



**MINUTES
CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
March 19, 2012, 1:30pm – 2:30pm**

A. Roll Call – Councilmembers Pinkard and Ramirez present

B. Approval of Minutes from February 27, 2012 – Approved

C. Public Comments

Armando Vazquez introduced Thomas Benitez and Rebecca Nevarez from the Latino Arts Network.

Andres Orozco informed the Committee the Oxnard College Film and TV department received a 1-year reprieve from proposed budget cuts. Would like the Committee’s support for this program.

Jairo Reyes (Café on A) and Joseph Cortez (Music Box) introduced themselves to the Committee.

D. Old Business

- 1. List of Oxnard Arts Groups** – Armando Vasquez indicated the current list of artists is partial and more artists will be added. The meeting attendees were encouraged to email local artist information to Dan O’Friel at the City of Oxnard (dan.ofriel@ci.oxnard.ca.us).
- 2. Cultural Arts Staff Support** – Matthew Winegar is currently investigating staff support needs/issues and will report his findings to the Committee.
- 3. City Council Agenda Item** – Matthew Winegar stated the agenda item to authorize disbursement of \$200,000 for the Cultural Arts Grant will be going before City Council at the March 27 meeting.
- 4. Cultural Arts Grant RFP Status** – Matthew Winegar stated the draft RFP is being prepared and will be submitted to the Committee members.

George Sandoval asked if designated \$100,000 to organizations was uneven. Councilmember Pinkard stated that legacy organizations should be a priority and receive the larger portion of the grant distribution. Councilmember Ramirez commented that there should be flexibility in the distribution of grant amounts rather than the same amount to every recipient. Matthew Winegar stated that this flexibility will be built in to the RFP and that awards will be based on the merits of each proposal.

In response to a question if awards will go to organizations already funded by the City, Matthew Winegar indicated that those organizations will not be eligible for grant awards.

Matthew Winegar indicated that award recipients will be required to report on funds usage. Committee determined that grants funds are to be used for “operational” costs. Councilmember Pinkard want to ensure that operational uses are tangible and also wants to ensure that there is transparency in the usage of these funds awarded.

Committee determined that the originally discussed distribution of awards amounts will be changed to the following: legacy organizations \$100,000, emerging organizations \$50,000, and individual artists \$50,000.

The question was raised as to whether award recipients should be required to raise matching funds. Councilmember Ramirez prefers the term “leveraging funds” rather than “matching funds”. Matthew Winegar indicated that leveraging funds language would be included in the RFP.

Councilmember Ramirez stated that RFP will not be awarded by the City Council in order to avoid conflicts of interest. Matthew Winegar suggested a more in-depth conversation regarding a review panel be on the agenda for the next Committee meeting. Margaret Travers (Ventura County Arts Council) suggested that RFP evaluators be selected from outside the Oxnard art community.

5. **Grant Opportunity** – Tracy Hudak. No new information to present regarding NEA Our Town Grant.

E. New Business

1. **Latino Arts Network (LAN)** – Thomas Benitiz and Rebecca Nevarez gave overview of their group to the Committee. Armando Vazquez recommends that the City join this network.
2. **Evening Meeting of Oxnard Arts Groups** – Councilmember Ramirez asked that this potential meeting be kept on the agenda and that the Committee and meeting attendees think about ideas for this meeting. This will not be an official Cultural Arts Committee meeting. Armando Vazquez recommended that it be an alcohol-free gathering as a good example to the youth of the art community.

- F. **Future Items** – Councilmember Ramirez asked if Bill Strickland will be invited to speak to the committee. Armando Vazquez indicated Mr. Strickland will need two months notice for scheduling. No decision was made on this issue.

Armando Vazquez asked that the Committee take up summer youth art jobs as a Committee issue.

G. Cultural Arts Fund Balance - \$339,615

H. Committee Business

I. Group Announcements

- J. **Adjournment:** The next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. in the Human Resources Activity Room (enter on B Street), 300 West Third Street, 1st Floor, Oxnard, California 93030.