

Barnsdall Art Park Foundation  
October 5<sup>th</sup> Community Stakeholders Meeting

*Below is a full list of questions submitted on index cards to the panel of speakers:*

How will bidders be held accountable for providing the services they are asked to provide?

Will there be fiscal oversight of the private portion of the public-private partnership by the City?

How do you decide on the local stakeholders/parties to consult with regard to the RFP process?

Is the city willing to look at proposals that would have gradual transition to public/private with city initially funding the centers at least partially?

Are DCA managers employees willing to take pay cuts to save other positions?

Is the Foundation submitting an RFP? Weren't they going to?

It seem to me privatization will bring with it an agenda from those that privatize and will not in any way serve the community. What else can we do to avoid partnership with an NPO?

During the selection process of a private steward of the park, how can we ensure community input and oversight?

How can we make sure the original vision of the park is maintained so the spaces do not become developed? Keep the focus on Art!

DCA Budget has been cut 30%. The neighborhood council has had no reductions in budget. Why!?

There are 89 neighborhood council groups, 82 have defaulted on compliance. We should reduce non-compliant NC's budget by 50% - which would leave \$2 Million to put back to libraries and centers.

Is it true Herb Wesson said he wants a report for funding that's available?

Early proposed versions of the lease agreements for non-profit organizations occupying city-owned buildings included a requirement that a certain number of FTE employees from specific populations (e.g. participants in certain government funded programs) would be required for every certain amount (can't recall how much) of city-subsidized rent. Is that requirement still being considered? I ask because I represent a very small non-profit with only 1 full-time employee (though

many volunteers); the employment requirement would be terribly onerous to an organization like ours – indeed it would likely force us to close our doors and “go out of business.”

Are there any city departments NOT required to make cuts? If so, who and why? Who’s being asked to take the biggest hit?

As DCA is already put in the 2010-2011 budget the privatization of the 15 facilities where is the savings from the elimination of DCA administration, as they will have nothing to run?

Why would a private organization take over a center if the city dictates what programming they need to meet the community needs?

How do you justify spending \$800k on beautifying a small triangle in the middle of the street but yet we can’t pay for art centers?

How do you justify spending \$35k on one elevator repair at the arts center?

Is it true Herb Wesson said the budget for community arts is “budget dust”?

Follow-up question for CAO: What guidelines will be changed? DCA has limited resources – will other programs be depleted?

How much money has BAPF raised this year? Where will it be spent?

I have spent grant money at BGT. Do you mean to say that Mrs. Livingston or Tom or Tiffany’s jobs are at stake?

Which city employees do each of the support groups report to? BAPF, BACSAC, FOJAC, LAMAGA, and FOHH?

Why doesn’t the city see the value in the arts?

This theater has never been affordable for public (not corporate) use. If it was affordable, people (theatre companies, etc) could pay money to use it. Can the public please use this space? We’ve never been allowed to (for under thousands of dollars).

Why was the “one option” of RFP the only option looked into, especially when “Percent for the Arts” has been opined by the City Attorney’s office for operational use, and has at least 5 million dollars?

Who is behind this movement to privatize?

What if no one answers the RFP?

Is it true that the annual budget for the city of Los Angeles is \$7 billion? Is it true that the budget for all 15 arts centers is less than \$1.5 million? Is it true that the LAMAG budget is \$380,000?

Is it your intention to work in partnership with the school – BACSAC? Is it your plan to include the school open with the funding?

Is it true the 1% development fee can be used for the arts?

What involvement will community groups have in reviewing and approving the RFP?

The classes at Barnsdall are self-supporting. If there are not enough students, the classes are cancelled. When classes are full the extra money goes to DCA. The 2 full-time teachers have retired. The support needed is a program director/grant writer. Surely that can be covered by the city.

What is the total enrollment of children at all the community art centers who will now be denied art classes by schools and art centers?

Is there any significant support in the neighborhood councils for the art centers and libraries, recreation centers, the department of aging?

Government: Federal, State, County, LAUSD, Community College District. As a tax-supported facility these public funding sources are more accountable to our city's residents than private organization. Why not these?

The City has a terrible reputation for lack of oversight when it comes to awarded contracts – is this just another of the same? Or what makes this different?

Will a public/private partnership result in tuition fee hikes at BACSAC?

For Eric Garcetti: Please explain “leverage our resources” and how that might relate to privatization of public space?

What is the advantage of a not-for-profit to come in and partner if they don't raise prices?

Is it true the city of LA clearly downsized the arts for the last 10 years? Why?

How will you make sure a “partner” will keep classes affordable for our low-income community members and our senior citizens?

What is public-public partnership?

Would the mission statement for the facility remain intact?

What programmatic changes do you anticipate under new management?

Does the facility remain a community center or does it become an arm of a nonprofit?

A private partner cannot operate in a fiscally viable manner without control of basic expenses. How do you expect to attract viable private partners if they cannot apply market costs to labor and utility costs, for example.

If the council can't run it without a loss, what makes you think a nonprofit org can do any better?

Who started this privateing?

Is the city budget over 7 billion?

It sounds like the city wants to shift Barnsdall from costing the city money to making the city money and do it in a few weeks or months. Is this true?

Will LAMAG employees be asked to comment on the effects of privatization on the municipal gallery?

What's the timeline?

What if a nonprofit candidate cannot be identified?

How far along is the privatization process? Is it an inevitable reality, according to the city? Or is it still under consideration?

Who ultimately will decide who will run the facility?

How does the city justify spending 800k on the triangle park at the corner of Vermont and Hollywood but cannot find the money to fund the DCA for the same amount?

Watts Towers is going to stay public – what would be the advantages for our art park if we could find a way to stay public and avoid partnership as Watts Towers has?

Who will have ownership of the organization that is awarded stewardship of the four entities that are housed at this location?

With respect to Barnsdall my understanding is that the RFP will be for management of the entire group of programs. Why can't these programs be divided as it seems that an entity capable of this needs to be large and corporate?

Why is MOCA being considered if they can't run themselves?

What is the programming commitment to maintaining all aspects of the Park?  
Theatre/Gallery/Children's Programs?

How might BACSAC and JAC partner with DCA?

How are you going to satisfy unique circumstances of Barnsdall Art Center without destroying them?

Will the outrageous salaries of DCA members continue?

Barnsdall has several entities: Hollyhock, Municipal Gallery, Junior Art Center, etc.  
Will one nonprofit or a consortium be considered for Barnsdall?

Will there be a commitment to keep current teachers and staff at JAC and BAC?

How will the public/private partnership reflect Aline Barnsdall's vision of providing accessible art for the entire community?

How does the city plan to keep centers running beyond December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 if the RFP is not successful?

How much money has each support group raised to support programs at Barnsdall?  
And what programs do they support?

Can money from support groups be used to fund and continue DCA programming?

Why did your panel not alert us the community to this RFP process before October 2010?

How long term is the RFP?

What has council offices done to support events/programs at Barnsdall?

What is the plan if BAC, JAC, BGT, and LAMAG is not partnered? How will support groups plan to support programs in this case?

Explain FSR funding.

Do any of the Barnsdall support groups have an MOU with the DCA?

What is the consolidation of Barnsdall support groups about? How will it work?

Can money from support groups be used to fund and continue DCA programming?