**SELA Cultural Center Advisory Panel Meeting #1**

December 16, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lucy Avalos Community Center and Zoom

11832 Atlantic Ave Lynwood, CA

MEETING SUMMARY

**INTRODUCTION**

On December 16, 2024, the SELA Cultural Center Advisory Panel (Panel) participated in a hybrid meeting held in-person at Lucy Avalos Community Center and virtually over Zoom. The project support team included representatives from the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), LA County Board of Supervisors Fourth District (BOS), San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), and Moore Iacofano and Goltsman, Inc. (MIG).

Members from the project support team present included: Liz McGuirk (DPR), Jennifer Cabrera (DPR), Tara Lynch (DPR), Olivia Chiu (DPR), Simon Fong (DPR), Gloria Sandoval (DPR), Daritza Gonzalez (BOS), Melissa Bahmanpour (RMC), Daniel Iacofano (MIG), Esmeralda García (MIG), Sara Perez Rojas (MIG), Brittney Lu-Jones (MIG), and Joey Nielsen (MIG).

Members of the Panel present included:

Director Armando Quintero (Chair), California Department of Parks and Recreation

Supervisor Janice Hahn (Co-Chair), 4th Supervisorial District

Kristin Sakoda, Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture

Gabriel Enamorado, Stay Gallery

Mark Flores, City of Lynwood Recreation and Community Services Department

Danaly Leon, Latinas Art Foundation

Montserrat Hidalgo, Williams College, South Gate High School Graduate

Dilcia Barrera, Arts Organization Executive

Cynthia Fuentes, The Ford

Kimberly Morales Johnson, San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

Please note that the record of the meeting is provided via video recording. The video recording, and all other information and documentation, is posted at selaculturalcenter.org

**OPENING AND AGENDA OVERVIEW**

Director Armando Quintero and Supervisor Janice Hahn called the meeting to order and opened with a round of self-introductions. Daniel Iacofano reviewed the meeting agenda which included: a review of open meeting rules and procedures; overview of the panel operating framework; presentation on the SELA Cultural Center history and background; overview of the advisory panel process; discussion about the preliminary workplan; and an opportunity for public comment.

**REVIEW OF OPEN MEETING RULES AND PROCEDURES**

Tara Lynch provided information regarding the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act requirements. The full legislative text was provided to the Panel via email, and a summary of the Act was provided in-person.

**OVERVIEW OF PANEL OPERATING FRAMEWORK**

Daniel Iacofano reviewed the operating framework detailing the Panel’s mission and charge, member and support team expectations, ground rules, meeting format, and communications.

**PRESENTATION ON THE SELA CULTURAL CENTER HISTORY AND BACKGROUND**

Melissa Bahmanpour presented on the SELA Cultural Center’s history and background, including information on the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan, previous community engagement efforts, and a summary of the design process.

**OVERVIEW OF THE ADVISORY PANEL PROCESS**

Esmeralda García overviewed the advisory panel process, describing the legislation that appointed the Panel and its charge, upcoming milestones, and the draft schedule. Tara Lynch provided legal counsel and advised that there would be no consequences should specific deadlines not be met, and that an explanatory memo could supplement any submitted work products.

Jennifer Cabrera provided information on administrative procedures, including DPR contact information and upcoming communications with Panel members using DPR assigned email addresses.

**DISCUSSION ABOUT THE PRELIMINARY WORKPLAN**

Daniel Iacofano and Esmeralda García co-facilitated the Panel conversation about the process schedule, community engagement, and upcoming research. Panel members discussed reviewing past outreach efforts, identifying existing projects and events, clarifying engagement parameters, and learning more about the design concepts for the SELA Cultural Center.

Daritza Gonzalez noted that the SELA Cultural Center consists of 14 buildings that can be flexible and responsive to what the SELA community and artists need. The Panel brainstormed other facilities and sites that could act as case studies.

The summary of ideas included:

* Exposition Park in Los Angeles, California
* Ho’n A:wan Park in Zuni, New Mexico – programming is led by the community, youth, and other grassroots organizations
* Los Cenzoneles in Mexico – art school hosting well-known performers and supported through philanthropy
* Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico – multifunctional space with visual and performing arts spaces and restaurants that help stimulate multi-sensory experiences
* Fort Mason Center in San Francisco, California – decommissioned military buildings converted into schools, restaurants, and performance spaces
* Presidio in San Francisco, California
* Lincoln Center in New York, New York – performance centers operated by a municipal agency
* Governor’s Island in New York, New York – decommissioned military base converted through adaptive reuse into a civic and cultural center with artist studios, residency programs, and nature-based curriculum
* La Plaza de Cultura y Artes in Los Angeles, California – operated by the County and subcontracts with other companies
* Instituto de Allende in Guanajuato, Mexico – visual arts school connected with a local university
* BRIC in New York, New York
* Angels Gate Cultural Center in San Pedro, California – self-sustaining hub for artist studios and classes
* Cultural Treasures in South Central Los Angeles, California
* 18th Street Arts in Los Angeles, California
* Museum of Arts and History in Lancaster, California – established an artist-driven cultural asset mapping process

Panel members also discussed the following:

* Strategies that consider how these sites relate to Native land and people, especially as Indigenous communities have been long-time stewards of the waters and surrounding land of the Lower LA River.
* Acknowledge the potential displacing effects that cultural centers could have on the surrounding community.
* Ensure SELA residents have affordable access to the Center.
* Include cinematic arts in the conversation.
* Brainstorm an artist-led cultural asset mapping process to identify SELA artists and inventory formal and informal SELA art spaces
* Identify a cultural calendar to highlight SELA events and witness the community in action.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments in-person or via Zoom.

**FOLLOW UP ITEMS**

In response to the discussion, the project team will prepare the following for upcoming meetings:

* Incorporate a land acknowledgment at the start of future meetings
* Add BOS contact information to the operating framework
* Provide renderings, information, and reports on design concepts prepared by Gehry Partners
* Provide information on past engagement efforts and current projects along the LA River and SELA community
* Provide research on discussed case studies and cultural asset mapping processes

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Armando Quintero adjourned the meeting at 1 p.m.