

COMMITTEE NOTES

Ad Hoc Committee Meeting on Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc. Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees November 1, 2011

The Ad Hoc Committee on Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc. of the Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. at the Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc., 1722 E. 17th Terrace, Kansas City, Missouri.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Olivia Dorsey (Chair)
Rose Marie Bell
Leon Dixon
Billie Howard Barnes
Jonathan Kemper (ex officio)

STAFF PRESENT:

Crosby Kemper III, Chief Executive
Cheptoo Kositany-Buckner, Deputy Director
Eli Paul, Director of Missouri Valley Special Collections
Heather Pedersen, Administrative Officer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Doretha Williams, Executive Director of The Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc.

Dorsey called the meeting to order at 3:44 p.m.

C. Kemper reported that the Library has hired a librarian, using funds from the John Hope Franklin Fund, to work as the archivist at the Black Archives.

C. Kemper reported on the status of the Black Archives budget. On the revenue side there is around \$220,000 from the Historic Tax Credits for furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E) (with an approximately \$350,000 in additional funds expected once taxes and other fees are paid); \$125,000 from the John Hope Franklin Fund; \$1,000,000 from the Kauffman grant; and a couple of other funding commitments are in the process of being finalized. C. Kemper reported that on the expense side there are plans for about \$1.8 million in capital expenditures, with approximately \$1.2 million of the funding already received. He stated that the operating budget is estimated at between \$250,000-300,000 and that the next step is to work out a couple of detailed budgets based on alternative scenarios for funding and to put together a fundraising plan to cover the annual operating budget in the long run.

Williams reported that she is working on funding opportunities with the Missouri Humanities Council, the NEA, and a couple of NEH grants to fund the processing and preserving of archive materials and for student projects. She has also met with professors at UMKC and KU about developing an internship program and is looking into working with the History Makers African American Diversity and Archives Fellowship program.

Kositany-Buckner reported that exhibit development is progressing according to schedule and that an RFP has gone out for the furniture to house the Archive's collection based on the now completed inventory. Most of the interior work on the building is done and phone and internet services have been installed. The FF&E list is being finalized and capital expenses will be submitted to the Black Archives Board for approval. Kositany-Buckner, Williams and several Black Archives board members are beginning work related to the redesign of the Black Archives website and branding for the organization.

Williams reported that the Archives is on schedule to hold the grand opening in June 2012. A committee is being formed to develop a program and budget for the event and a grant application will be submitted to the Missouri Humanities Council to help fund it. An oral history recording project is also in development and the Archives hopes to have the project as an element of the grand opening.

Kositany-Buckner added that the Library and the Archives have an existing collection of oral histories from the last several decades, but that most are analog and need to be digitized. She stated that there is grant money available for preserving oral histories, particularly in ethnic and minority communities.

J. Kemper recommended that the Archives apply for funding for the grand opening from the Neighborhood Tourism Development Fund and suggested Budweiser as a potential local corporate sponsor. He also recommended the Archives consider approaching Lonnie G. Bunch III, Founding Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, as a keynote speaker.

Discussing other Archives programming and events Williams reported that she is working on a relationship with the Friends of Alvin Ailey and that the Archives will be a host for the gala dinners scheduled for November 19th. She has also met with representatives from the Jazz District about plans to collaborate on events and promotion for the area.

The Committee discussed the limits placed on scope of the Archives collections. The collection policies specify that the collections would cover the metropolitan area and other materials would have to be evaluated on a case by case basis if they have a relationship to the metropolitan area. C. Kemper stated that it will be important for the Library and the Archives to work with other history and archive groups on a plan to ensure that everyone is aware of what everyone else is doing, to identify areas of concentration, and to make sure that no valuable collections fall through the cracks.

J. Kemper suggested that the Archives consider developing a community advisory board. He also suggested that the Archives consider some kind of an annual award to honor people who further the awareness of African American history in our region, perhaps with the first award as part of the grand opening event.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Dorsey, Chair
Ad Hoc Committee

Date