

Thursday, June 1, 2023 • 5 pm
Sandler Center for the Performing Arts/Classroom 1

The Business Meeting of the Arts and Humanities Commission was held on Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 5:00 pm in Classroom 1 at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts.

Commissioners Present:

- **OFFICER:** Susan C. Grube, Chair-via conference call
- **OFFICER:** Emma "Em" Davis, Secretary
- Michael Cloud-Butler
- C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.
- Alicia "Sunny" Phillips Peoples
- Cynthia Romero, MD
- Olga Torres-Baker

Cultural Affairs Department (CAD) Staff Present:

- Emily S. Labows, Director
- Beth Hundley, Deputy Director
- Hillary L. Plate, Programs and Cultural Partnership Coordinator
- Mari R. Coronado, Executive Assistant II

Absent:

- **OFFICER:** Hon. Winship C. Tower (Ret.), Treasurer
- **OFFICER:** Brenda J. Roberts, Vice Chair-RESIGNED
- Mia K. Guile
- Raeesah Islam

Guest:

- Council Member Joshua Schulman

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Ms. Susan C. Grube, Chair was present via conference call. Before calling the meeting to order at **5:00 pm**, *Ms. Emma "Em" Davis, Secretary* made several announcements:

- She welcomed Logan Gramh and Nathaniel Sawyer from Boy Scout Troop 179.
- She announced *Mr. Cheyney Cole's* term expired, serving 8 years and presented him with an AHC recognition certificate and farewell gift.
- She welcomed Council Member Joshua Schulman.
- *Ms. Brenda Robert* resigned from the Commission.

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. February 2, 2023

Motion I.

A motion was made by *Dr. Cynthia Romero*, seconded by *Mr. Michael Cloud-Butler* to approve the minutes from the February 2nd Meeting. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to approve the minutes for the February 2nd meeting.**

Members voting **AYE:** Grube, Davis, Cloud-Butler, Cole, Peoples, Romero,
Torres-Baker
Members voting **NAY:** Zero
Members **ABSTAINING:** Zero
Members **ABSENT:** Tower, Guile, Islam

- b. March 30-31, 2023

Motion II.

A motion was made by *Ms. Olga Torres-Baker*, seconded by *Dr. Cynthia Romero* to approve the minutes from the March 30th-31st Meetings. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to approve the minutes for the March 30th-31st Meetings.**

Members voting **AYE:** Grube, Davis, Cloud-Butler, Cole, Peoples, Romero,
Torres-Baker
Members voting **NAY:** Zero
Members **ABSTAINING:** Zero
Members **ABSENT:** Tower, Guile, Islam

- c. May 4, 2023

Motion III.

A motion was made by *Ms. Olga Torres-Baker*, seconded by *Dr. Cynthia Romero* to approve the minutes from the May 4th Meeting. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to approve the minutes for the May 4th Meeting.**

Members voting **AYE:** Grube, Davis, Cloud-Butler, Cole, Peoples, Romero,
Torres-Baker
Members voting **NAY:** Zero
Members **ABSTAINING:** Zero
Members **ABSENT:** Tower, Guile, Islam

III. Approval of Treasurer's Report

- a. May Treasurer's Report: *Ms. Beth Hundley* provided the update since the *Hon. Winship C. Tower (Ret)*, Treasurer was absent.

Motion IV.

The Commission made consent approval to unanimously accept the May Treasurer's Report. There was no discussion.

Members voting **AYE:** Grube, Davis, Cloud-Butler, Cole, Peoples, Romero,

Torres-Baker
 Members voting **NAY**: Zero
 Members **ABSTAINING**: Zero
 Members **ABSENT**: Tower, Guile, Islam

- b. Allocation of \$70,000 funding for the FY24 AHC Project Grants:
 City Council had increased the operating budget of Cultural Affairs by \$70,000 in a one-time funding to provide additional contributions to the Arts and Humanities Commission for the FY23-24 Fiscal year.

Motion V.

A motion was made by *Dr. Cynthia Romero*, seconded by *Ms. Olga Torres-Baker* to approve the Executive Committee recommendation to the Arts and Humanities Commission to allocate the additional \$70,000 one-time funding from City Council for the FY24 Project Grants. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to approve the Executive Committee recommendation to allocate the additional \$70,000 one-time funding from City Council for the FY24 Project Grants.**

Members voting **AYE**: Grube, Davis, Cloud-Butler, Cole, Peoples, Romero, Torres-Baker
 Members voting **NAY**: Zero
 Members **ABSTAINING**: Zero
 Members **ABSENT**: Tower, Guile, Islam

- c. Allocation of \$4,703.36 funding to the Marketing and Advertising line item

Motion VI.

A motion was made by *Ms. Olga Torres-Baker*, seconded by *Dr. Cynthia Romero* to approve the Executive Committee recommendation to allocate \$4,703.36 to Marketing and Advertising line item. There was no discussion. **The motion *unanimously* passed to approve the Executive Committee recommendation to allocate \$4,703.36 to Marketing and Advertising line item.**

Members voting **AYE**: Grube, Davis, Cloud-Butler, Cole, Peoples, Romero, Torres-Baker
 Members voting **NAY**: Zero
 Members **ABSTAINING**: Zero
 Members **ABSENT**: Tower, Guile, Islam

IV. Old Business

- a. Slate of officers for FY24 presented by Nominating Committee
 Nominating Committee Chair *Ms. Emma "Em" Davis*, *Secretary* along with members *Dr. Cynthia Romero* and *Mr. C. Cheyney Cole, Jr.* recommended the FY24 Slate of FY24 Officer nominees:
- Chair: Dr. Cynthia Romero
 - Vice Chair: Ms. Olga Torres- Baker
 - Secretary: The Hon. Winship Tower (Ret.), Treasurer

- Treasurer: Ms. Alicia "Sunny" Peoples

Voting will take place at the July 13th Annual Meeting.

V. New Business

- a. Review of FY24 Meeting Schedule
 - Due to the July 4th holiday, the July 6th meeting was rescheduled for Thursday, July 13th.
 - Being mindful of Holy Week being observed during the last week of March, the Grant Deliberations/Presentations were scheduled for March 21-22, 2024.
- b. The FY24 Project Grant Award Notices are slated for disbursement in June. August 1, 2023 is the deadline for the signed contracts to be returned.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. **Advertising and Marketing**
Ms. Beth Hundley, Deputy Director shared results from the radio and social media campaign. RAC cards will be shared at the next meeting and the newly approved allocated marketing funds will be put to good use.
- b. **Advocacy**
Ms. Susan C. Grube, AHC Chair reported that she will take over the advocacy items due to *Ms. Robert's absence*. She will continue to pursue outreach to the City Council members.
- c. **Champion for the Arts**
Ms. Rose Daria was notified about being the 2023 Champion for the Arts recipient. Save the Date notices will be sent out. The event is scheduled for Thursday, August 3rd at 5 pm.
- d. **Cultural Equity**
The presentation from the Cultural Equity Committee, facilitated by *Dr. Cynthia Romero, Ms. Olga Torres- Baker* and *Mr. Michael Cloud-Butler* explained their process and invited discussion and feedback. Copies of the presentation will be forwarded to those absent. Follow-up discussion will be added as an agenda item for the July meeting.
- e. **Public Art**
The Public Art Committee made a recommendation for the Commission to give consent approval to three (3) community fence murals at the ViBe Creative District and one(1) community fence mural at Redwing Park.

Motion VII.

The Commission made consent approval to unanimously to approve the three (3) fence murals at the ViBe Creative District and the one (1) fence mural at Redwing Park. There was no discussion.

Members voting **AYE**: Grube, Davis, Cloud-Butler, Cole, Peoples, Romero,
Torres-Baker
Members voting **NAY**: Zero
Members **ABSTAINING**: Zero

Members **ABSENT:**

Tower, Guile, Islam

VII. Commissioner Comments

- *Mr. Cheyney Cole, Jr.:* Gave his final thanks to the Commission.
- *Council Member Josh Schulman:* Introduced himself; has had a long passion for art; interested to learn more about; has a strong appreciation for the work done; can be used as a resource

VIII. Public Comments

The following presented event updates and announcements:

- Tamar Smithers (Virginia African American Cultural Center)
- Linda Dyer (Zeiders Dream Theater)
- Deidre Love (Teens with a Purpose)
- ViBe Creative District (Kate Pittman)
- Peruvian Cultural Center (Juliana-Mother/Daughter Team)

IX. Next Meetings: Sandler Center for the Performing Arts

- July 13, 2023: 4 pm: Executive Committee Meeting/ Conference Room
- July 13, 2023: 5 pm: Business Meeting / Classroom 1

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at **6:05 pm.**



Called to order by
Ms. Emma "Em" Davis
AHC Secretary



Minutes prepared by
Mari R. Coronado
CAD Executive Assistant II

VIX. Attachment

June 1st Meeting Agenda Packet