

12.19.16 Minutes



Special Full Commission Meeting Minutes

12/19/2016

4:30 pm to 5:00 pm – Deliberative Meeting

CAH Large Conference Room

Attending Commissioners: Kay Kendall, CHAIR; Kim Alfonso (phone); Stacie Lee Banks (phone); Susan Clampitt; Edmund Fleet (phone); Haili Francis (phone); Rhona Wolfe Friedman (phone); Darrin Glymph (phone); MaryAnn Miller (phone); Elvi Moore (phone); Josef Palermo (phone) Maria Rooney (phone); José Alberto Uclés; Gretchen Wharton

Attending Staff Members: Arthur Espinoza, Jr., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; Michael Bigley; Benjamin Douglas; David Markey; Steven Mazzola; Khalid Randolph; Patrick Realiza; Paige Reynolds; Kyra Saffran; J. Carl Wilson

The Full Commission meeting of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order on December 19, 2016 at 4:48 pm at 200 I Street, SE, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20003.

Adoption of the Agenda

- Commissioner Susan Clampitt motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Committee Reports

- Grants Committee:
 - Commissioner Rhona Wolfe Friedman explained that Creative Spark! is a grant that awards \$1,500 per applicant with the option to receive two residencies, and that the Grants Committee approved the current slate of funding recommendations.
 - Arts Education Coordinator David Markey stated that Shakespeare Theatre is the only applicant that expressed they cannot receive two residencies.
 - Commissioner Friedman confirmed that all suggested grantees are recommended to receive two residencies for \$3,000 total, except for Shakespeare Theatre which will only receive one residency for \$1,500.
 - Commissioner Gretchen Wharton clarified that the report is actually supposed to be presented as a recommendation from the Grants Committee to the Board of Commissioners and that the Full Commission does not view recommendations beforehand.
 - Commissioner MaryAnn Miller motioned to accept the funding recommendations as presented. Commissioner Elvi Moore seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous
 - Commissioner Josef Palermo asked for an explanation of Creative Spark!.
 - Chair Kay Kendall responded that Creative Spark! is a workshop in its third year, led by Arts Education Coordinator David Markey.
 - Arts Education Coordinator Markey explained it is a three lesson residency where organizational or individual teaching artists are paired with public schools to harness and develop children's creativity.
 - Chair Kendall declared that the Commission has the money to fund the program as presented and asked for a vote for Creative Spark! funding recommendations. Commissioner Edmund Fleet seconded.
The vote carried. Unanimous
 - Arts Education Coordinator Markey described that the Commission received additional FY17 funding from the City Council to create additional arts education programs. Two panels took place.
 - Commissioner Wharton stated that \$1.45M was allotted to this program, and the panel recommended that recommendations stop at ranking #10, however because there was a significant amount of money leftover, the Grants Committee suggested that the applicants who scored a 60.6 or above should also be recommended for

funding, making the recommendations expand to ranking #14, leaving nearly \$1M remaining to be spent during a proposed summer cycle.

- Commissioner Susan Clampitt made a motion to award grants to applicants who received a raw score of 60.6 and above. Commissioner José Alberto Uclés seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous
- Chair Kendall discussed that the Commission was given an increase of \$1.45M to give children the opportunity to experience art field trips. The Agency had hoped to use all of the funds in one cycle, and if the money is not expended within this fiscal year, the Council may not give a similar budget enhancement again.
- Commissioner Friedman mentioned that the panel felt recommendations #1-8 were excellent and did not want to award any that were not exceptional, but expressed that if there was additional money in the budget, they would like to fund the next three highest ranking applicants. Noted that the panel discussed they did not want to fund anything below the top eleven because the budgets were not well thought out and some of the programming was not appropriate for certain age groups. Stated that the Grants Committee is adding recommendations that the panel did not select.
- Commissioner Wharton declared that the Grants Committee takes panel recommendations into consideration, but in some situations they have to suggest going beyond panel recommendations to ensure that the money is expended. The remaining funds will be used for a suggested summer cohort. Expressed that 60 is not a low score, and even though the grant applications may not be as well written, the intent and programs are good.
- Commissioner Darrin Glymph asked Commissioner Wharton about a statement she made in a previous Full Commission meeting with regard to valuing panelists and adhering to their decision.
- Commissioner Wharton explained that she is recommending to go beyond the panel recommendations in this instance to ensure that the budget enhancement from Council is spent within FY17.
- Commissioner Miller agreed with Commissioner Wharton.
- Executive Director Arthur Espinoza, Jr. stated DCAH does have until September 30th to spend the money, and in looking at the applicants, it was clear that not all of the \$1.45M would be spent in one cycle, and therefore the idea to allow for a second cohort was proposed. Asked Commissioner Friedman if panelists were aware of the allotted budget size.
- Commissioner Friedman answered no, the size of the budget was not discussed, but the panelists expressed that three additional applicants should be awarded if funding is available. Suggested saving the money from being spent on the applicants added by the Grants Committee for applicants that the next panel selects.
- Commissioner Wharton noted that in similar scenarios, when convening a panel, she asks if panelists would recommend to fund more applicants or increase the funding for selected grantees. In this case it is not possible to increase funding for panel recommended applicants because organizations request a specific amount of money.
- Arts Education Coordinator Markey clarified that he did advise panelists to not think about the budget when choosing the recommendations and selecting the cut-off mark.
- Commissioner Kim Alfonso asked if there was a limit on the amount an applicant could request.
- Commissioner Wharton responded no, applicants asked for what they are capable of spending.
- Commissioner Alfonso mentioned that organizations in the top eight recommendations could potentially take on more money.
- Commissioner Miller expressed that the Commission would be doing a disservice if a second cohort is held in January by expecting grantees to be able to spend the money by September 30th.
- Chair Kendall confirmed that a second cohort will take place, starting in January to allow for grantees to spend the funds in spring and/or summer 2017. Stated that a fair discussion has taken place and a vote is required as there is a motion on the floor to fund applicants with a raw score of 60.6 and above.
- Chair Kendall asked for a vote with the following results:
 - Commissioner Glymph – no
 - Commissioner Miller – yes
 - Commissioner Stacie Lee Banks – yes
 - Commissioner Friedman – abstained
 - Commissioner Edmund Fleet- yes
 - Commissioner Moore – yes

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- Commissioner Alfonso – recused (conflict of interest)
- Commissioner Haili Francis – abstained
- Commissioner Palermo – abstained
- Commissioner Uclés – yes
- Chair Kendall – yes
- Commissioner Clampitt – no
- Commissioner Wharton – yes
- Commissioner Maria Rooney – no

The vote carried. Majority

- Chair Kendall confirmed that recommended applicants will be awarded, and that a second application period with a budget of about \$1M will begin in January.

Panel Recommendations

- There were no panel recommendations presented.
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New Business and Announcements

- There were no panel recommendations presented.
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Unfinished Business

- There were no panel recommendations presented.
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Adjournments

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 pm.