
African American Cultural Center Community Advisory Committee Meeting #4

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, May 28, 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; 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 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.; Blanch Vance, Grants Associate, Annenberg Foundation; Dr. Felton Williams, Board Member, Long Beach Unified School District; Dr. Leon Wood Jr., President, Success in Challenges, Inc.

Community Advisors: Ryan Ballard, Board Member, African American Heritage Society of Long Beach; Minnie Douglas, Community Volunteer; Sarah Fitzgerald, Museum Curator and Educator; Gregory Johnson, Managing Director, DreamKreator Studio; Pamela A. Lewis, Director, Community Partnerships and Student Success Initiatives, California State University, Long Beach; 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 5:50pm.

2. Asset Inventory Subcommittee Update

Laverne Duncan provided an update on the work the Asset Inventory Subcommittee has conducted so far. Sarah Fitzgerald provided a report and mission statement. The Mission Statement of the Asset Inventory Subcommittee is to research and compile local African American assets that focus on history in order to support and expand the asset inventory. Some topics explored in the last meeting included Manuel Nieto, a Spanish landholder of African descent in the Long Beach area, as well as documents outlining housing segregation policies around Rancho Los Cerritos.

Dr. Leon Wood suggested that the Subcommittee research Bill Barnes, the first African American dean of LBCC, John Rambo, and Bryan Woodward, two athletes from Long Beach. Laverne Duncan stated that the Subcommittee does intend to interview individuals once they develop the procedure to do that. Co-Chair Viltz asked to be included on future meetings.

Dr. Minnie Douglas recommended that the Subcommittee request documentation from LBUSD and Church archives. Charles Brown suggested that the Subcommittee research the Tuskegee Airmen memorial, as well as participation of African American men in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

3. Fund Development Subcommittee Update

Sharon Mclucas introduced the meeting notes from the Fund Development Subcommittee's meeting on May 24, 2019. Co-chair Viltz provided an update on the correspondence with LBCAP, which had agreed to reduce the Administrative Rate to 12%, which is equivalent to other fiscal agents.

Dr. Felton Williams requested that the spelling of Darick Simpson's name be corrected in the meeting notes. Dr. Williams also recommended that the Subcommittee explore the Long Beach Education Foundation as a fiscal agent to see if they could offer a lower rate. Sharon Mclucas expressed concern about waiting another month. Ahmed Saafir suggested that, if the rate is substantially lower, the Committee should be willing to wait. Conversation ensued. Minnie Douglas recommended that the fiscal agent should be in line with the mission statement of the Cultural Center.

The Co-Chairs entertained a motion to direct the Subcommittee to review rates and contracts from both LBCAP and LBUSD and return to the Committee with full contracts from both. This motion passed with 12 yes votes, 3 abstain.



Sharon Mclucas shared that the next meeting of the Fund Development Subcommittee will be on June 3 at 10:00am at the Expo Arts Center.

4. Review of Committee Timeline

Deputy City Manager Kevin Jackson presented to the Committee on the timeline and purpose of each of the remaining Committee Meetings. The June 25th Meeting (4:00pm-8:00pm) will be the Vision Confirmation Workshop, in which Lord Cultural Resources will lead the Committee through an exercise to generate an operating vision. The July 30th Meeting (5:30pm-8:00pm) will have the presentation of the Institutional Development Final Report from Lord Cultural Resources, which will outline the operating vision and facility recommendations. In August or September, Committee Members are invited to participate in presenting these findings to City Council.

Ahmed Saafir asked if Lord Cultural Resources will provide a projected timeline for the development of the African American Cultural Center as part of their final report. Deputy City Manager Jackson clarified that this report will be a high level business plan and will contain a high level projection of next steps. Sharon Mclucas asked how the work of Subcommittees should intersect with the Vision Confirmation Workshop. Deputy City Manager Jackson responded that the Asset Inventory Subcommittee should provide detailed information on June 25 to inform the development of the Operating Vision, and that Subcommittees should continue to meet on an ongoing basis to inform the development of the African American Cultural Center.

5. Community Outreach: Final Report Executive Summary Presentation

Tasha W. Hunter, Wiggins Hunter Consulting and Alan Burks, Environ Architecture, Inc. presented the Executive Summary of their Community Engagement Final Report. Copies of the report were provided to the Committee. The [presentation slides](#) and the [Executive Summary Report](#) can be found on the African American Cultural Center Website (www.longbeach.gov/AACC).

Uduak-Joe Ntuk mentioned that LBCC is currently preparing to conduct a facilities assessment in North Long Beach and could potentially incorporate specific facilities and programmatic requirements into this assessment. Griselda Suarez asked for clarification that, if Lord Cultural Resources provides the specific facility requirements by the July meeting, would LBCC have enough time to incorporate these requirements into their assessment? Uduak-Joe Ntuk responded in the affirmative.

Minnie Douglas suggested that the Committee pursue partnerships with LBCC, LBUSD, and CSULB.



Charles Brown agreed with the community outreach finding that the Center should be based in Downtown Long Beach, highlighting that this location would attract convention attendees. Dr. Wood agreed that Downtown could attract visitors and tourists to the Center. Tasha Hunter noted that cruise lines could potentially make the African American Cultural Center an excursion in Long Beach.

Ahmed Saafir recommended that the facility be constructed in a way that is self-sustaining through constant revenue. Dr. Felton Williams agreed that partnering with local education institutions would be important, adding that there should be connections with students and formalization of partnership with educators.

Carl Kemp thanked Tasha Hunter and Alan Burks for the comprehensive community engagement, noting that the Black community members in Long Beach is rarely asked for their opinion, and highlighting the importance of community engagement. All Committee members agreed and applauded.

6. Visioning Workshop Overview

Deputy City Manager Kevin Jackson provided an overview of the June 25th Vision Confirmation Workshop to prepare the Committee.

Carl Kemp noted that there may not be enough time to develop a robust Operating Vision without prior preparation. He suggested the creation of an ad-hoc Mission Statement Committee and agreed to chair it. Griselda Suarez suggested creating the Mission Statement after the Operating Vision is developed. Dr. Leon Wood agreed that two hours might not be enough time to create an Operating Vision. Deputy City Manager Kevin Jackson clarified that the mission of the Advisory Committee is to create an Operating Vision for the African American Cultural Center, but a mission statement for an organization going forward has not been developed yet.

The Co-Chairs entertained a motion to create an ad hoc Mission Statement Subcommittee chaired by Carl Kemp, moved by Ahmed Saafir and seconded by Renee Quarles. The motion passed with 9 votes in favor, 2 abstained.

7. Queens Historical Society Presentation

Sakkara Thomas presented on the need for satellite programs for the African American Cultural Center. The [presentation slides](#) can be found on the African American Cultural Center website (www.longbeach.gov/AACC). Conversation ensued around the use of Satellite Programs to build interest in the African American Cultural Center.



8. Universal Hip Hop Museum Presentation

SenYon Kelly provided a presentation to the Committee on the progress of the Universal Hip Hop Museum in New York City.

9. Public Comment

No public comment.

10. Committee Comment

Sharon Mclucas reminded the Committee that the annual Juneteenth Celebration at King Park will take place on June 22nd at Noon in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

