
African American Cultural Center Community Advisory Committee Meeting #6

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019
5:30pm to 7:30pm

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: Nicole Ballard, President, African American Heritage Society of Long Beach; 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.; Angelo Dickens, Realtor, ReMax; LaVerne Duncan, Executive Director, Andy Street Community Association; Carl Kemp; Sharon Mclucas, Owner, Forgotten Images; Renee Quarles, CEO, Shades of Afrika; Ahmed Saafir, Chair, Long Beach Community Improvement League; Sakkara Thomas, Founding President, Queens Historical Society, Inc.; 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; Dr. Melanie Curtis Andrews, Artistic Director, Inner City Shakespeare Ensemble; Dr. 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; 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; Kathleen Brown, Lord Cultural Resources; 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 5:46pm.

2. Asset Inventory Subcommittee Update

Laverne Duncan provided an update on the work the Asset Inventory Subcommittee and a list of cultural assets. She invited people to help add to the list of cultural assets. Sarah Fitzgerald and Nicole Ballard then provided a presentation on African American History in Long Beach, which can be found on the [AACC Website](http://www.longbeach.gov/AACC) (www.longbeach.gov/AACC)

Dr. Felton Williams offered to help connect CSULB to provide professor and student research support. Dr. Minnie Douglas encouraged the Committee to have interns provide research support in the future. Ahmed Saafir recommended adding black-owned businesses to the asset inventory.

The Co-Chairs entertained a motion to receive and file the Asset Inventory Subcommittee's report, moved by Co-Chair Erroll Parker and seconded by Ahmed Saafir. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Fund Development Subcommittee Update

Sharon McLucas provided an update on the continuing work of the Fund Development Subcommittee.

4. Committee Business

Co-Chair Viltz initiated a discussion on continuing Advisory Committee meetings in August, September, and October. Deputy City Manager Kevin Jackson provided an update, noting that the City is interested in providing support for monthly meetings through October, ensuring a successful transition. He recommended off-site meeting locations, potentially meeting at MOLAA in August, Long Beach Museum of Art in September, and Aquarium of the Pacific in October.

Dr. Leon Wood shared that the Ford Foundation might be interested in funding the research portion of the work.

The Co-Chairs entertained a motion to continue monthly meetings of the AACC Community Advisory Committee from August to September with City Staff support, and through December with or without City Staff, moved by Dr. Minnie Douglas and seconded by Dr. Melanie Curtis Andrews. Dr. Douglas mentioned touring PIEAM as another option on locations. The motion passed with 14 in favor, 1 opposed.



Carl Kemp asked when City staff expect to present to City Council about the Visioning Process. Deputy City Manager Kevin Jackson mentioned the tentative plan was to present to Council in September. Carl Kemp recommended that the Committee wait to present to Council until after the October Meeting to ensure a complete and thorough report.

5. Preliminary Institutional Business Plan

Kathleen Brown of Lord Cultural Resources presented their preliminary institutional business plan, which can be found on [the AACC Website](#). The Committee provided feedback throughout the presentation. Kathleen Brown first presented on the Key Operating Assumptions of the Institutional Business Plan.

Dr. Minnie Douglas asked for more elaboration on “flexible” (Slide 11) to be included. Nicole Ballard asked that “Target Audience” (Slide 8) be changed to “...the greater Long Beach community *and beyond*”, Slide 9 be changed to “Preserving and communicating the diverse history of Long Beach *and beyond*”, and that “Cooking Class” be changed to “*Health and Wellness*” (Slide 10) Dr. Felton Williams asked that the “*City of Long Beach*” be added to potential partners (Slide 8). Ahmed Saafir asked that “Lab” be changed to “*Research Facility*” under the Cultural Programs List (Slide 10). Adisa Anderson asked that “Satellite Organizations” be added to the Cultural Programs list (Slide 10). Conversation ensued. Other Committee members asked that Slide 9 be changed to “A platform to expand civic engagement and *provide a safe haven for the community*”, “connector...to other initiatives, institutions, *and networking opportunities*”, and “convener...a place to *gather and interact*.” Committee members also asked that “School Field Trips and teacher training” be changed to “*Educational Learning Opportunities/School Field Trips*” on Slide 10.

The Co-Chairs entertained a motion to accept the Operating Assumptions of the Institutional Business Plan, with included changes, moved by Erroll Parker and seconded by Dr. Felton Williams. The motion passed unanimously with 8 in favor.

Councilmember Al Austin thanked Lord Cultural Resources for all the hard work and the presentation. He encouraged continued participation from all Committee members present, especially with the upcoming community budget meetings.

Ahmed Saafir noted that the institutional business plan highlights the importance of forming a Board of Directors to create a 501c3 organization. Dr. Minnie Douglas recommended forming an ad hoc committee to write bylaws and establish a 501c3.

The Co-Chairs entertained a motion to accept the preliminary institutional business plan, with comments and questions addressed, moved by Ahmed Saafir and seconded by Sharon McLucas. Discussion ensued. Carl Kemp thanked Councilmember Austin for his leadership in the AACC effort, and asked about the City’s funding allotment for the project.



He noted that, for other African American Museums, the average portion of operating income from governmental sources is 21% (Slide 31). He noted that the Committee should advocate for \$250,000 from the City. The motion passed unanimously with 13 votes in favor.

6. City-Owned Property Presentation

Mary Torres, Economic Development Department, City of Long Beach, presented an update on a list of City-Owned properties that had previously been identified as potential sites for an African American cultural center. The presentation slides can be found on the AACC website.

Councilmember Austin asked for clarification about the property north of the Michelle Obama Library. Ahmed Saafir recommended that the Committee investigate a potential partnership with LAB Holding, which is currently developing sites around the Michelle Obama Library. Griselda Suarez agreed, LAB is currently developing multiple locations. Carl Kemp commented that the Armory location represents a unique opportunity. Sharon McLucas recommended that the Committee look into a location at Hill Street and Long Beach Boulevard.

7. Public Comment

Tiffany Davy asked about submitting a more formal public comment. Co-Chair Max Viltz noted that she could send it to the Co-Chairs and City Staff, which will then be disseminated to the Committee Members.

Tasha Hunter noted potential available times for a Committee meeting at MOLAA in August.

8. Committee Comment

No Committee comment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

