

**Houston Arts and Cultural Plan
Community Advisory Committee**

March 24, 2015

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

1. Welcome

Philamena Baird and Rick Lowe

2. Project Update

Debbie McNulty, Lead Consultant

3. Emerging Themes

Margie Reese, MJR Partners

Mustafa Tameez, Outreach Strategists, LLC

Presentation and discussion of emerging themes from stakeholder and community engagement

Overview of City Investments in Arts and Culture and Major Grant Programs (see attached charts)

4. Closing

Philamena Baird and Rick Lowe

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 8

4 PM – 6 PM

Wednesday, March 24, 2015

Arts and Cultural Plan **Advisory Committee Meeting**

Comments on emerging themes and City investment charts

- Regarding major grants, if you look at orgs funded '11-'13
 - consistently decreased for HAA
- Volume of applicants and budget has grown so a cut off for number of orgs accepted has decreased
- Do we have any idea how the jobs in the arts and cultural area are doing? Are they growing? Are they stagnant?
- In terms of funding, on macro level, is it growing over the years?
- We have heard that schools are having problems funding art programs, are we addressing some of the issues from our previous years of experience
- only HCDE afterschool programs, City of Houston does not have jurisdiction how ISDs spend their money
- When distributing the grants do you look at parity or equity?
- What is the ideal number for community engagement?
- A representative sample for Harris county is 1200
- Our goal at the beginning was 4000
- Regarding public outreach and the art community outreach: how many of these participants have experience in the arts?
- The arts community is less engaged they feel like they are not being incorporated. You all need to go to them directly.
- Artists are strongly encouraged to come to all the meetings
- Is there a methodology for question on interview? Is there synchronization with MindMixer?
- It's time to redo the formula and the structure for restructuring the funding
- Isn't the HOTEL tax description that driven by State legislation?
- I do not see how we are pooling our resources, sometimes non-monetary resources also benefit these independent artists
- There is a huge disconnect between artists and organizations
- Most of the statements that were emerging themes are the things that I have heard to from the arts organizations that I am connected to. They are well captured themes.
- Moving forward, where do we go from here and are there things missing?
- We are right on target with themes and discussing them
 - concern with the geography of presentation
 - enough Hispanic representation?
- Regarding funding? we need more money overall!
- Artists and money: artists don't have nearly as many resources for funding
- Foundations don't fund individual artists
- Regarding theaters and schools
 - public schools were underutilizing school theaters
- The Office of Cultural Affairs is very real and there is a great asset to having an outsourced partner (more nimble) but the level of daily impact is far less direct and less access to infuse and affect art and culture in a daily way throughout the city