

**HOUSTON FIRST CORPORATION
MINUTES OF THE
THEATER COMMITTEE
February 27, 2013**

The Theater Committee of the Houston First Corporation ("the Corporation"), a Texas non-profit corporation created and organized by the City of Houston as a local government corporation pursuant to TEX. TRANSP. CODE ANN. §431.101 et seq. and TEX. LOC. GOV'T. CODE ANN §394.001 et seq., held a committee meeting at Wortham Theater Center, 510 Preston, Houston, Harris County, Texas 77002, on February 27, 2013, commencing at 10:03 a.m. Written notice of the meeting including the date, hour, place and agenda for the meeting, was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meeting Act. The following committee members participated in the meeting: Desrye Morgan, David Arpin, Dick Rabinow, Joe Ting and Dawn Ullrich.

Prior to the formal call to order:

IV. Wortham Staff Introductions. Michael Williams introduced members of the Wortham Theater staff to the Committee.

V.A. Overview of Houston Ballet. Dawn Ullrich introduced Jim Nelson of the Houston Ballet. Mr. Nelson provided a brief history of the Houston Ballet, the Ballet's programs and academy and answered questions regarding revenue sources.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:03 a.m., a quorum was established and the meeting continued.

II. There were no public comments.

III. Review and Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting. With the following additions to the December 4, 2012 minutes, a motion was duly seconded and the minutes from the December 4, 2012, meeting were approved.

- a. Ushers – Use of the same usher company to provide services to all the theater venues.
- b. Incidental repairs – Identification of responsibility for maintenance and/or repairs for enhancements done throughout the theater district on the public right-of-way.
- c. Creation of a marketing opportunities calendar as a mechanism for collaborating with others.

V.B. Follow-up on Jones Hall Utilization Study. Kimberly Sterling of the Foundation for Jones Hall provided a brief history of Jones Hall and the creation of Jones Hall Foundation. The Jones Hall Utilization Study is a broad, long-range look at all possibilities for Jones Hall, including reconfiguration of the public spaces and seating. Mr. Rabinow suggested that

the scope of the report be broadened beyond the parameters of the building. He also suggested the possibility of a single brainstorming session for all stakeholders to discuss Jones Hall 10-15 years into the future. For the next Committee meeting, Ms. Ullrich asked everyone to review the Theater District Master Plan that was sent to the Committee following the December 4, 2012 meeting and determine whether the Plan should be updated or a new master plan process launched.

- V.C. CY13 Capital Projects Update. Mario Ariza provided a brief overview of the major capital projects that were completed or underway in 2012 and planned for 2013.
- V.D. Sunset Coffee Building. Dawn Ullrich and Mario Ariza gave an update on the Sunset Coffee Building. Groundbreaking will take place July 2013 and will take approximately one year for construction and completion.
- V.E. Aquarium. Mario Ariza said that the Aquarium had until June 2013 to present a proposal for the Fire Alarm Building property.
- V.F. Bayou Place. Mario Ariza said that the attendance was increasing; however, attendance is still linked with evening events in other Theater District venues. Little Napoli is a new addition to the complex and possible plans are underway for the addition of a steakhouse.
- V.G. Houston Center for the Arts. Dawn Ullrich said that Houston First received an offer from Stages to purchase the facility. Houston First is working with City of Houston Legal Department on conditions of sale. The sale of the facility may require approval from the Houston First Board of Directors and Houston City Council.
- VI.A. Announcements Mario Ariza let the Committee know that Miller's season opens on April 4th. Ms. Morgan asked that the Committee encourage Board members to patronize Houston First facilities, provide feedback and be more visible. Mr. Arpin asked about possible contributions to MATCH. Ms. Ullrich responded that Houston First had not been asked directly and that, if asked, the request would require Board approval.
- VI.B. 2013 Theater Committee Meeting Schedule The next Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 1 or May 13th. It will be held at Talento Bilingue de Houston.

After motion duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:09 a.m.



Dolores Kerr, Secretary