
African American Cultural Center Community Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 26, 2019
5:30 PM to 8:00 PM

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

MEETING NOTES

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; Nicole Ballard, President, African American Heritage Society of Long Beach; 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 McClucas, Owner, Forgotten Images; Sakkara Thomas, Founding President, Queens Historical Society, Inc.; Blanch Vance, Grants Associate, Annenberg Foundation; Dr. Leon Wood, Jr., President, Success in Challenges, Inc.

Community Advisors: Ryan Ballard, Board Member, Long Beach Public Library Foundation and African American Heritage Society of Long Beach; 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; 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.; Kathleen Brown, Lord Cultural Resources; Alvin Teng, Management Assistant, City of Long Beach

1. Cultural Asset Inventory: Update and Input

Kathleen Brown, Lord Cultural Resources, presented to the Committee on the Cultural Asset Inventory process, which will occur over the next few months. Lord Cultural Resources,



Environ Architecture, and Wiggins Hunter Consulting will collect input from community members on assets of cultural significance to the African American community in Long Beach, both past and present. Background research will be conducted to deepen the information on each cultural asset, with a final inventory available at the end of the community visioning process.

Tasha W. Hunter, Wiggins Hunter Consulting, solicited input from the Committee for cultural assets to include in the inventory. Conversation ensued about additions to the Asset Inventory. It was recommended to revise the Asset Inventory to reflect the complex types of resources available.

Co-Chair Parker entertained a motion to establish a Research and Development of Assets Subcommittee, moved by Dr. Leon Wood Jr. and seconded by Renee Quarles. This motion passed unanimously.

2. Bylaws Review and Adoption

The Committee Co-Chairs opened the discussion on the Committee bylaws. Conversation ensued around Article VI, Section 2.2.

Co-Chair Parker entertained a motion to remove “and City Manager” from Article VI, Section 2.2, moved by Dr. Wood and seconded by Carl Kemp. This motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Parker entertained a motion to remove “[You don’t want to limit this to City Manager?]” from Article VI, Section 2.1, moved by Griselda Suarez and seconded by Dr. Wood. This motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Parker entertained a motion to adopt the bylaws with the above changes, moved by Renee Quarles and seconded by Dr. Wood. This motion passed unanimously.

3. Community Outreach: Plan Review and Update

Tasha W. Hunter, Wiggins Hunter Consulting and Alan Burks, Environ Architecture, Inc. presented an update on the findings from the Community Outreach to date. A summary document was provided to the Committee. The Committee discussed the need to ensure the online survey is distributed widely.

Public Comment: Keith Baker commented on the need for survey distribution through community-based organizations and to determine a representative sample size.

Renee Quarles mentioned that she would be willing to send out the survey in her weekly Shades of Afrika e-mail newsletter. City staff committed to sending out the survey link to all Committee members for better distribution.



4. Organizational and Fund Development

Co-Chairs Parker and Viltz led a discussion on organizational and fund development. The Committee expressed that a Fiscal Agent will need to be identified to handle potential donations and fundraising efforts. Griselda Suarez expressed that the Arts Council for Long Beach would like to explore how to support this effort. Deputy City Manager Jackson explained the

Co-Chairs Parker and Viltz entertained a motion to establish a Fund Development Subcommittee chaired by Sharon McLucas and including Dr. Alex Norman, Daysha Austin, Charles Brown, and Sakkara Thomas, motioned by Renee Quarles and seconded by Daysha Austin. This motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comment

Keith Baker spoke. He expressed interest in working with the Fund Development Subcommittee as a grant writer.

6. Committee Comments

Adissa Anderson referenced ethnic studies at CSULB, recommending that the Committee reads the Ethnic Studies Reader. Dr. Maulana Karenga wrote a chapter on the rationale for the study of African American History and Culture. Adissa Anderson offered to send out the reference to the Committee.

Sharon McLucas apologized for being late.

Griselda Suarez recommended that the online survey be distributed via the City's PIO Social Media accounts.

Co-Chair Parker recommended establishing a process to engage youth in this process and Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm

