga, Innovation Director, City of Long Beach; Tasha W. Hunter, Wiggins Hunter Consulting; Alan Burks, Environ Architecture, Inc.; Alvin Teng, Management Assistant, City of Long Beach

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Co-chairs Erroll Parker and Max Viltz called the meeting to order at 5:47pm.



## 2. Ethnic Studies Presentation

Dr. Felton Williams, LBUSD School Board Member, presented to the Committee on the LBUSD Ethnic Studies Program. He reviewed a handout describing the content and impact of the Ethnic Studies Program and showed a video. Materials are will be e-mailed to Committee Members and are available on [the AACC Website](http://www.longbeach.gov/AACC) (www.longbeach.gov/AACC).

## 3. Community Outreach: Plan Review and Update

Tasha W. Hunter, Wiggins Hunter Consulting and Alan Burks, Environ Architecture, Inc. provided an overview of the Community Outreach Plan to the Committee for feedback. Copies of the plan were provided to the Committee and are available on [here](http://www.longbeach.gov/AACC) (www.longbeach.gov/AACC).

Ahmed Saafir and Co-Chair Viltz recommended that interviews are documented and summarized in a way that is digestible for the Committee. Griselda Suarez recommended that Consultants work with City Staff to circulate both surveys to increase response, including posting on the City's website and social media accounts. Sarah Fitzgerald recommended providing transcripts of interviews that can be key word searchable. Sakkara Thomas asked if churches will be engaged in the process. Carl Kemp asked about the data gathering process and how that data will be used to inform the visioning process. He then asked about how long the Committee would exist, if it had a definite end date.

A community member requested that all documents be sent in advance of the meeting for review by the Committee. A community member asked what the goal was of the interviews, and recommended reviewing existing documents and books by Sunny Nash, Carolyn Smith-Watt, Aaron Day, and the National Council of Negro Women. A community member asked how many interviews have been and will be conducted. Tasha Hunter responded that 15 are scheduled, with more interviews being added.

Tasha W. Hunter and Alan Burks then reviewed the Monthly Update to the Committee on community outreach conducted to date. Copies of this update were provided to the Committee and are available on [the AACC Website](http://www.longbeach.gov/AACC).

Dr. Williams mentioned that LBUSD students are interested in pre-American history. A community member asked questions about adding traditional dance and new topic areas. Co-Chair Viltz recommended refining wording in the results, such as specifying "African Dance" instead of "dance". A community member shared that Queens Historical Society is developing a white paper recommending sixth grade curriculum focused on African culture and developing a culturally relevant world history narrative.



Carl Kemp thanked the consultants for their hard work and recognized the need to engage key stakeholders. He asked when the Community Engagement will be wrapped up and the Committee can get to work. Deputy City Manager Kevin Jackson explained that the Community Engagement Report will be presented to the Committee at their next meeting in May. Lord Cultural Resources will facilitate a four-hour workshop in June to deliberate on the operating vision for the AACC. In July, Lord will provide a report on the final vision, magnitude of cost, and recommendations for a facility.

A community member recommended that the Community Engagement team interview sixth through twelfth graders to get the youth's vision for the Center.

#### **4. Asset Inventory Subcommittee Update**

Laverne Duncan provided an update on the work the Asset Inventory Subcommittee has conducted so far. The Subcommittee is focusing their efforts on compiling and categorizing assets. Subcommittee notes were provided to the Committee.

The Committee discussed the Cultural Asset Inventory. Deputy City Manager Kevin Jackson explained that Lord Cultural Resources will develop the final asset inventory. Charles Brown asked if Lord can provide an outline of how to develop these assets.

#### **5. Fund Development Subcommittee Update**

Sharon McLucas presented the notes from the Fund Development Subcommittee (Subcommittee) meeting on April 22. She emphasized that Dr. Alex Norman will co-chair the Subcommittee with her. The notes from the meeting can be [found here](#).

Co-Chair Max Viltz shared about the fiscal agent discussion held at the Subcommittee meeting. The Subcommittee voted to recommend LBCAP for the fiscal agent role. Co-Chair Viltz highlighted that LBCAP will charge a 13% administrative fee, which is common in the industry.

Laverne Duncan asked about how involved will LBCAP be in the use of funds. Co-Chair Viltz responded that LBCAP will have no say over how money is used and will only be involved in the administration of funds. Sarah Fitzgerald asked how LBCAP was selected and what other organizations were considered. Co-Chair Viltz responded that the Subcommittee investigated Partners of Parks, which has a 12% administrative fee. Co-Chair Parker emphasized that the Committee will ultimately vote and decide on the fiscal agent. Because of its solvency and director, LBCAP is being recommended.

Griselda Suarez asked about how funding would be received and where it would be housed. Co-Chair Viltz shared that all documents will be reviewed with LBCAP on the partnership. Sakkara Thomas asked about the application process.



Councilmember Al Austin recommended that the Fiscal Agent be a short-term solution, with the Committee pursuing a long-term plan to establish a nonprofit. Co-Chair Parker stressed the importance of this nonprofit status.

Sharon McLucas continued sharing the meeting notes, including an exploration of a fundraising and marketing campaign.

*Co-Chair Parker entertained a motion to explore LBCAP as the Fiscal Agent of the African American Cultural Center, moved by Sharon McLucas and seconded by Dr. Felton Williams. Discussion ensued.*

Ahmed Saafir asked about solvency, financial health, and liabilities of LBCAP. LaVerne Duncan asked for clarification on if this motion passes, would the contract come back to the Committee for review. Co-Chair Viltz verified that it would. Charles Brown recommended that the Subcommittee request a draft contract on D&O coverage, history, and responses to the Committee's questions from LBCAP. Deputy City Manager Kevin Jackson recommended that the Fund Development Subcommittee develop the scope of this contract.

Carl Kemp offered a Friendly Amendment that the Committee directs the Fund Development Subcommittee Chair work with LBCAP to request contract details and negotiate a possible reduction in the administration fee, and that Ahmed Saafir provide input on contract details. Sharon McLucas agreed to the friendly amendment.

Co-Chair Parker entertained the motion to direct the Fund Subcommittee Chair to explore LBCAP as the Fiscal Agent of the African American Cultural Center, including Ahmed Saafir's list of questions, and negotiate with LBCAP about a reduction in administrative fees. This motion passed with 13 yes votes, 1 abstain.

Discussion ensued around the Center's name and logo. It was recommended by Committee members to wait on developing the logo and name. Deputy City Manager Kevin Jackson reiterated that a mission and vision for the organization still needs to be developed by the Committee. Charles Brown recommended that the logo and name be sent back to Subcommittee for further discussion. Laverne Duncan agreed with this recommendation.

## **6. Fiscal Agent Discussion**

See Item #5.

## **7. Public Comment**

Jonathan Marcus from the African American Registry recommended two programs – Teachers Forum on how to work with Children of Color and a Street Team for Youth to meet with elders.



Diana Guyther, brand strategist from Bank of America, recommended that the Committee take time to build a logo and brand.

**8. Committee Comment**

Ahmed Saafir recommended that the Committee's discussion should remain focused on the topic on the agenda and Co-Chairs not allow the Committee to address items not on the agenda.

Carl Kemp emphasized that he is encouraged by the momentum and commitment around the table.

Sakkara Thomas announced that 2020 is her 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of winning the Miss Black Beauty Pageant.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:28pm**

