
African American Cultural Center Community Advisory Committee Meeting #8

MEETING NOTES

October 29, 2019
5:30pm – 7:30pm

Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific
100 Aquarium Way
Long Beach, CA 90802

Attendance:

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

Working Group Members: Monte B. Beard, Sr., Long Beach NAACP Executive Committee; Darcelle Bradley; Charles Brown, Vice President, Non-Profit Sector, Lyde Enterprises; Gerald Burford, Member, 100 Black Men of Long Beach, Inc.; Valenda Dennard, Analyst, City of Long Beach; Angelo Dickens, Realtor, ReMax; Dr. Minnie Douglas, Community Volunteer; Gregory Johnson, Managing Director, DreamKreator Studio; Renee Quarles, CEO, Shades of Afrika; Ahmed Saafir, Chair, Long Beach Community Improvement League; Sakkara Thomas, Founding President, Queens Historical Society, Inc.; Dr. Leon Wood Jr., President, Success in Challenges, Inc.

Community Advisors: Dr. Melanie Curtis Andrews, Artistic Director, Inner City Shakespeare Ensemble;

Staff members: Tasha W. Hunter, Wiggins Hunter Consulting; Alvin Teng, Community Engagement Specialist, City of Long Beach

1. Conversation with Fahria Qadar, Director of Pacific Visions & Architecture

Co-chairs Erroll Parker and Max Viltz called the meeting to order at 5:45pm. Fahria Qadar presented on the history and current operations of LBMA and responded to questions from Committee members.

2. Welcome and Introductions



Co-Chair Parker encouraged all present to persevere and work hard, noting that the process will likely take a long time but will be worth it once the AACC is built. Co-Chair Viltz invited all to direct any ideas or questions about the process to the Co-Chairs by email. Sakkara Thomas noted that this is the 400th anniversary of slavery in America this year, and invited all present to remember their ancestors.

3. Strategic Planning Retreat Update

Co-Chair Max Viltz invited Gregory Johnson to discuss the progress on the strategic planning retreat. Gregory Johnson noted that his goal is to help the emerging organization structure its board and leadership development through a leadership retreat. He has a history of institution building in the African American community, including experience in board formation and fundraising. The proposed leadership retreat would allow voting members to step back without distractions, develop a strategic plan and implementation timeline, and discuss board of director selection and fund development processes.

Co-Chair Viltz noted that the details of this retreat are still being formulated, and the Subcommittee would come back to the Committee with a motion in the future.

4. Properties Tour Update

Co-Chairs Parker and Viltz presented an update on a recent tour of potential sites for the African American Cultural Center through the City's Economic Development Department. Co-Chair Viltz discussed the details of the Armory and North Long Beach sites.

Sharon McLucas asked if parking across the street is included in the Armory site. Deputy City Manager Kevin Jackson responded that it is not part of the property. A member of the public asked if the Co-chairs had inquired about the parcel across from the Michelle Obama Library. Kevin Jackson noted that it is premature to talk about specific parcels, but that the tours were meant to give examples of potential properties that are and will become available for the Cultural Center. Dr. Melanie Curtis Andrews noted that parking in the area of the Armory is very limited and recommended that accommodations would need to be made if that site is selected.

5. Fund Development Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Chair Sharon McLucas noted that the Subcommittee have signed an MOU with the Long Beach Education Foundation and have established a mailing address for the organization.

a) 501c3 Process Update

The Co-Chairs entertained a motion to direct the Co-Chairs to sign paperwork for the 501c3 formation process, moved by Dr. Minnie Douglas and seconded by Monte Beard. Charles Brown noted that if the Co-Chairs sign, the paperwork can be submitted by the end of the



week. The California process takes about a month, and once that is established, the organization can begin the federal process. Gregory Johnson asked if the Committee needs bylaws and a policy procedures manual. Dr. Minnie Douglas noted that the Committee has already created bylaws. Charles Brown noted that for the State's process, all that is needed is articles of incorporation. Gregory Johnson requested that the bylaws be provided to the Strategic Planning Retreat team. The motion passed with 9 votes in favor, 0 opposed.

b) Governance Subcommittee

The Co-Chairs entertained a motion to establish a Governance Subcommittee, moved by Dr. Minnie Douglas and seconded by Dr. Felton Williams. Dr. Douglas noted that the Governance Subcommittee would develop criteria for board membership based on the mission and State's requirements as well as a process for election of officers and board members. She noted that the bylaws have been approved by the Committee, but that legal counsel has recommended changes, and thus the Governance Subcommittee would also review these changes. She expects that these tasks would be completed by November 8th, and requested that at least five people volunteer. Dr. Felton Williams, Angelo Dickens II, and Charles Brown all volunteered. The motion passed with 9 votes in favor, 0 opposed.

c) Other Fund Development Activities

Co-Chair Max Viltz noted that the MOU with LBEF has been signed and that the Committee is now able to receive funds. She noted that Judy Seal invited the Fund Development Subcommittee to pitch at her retirement party, where they were able to raise close to \$9,000. Dr. Felton Williams recognized and congratulated Judy Seal on her career accomplishments and contributions.

Tasha Hunter noted that the Fund Development Subcommittee was creating a logo competition to request logos from students at LBUSD. She invited any recommendations for criteria to be directed to her. Dr. Curtis Andrews recommended that the request be circulated far and wide. Dr. Felton Williams noted the importance of working with the four major institutions in the LB College Promise.

Darcelle Bradley asked what criteria had already been established. Tasha Hunter replied that submitted logos must be original work, embody the mission statement, incorporate kente cloth, and represent the African American community. Darcelle Bradley asked for clarity about how a logo can be created if a name for the Cultural Center has not been finalized. Tasha Hunter noted that any logo that is selected can be changed in the future.

Sharon McLucas noted that there is a large number of people who are ready to work on Fund Development.



Tasha Hunter noted that the Fund Development Subcommittee had submitted an application for a grant from the Port of Long Beach to support the Kwanzaa Celebration and other AACC-related events. Sakkara Thomas asked how funds would be distributed to other organizations. Tasha Hunter noted that it is premature to discuss distribution of funds before knowing how much money has been awarded.

6. Discussion of Ongoing Meetings

Co-Chairs Max Viltz and Erroll Parker noted that this is the last City-supported meeting and asked if the Committee would like to continue meeting. Gregory Johnson recommended that future meetings must start on time. Atira West noted that any day of the week might work, but recommended shifting the start time to 6:00pm. Darcelle Bradley agreed, noting that a later start would be better for people with jobs. She also recommended that a parliamentarian be designated. Angelo Dickens recommended making the meetings shorter. Monte Beard suggested keeping it on the last Tuesday of the month.

The Co-Chairs entertained a motion to continue monthly meetings of the AACC Advisory Committee on the last Tuesday of every month from 6-7:30pm, moved by Erroll Parker and seconded by Dr. Minnie Douglas. The motion passed with 11 votes in favor, 1 abstained, 0 opposed.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Committee Comment

Griselda Suarez recommended clarification of the Committee Members' roles in the future. Charles Brown noted that the Governance Subcommittee can further discuss this, and noted that the Committee can be a platform for leadership development and an ongoing forum in an advisory role to the Board of Directors.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

