

Houston Arts and Cultural Plan  
Community Advisory Committee  
September 24, 2015  
9:00 a.m.

1. **Welcome**  
Philamena Baird and Rick Lowe
2. **Project Status and Review of Working Draft**  
Minnette Boesel
3. **Comments**  
Mayor Annise D. Parker
4. **Next Steps**  
Minnette Boesel
5. **Closing**  
Philamena Baird and Rick Lowe

**September 24, 2015**

Arts and Cultural Plan Advisory Committee

Mayor Parker attended the final meeting of the Advisory Committee to thank the Committee for their time and contributions, and to hear comments about the Plan.

**Comments on the draft Plan:**

- Will there be a name attributed to narrative because some of the narrative is more subjective?
- This plan is doing very well to have recommendations. The general plan does not have recommendations and has been criticized for that.
- A more defined role for the arts in the city-not just about the arts but the culture of our people. There has to be some way of accountability of the funds. We would like some task forces brought forward to identify application of funding.
- I have expressed to [elected officials] that this plan is viable and the reason we are proud of it is the input that we had from so many voices.
- I commend [the Mayor] for having the vision to plan and the desire to have a plan for the importance for the arts. I think we missed a chance to really talk about a grand vision- leveraging comes from grand vision and this plan does not have one. We missed this opportunity. I think people get inspired by blue-sky thinking – I don't think we have this in the plan. What it has done is allowed the arts community to rally around this plan – the arts community now needs to respond strongly. We need to use this momentum to make the arts central to what the city is about. We need the grand vision in order to go out to funders and say this is what we are doing.
- I think it is difficult to knit a community together. We can't all do this individually – we are all in this for the same reason - as an educational sense and quality of life sense.
- I remember one of the first things [the Mayor] said was, this is not about money. The first thing that we turned to was money. [The Mayor] has been supporting us all along the way. I agree, big vision is what people rally around, but you have to have people talking. When we started this, the arts community was not talking. There was latent hostility. The majors were sitting on one side, the smaller-mid-size organizations on the other. Now, look where we are, side by side. We have to get to a big vision. We have to come together to get to that point of a big vision. Even if we didn't come up with it for this plan, you (mayor) have given us the task of going along a path of big vision.
- Thank you for including the diverse voices into this plan.
- I am so happy that this committee really worked together. 20 years ago it was a nasty battle. There was a very different atmosphere. I think a lot of this got built upon a foundation set 20 years ago. It's a much more unified and cooperative community.
- There is still a lot to work through.
- I resisted joining the committee. I know the stories from 20 years ago. I think the consultants did an amazing job by bringing it back to the real issues – inclusion! That is a really loud voice that has not been included or heard. It's in the document – it was heard.

- On the going forward part... I remember someone saying that there is so much influence in this room.
- Funders can also look at this plan and it can be effective. We fund things like the Opera projects that focus on the community.
- It's pretty obvious that we need to create a campaign and continue to organize ourselves to campaign for additional funding.
- It is important for the city to be engaged. It is the only entity that can bring this group together. It is the large enough and big enough (the bully pulpit). Neighborhoods were a critical voice as part of all of this.
- I want to reaffirm that bringing us together and breaking down the perceived barriers – this is extraordinary. We had to get away from the money and have a unified voice.
- In order to get people on board about future revenue streams...need to have greater clarity about current revenue. Questions about transparency. How is money being allocated? The only way to get community on board is to have those questions answered.
- I appreciate that. Most of the community doesn't understand.
- I have been in conversation with the city of Minneapolis – they boiled things down to 10 high priorities. They also broke that down into task forces. That impressed me.
- The three priorities were a way to do that.
- Phil: bringing this to the table is vital. San Francisco showed that

Next steps:

1. Complete edits; final comments due from the Advisory Committee by noon, September 28
2. Present to City Council early October, possibly the 7th
3. Begin implementation

The presentation to the Quality of Life committee included starting points for the first year:

- Update civic art ordinance
- Build consensus and identify strategies for developing new revenue streams
- Bring arts and cultural programs to more neighborhoods
- Ramp up oversight, particularly reporting methodology