

Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs



Meeting Notes For:

November 16, 2022

History Colorado
1200 N. Broadway, Denver, CO 80203

ATTENDEE?	COUNCIL ASSIGNMENT NET	MEMBERS	EMAIL
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NOTES	
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 9:03 AM	Heather Nielsen
Approval of October Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to approve – First, FloraJane; Second, Van Minutes approved.	Heather Nielsen
PUBLIC ART UPDATE	
VOTE: Sand Creek Greenway Proposed motion: To approve Selection Panel Details: \$93K <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 miles between Peoria and Quebec in D8 Modernize trail, restore habitat Meets EDI goals. Member of D8 will vote in place of Christopher Herndon who is not seeking re-election. <p>Motion to approve: First, Stephanie Rance; Second, Alfredo Reyes</p> <p>Motion approved.</p>	Meg Pursell
OTHER DAV / CULTURAL AFFAIRS UPDATES	
Office of Boards & Commissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 137 boards and commissions for City and County of Denver Individuals are reviewed and then recommended to the OBC Memo to mayor and city council recommending individuals to each commission. 2023: 15 candidates for mayor; new mayor will have a different philosophy, city council may want to change rules. 8 members eligible for reappointment on DCCA, others ineligible and will create vacancies. Start the process earlier, actively start recruiting How do commissioners indicate their support for a mayoral or city council candidate? Staff are not allowed to engage in any way on behalf of a mayoral candidate (financially, yard signs, etc.) and refrain from visible endorsement of city council members. Commissioners: tread carefully because it reflects your service on this commission. Joshua Margolin: so it's possible that the mayor could remove us from the commission? Yes, but doubtful that will happen. Heather Nielsen: reiterated recruitment process <p>EDI grants: 46 organizations will be receiving</p>	Romaine Pacheco, Director
Director Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023 Cultural Affairs Annual Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership, Education and Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll out Denver's Cultural Commitment (refresh of Imagine 2020) Reposition Platform (who we are as an agency, what we do, why we do it) 	Tariana Navas-Nieves

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local arts agency activities: funding partnerships, programming, advocacy (with CBCA, Philanthropy Colorado, etc.), engagement with cultural sector ○ Cultural programming: Five Points Jazz Festival production company; evaluate all programs using an equity lens and how they connect to agency's goals ○ Grants & Cultural Investments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Re-evaluate every year ▪ Distribute in an equitable and timely manner—some changes in the city process that are challenging the timely part ▪ Data mapping as means of telling story of a social-cultural enterprise ▪ New grant that will support the Denver Cultural Commitment on a rolling basis, 3x/year ○ Public Art <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hiring staff, professional development ▪ Public Art Program Working Group is guiding ▪ Increase number of opportunities ▪ Refresh Public Art Program Policy • 2023 DAV EDI goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop tailored training for contractors, develop resources ○ Restructure agency venue activations. 	
<p>Executive Director Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loretto Heights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LOI to acquire library in addition to theater ○ Selected architectural team for theater, library, plaza, and garage ○ Telluray Foundation grant proposal: primarily for Southwest metro area (not necessarily Denver county). May be one of the first grantors in the door ○ Recruitment for DCAF and capital campaign committee to raise \$15M for Phase 1 (just theater and garage). Library will be bought and held so there's a certificate of occupancy. • Boettcher Concert Hall version 2.0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Symphony board wants to stay at Arts Complex and renovate Boettcher instead of moving off-site ○ Conceptual vision/design process presented to resident companies and mayor ○ Acoustical and feasibility studies underway • Colorado Convention Center Expansion and Management RFP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hard hat tour with mayor on Oct. 20 ○ On-time and on budget ○ Bid out mgmt agreement; ASMG is current manager. Proposals due Dec. 7 • Time to Thrive Strategic Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff rollout Dec 6, publicly available Q1 2023 <p>Alfredo: impressive work. Cultural plan: continuing the work from Bobby LeFebre? Yes. Time to Thrive? Broad and deep, but tactical. Cultural</p>	<p>Ginger White</p>

Commitment is more of a manifesto, set of values and beliefs that inform our work.	
COMMISSION BUSINESS	
<p>Mayor's Awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dec. 7, 11-1pm. Please attend! 	Heather Nielsen
<p>January 3rd, 2023 Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move to January 10. <p>Housekeeping:</p> <p>Parking validation details</p>	Dan Manzanares
REGULAR MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:16 AM First, Leesly Leon; Second Rick Acosta	Heather Nielsen
2022 RETREAT	
<p>WELCOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yearly planning for each quarter How can we work to better support DAV Overview of agenda for rest of the day <p>Icebreaker – Dan Manzanares</p> <p>Name, what are you bringing to this meeting (in one word or short phrase), what is one of your pet peeves.</p>	Heather Nielsen
<p>RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community representation and needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant panels Community conversations (Bobby LeFebre, Suzie Q. Smith) Representing EDI values and all residents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public art accessibility work group Share grant/commission opportunities Annual goal setting; commitment to attend and participate, and share in DAV activities 1% for public art selection panels; share the 1% commission opportunities with our circles Stewards of the city's cultural plan (Imagine 2020): 5-6 commissioners that advise on the development of the plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action items: place-based arts initiative that targets each council district 	Dan Manzanares
<p>BREAKOUT GROUPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities and gaps, things other commissioners have done that we could do more of? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role we play as new commissioners—all the stuff we don't know and are learning, process that; share that info with our networks. The struggle/opportunity to do a better job of using the networks we all have individually and capitalizing on that. 	Heather Nielsen

- What we can do to celebrate what has been Denver and what may be Denver, and that transition. Being inclusive of peoples and building more connections.
- As we think about the new cultural commitment, making sure it's not removed from the geopolitical reality of the city and displacement. Connecting neighborhoods that have been cut out of Denver's movement towards becoming a global hub.
- Relationship with city council members; how that had some consistency pre-pandemic but needs a reset. City council members also usually refers to their staff as well—develop those relationships too.
- Making sure we are representing the viewpoints of Arts & Venues and have our talking points down.
- Can we be more helpful to Michael + his team with public art? Volunteer to be in the queue, or step back when one has less time capacity. As commissioners, can we provide a larger pool of community representatives?
- How do DAV staff know who they can talk to on the commission about various skillsets (PR, contracting, etc.). Creating more formal opportunities outside of a casual happy hour to get to know each other.
- How can we better use our monthly meetings?
- Work in panels (public art + grants) has been most impactful.
- RFPs: can commission be included in some of these conversations (keeping in mind the necessary governmental protocols)?
- Networks networks networks: how can we take advantage of those?
- Interest in being more involved in EDI and operationalizing those efforts through conversations, etc.
- Trainings: “warm cookies” approach to help with trainings and also building legitimacy with communities
- How can we be respectful of your time? Commissioners want to be more utilized
- Going to high school art shows or other opportunities as representatives of the commission
- Global stage: becoming increasingly global – are there opportunities to do more there? DAV supports immigrant and refugee communities; how can we lean into those? Or new companies starting hubs in Denver?
- Need for real, honest exchange of information between staff and commissioners. Tactics for connecting with city council, but it can't just be a quarterly coffee without an agenda or strategy for that meeting.
- Networks for selection panels. Artist and art professional needed on every one. Can each person suggest 5-10 people for selection panels? There's a stipend for those.
- How creative can commissioners be in what sort of projects?
- Toolkit: easy way to share out information about selection panels, talking points, etc.
- Clearer information and specific asks to the commission (email subject saying “call to action,” etc.).

More will be discussed later, but some major themes:

- How do we leverage our networks?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we be used more often? • Reset and deep dive ways that we work with city council? 	
<p>2023 GOAL SETTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where can you as a commissioner make a commitment? Are you available more in one quarter than another? • Commissioner network mapping: networks, organizations, skills—build an inventory of assets <p>Tariana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban Arts Fund mapped where murals are throughout Denver. Now UAF Engage. Ex: Chinatown project, removal of plaque and working on mural project. ○ Cultural commitment fund (3x/year) ○ EDI mini grants ○ Cultural partnership program: McNichols cultural partnership program, possibly build another program to support organizations using our facilities for their own programs, potentially supporting other venues. • Q2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cultural commitment fund ○ 5 Points activation grant ○ Arts in Society: collective funding between DAV, CCI, Bonfils-Stanton, Humera Foundation, CO Health Fdn combined. Statewide. ○ Denver Music Advancement Fund ○ Mayor’s Awards ○ Leading Edge scholarships: for creative entrepreneurs from Small Business Development Center. ○ Cultural partnership program • Q3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cultural commitment fund ○ PS You Are Here (Brendan and Lisa) ○ Leading Edge Scholarship ○ Teacher Creative Development Fund ○ Cultural field trip fund ○ Cultural partnership program • Q4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ City council arts and culture partnership ○ Leading Edge scholarship ○ Cultural partnership program <p>Workshop activity: mapping connections between commission and these projects; mapping networks and skillsets</p>	<p>Heather Nielsen</p>
<p>HISTORY COLORADO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Sand Creek Massacre exhibition • Context of the massacre, larger goal of eradicating the indigenous peoples of the American West • Government to government Memo of Agreement on the SCM exhibit with N. Arapahoe, N. Cheyenne in Montana, S. Arapahoe and Cheyenne of Oklahoma around this agreement, writing has been authored by the tribal representatives and told in plural first person by the tribal nations 	<p>Dawn DiPrince, Executive Director</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question of why to confront such a profoundly tragic event: Cheyenne and Arapahoe have been carrying this grief on their own; this is all of our history and we need to help carry this too • Preserving the story through oral history as opposed to archive. White America tends to mythologize or forget; grateful to the Arapahoe and Cheyenne that they preserved this history. • Core exhibit (avoid the use of permanent)—will be up for a very long time, but dynamic and responsive to input of the tribal nation • FloraJane: school engagement? Dawn: question of how “graphic” the exhibit should be. If we don’t go all the way, people won’t know the extremity of the event. Building professional development opps for teachers, trying to determine how best to engage with 4th graders (when they take Colorado history). 	
CLOSING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move speaker series ideation to December meeting. • What are you taking away from today? 	Dan Manzanares
RETREAT ADJOURNED: 3:15 PM First, Rick Acosta; Second Heather Nielsen	Heather Nielsen
NEXT MEETING: December 6, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM Location: VIRTUAL	