

**ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE  
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2018 at 2:00 PM  
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING, B ROOM**

Committee Present:	Councilmember Roberto C. Treviño, <i>District 1, Chair</i> Councilmember William “Cruz” Shaw, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Greg Brockhouse, <i>District 6</i>
Committee Absent:	Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i>
Staff Present:	Lori Houston, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Debbie Racca-Sittre, <i>Director of Arts &amp; Culture</i> ; Colleen Swain, <i>Director of World Heritage</i> ; Shahrzad Dowlatsahi, <i>Chief Protocol Officer</i> ; Lisa Biediger, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Denzel Maxwell, <i>Executive Management Assistant</i> ; Cecily Hope Pretty, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Everett Fly, <i>SAAACAM</i> ; Tracy Watts, <i>SAAACAM</i> ; Dr. Charles Gentry, <i>SAAACAM</i> ; George Frederick, <i>Hope House Ministries</i>

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Treviño called the meeting to order.

**1. Approval of the minutes from the June 19, 2018 Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee.**

Councilmember Shaw moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2018 Arts, Culture & Heritage Council Committee. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

Item 3 was addressed at this time.

**3. Briefing by the San Antonio African American Community Archive and Museum (SAAACAM), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.**

Everett Fly stated that SAAACAM served to close the gap in the way African American history was represented in San Antonio. He noted that he began researching African American history six years prior and discovered that it was not limited to San Antonio’s east side but rather encompassed all Council Districts and Bexar County quadrants. He stated that SAAACAM operated out of the previous homestead of Samuel Sutton at 430 Cherry Street and wished to preserve the property as a part of San Antonio and African American history.

Councilmember Brockhouse entered the meeting at this time.

Mr. Fly reviewed SAAACAM’s funding and supporting partners and expressed the importance of working quickly to preserve oral history before community members passed away. He noted

concern that Texas Highways Magazine issued a Tricentennial chronology that only acknowledged African Americans in reference to slavery or sports and efforts to ensure modification or retraction were unsuccessful. He presented maps of African American settlements throughout San Antonio. He noted that the oldest African American neighborhood was situated west of the San Antonio River and the Office of Historic Preservation would issue a Texas Historic Commission marker to indicate its location and significance. He stated that black history was San Antonio's history based on the research completed to identify the geographical diversity of African American residents over centuries.

Mr. Fly stated that SAAACAM hosted a group of 35 students during the NAACP's 100<sup>th</sup> National Convention in San Antonio and provided a tour with information about San Antonio's African American history. He showed a video of participant feedback and noted high levels of enthusiasm and engagement among participants. He expressed concern that SAAACAM was not being invited to participate in local discussions on race, ethnicity, and history and requested assistance to coordinate with local organizations and share SAAACAM's research. He stated that Councilmember Perry was sponsoring a clean-up of Hockley Cemetery and the City Archaeologist would assist with preservation procedures. He noted that SAAACAM developed two full days of potential tourist activities and asked for assistance to collaborate with Visit San Antonio and other local entities to enhance the prominence of African American history.

Chairman Treviño thanked SAAACAM for their work and noted his commitment to assist them with telling the African American story of San Antonio. He stated that SAAACAM's research would be included in updates to the story of the Alamo.

Councilmember Viagran thanked SAAACAM for their work and stated that she spoke to the Visit San Antonio Board of Directors in support of collaborative efforts.

Councilmember Brockhouse asked SAAACAM to reach out to his staff for a meeting and expressed support for targeted messaging to each Councilmember based on the African American history in their District. He noted efforts to gather oral history in District 6 and expressed the need for diverse cultural preservation. Mr. Fly stated that SAAACAM performed "History Harvests" to accomplish same and wished to host them in each Council District.

Councilmember Shaw stated that citizens historically viewed the east side as the only black region of San Antonio and SAAACAM's work was important to dispel that myth. He noted the importance of teaching children about the important role of diversity and diverse role models to encourage pride in San Antonio.

No action was required for Item 3. Item 2 was addressed at this time.

## **2. Briefing and consideration of the Music Strategic Plan component of the CULTÚ-Art Cultural Plan.**

Debbie Racca-Sittre stated that the process to develop the Music Strategic Plan began the previous year with a study of the local music industry by San Antonio Sound Garden. She noted that the results of the study formed the foundation for the plan and it was modified based on community and expert feedback. She stated that the Vision Statement was that San Antonio

would have a thriving music economy that embraces its roots and advances opportunity for the next generation. She described the following goals and components:

- Develop and tell the San Antonio music story
  - Promote through technology
  - Spotlight music
  - Highlight history
- Establish music-friendly policies and programs
  - Accessible transportation
  - Venue vitality and longevity
  - Business development
- Build professionalism in the San Antonio music industry
  - Advancement through technology
  - Available education
  - Connection with community

Ms. Racca-Sittre stated that progress was already made on the following: feature local music during City Council meetings; create a standalone music website to promote the San Antonio music scene; connect musicians through the music website; develop loading and unloading zones for gigging musicians; develop an online music workforce and resource directory connected to the Texas Music Office database; list musician resources and professional development opportunities on the website.

Councilmember Treviño thanked staff for their work on the plan.


Councilmember Viagran asked of the schedule for featuring local music during City Council meetings. Ms. Racca-Sittre replied that the current song was intended to last through the year and further rotations would be based on submission volume and quality. Councilmember Viagran expressed support for more frequent rotations and suggested utilizing local music for city phone numbers. Ms. Racca-Sittre stated that staff was already working with Jeff Coyle on same.

No action was required for Item 2.

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

  
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**Cecily Hope Pretty**  
**Office of the City Clerk**



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**Roberto C. Treviño, Chairman**