

10.27.16 Minutes



Full Commission Meeting Minutes

10/27/2016

3:30 pm to 4:00 pm-Public Comment Period

4:00 pm-5:30 pm-Deliberative Meeting

DCCA Large Conference Room

Attending Commissioners: Kay Kendall, CHAIR; Kim Alfonso (phone); Stacie Lee Banks; Edmund Fleet; Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Darrin Glymph; Alma Gates; MaryAnn Miller; Elvi Moore; Maria Hall Rooney; José Alberto Uclés; Brian Williams (phone)

Attending Staff Members: Arthur Espinoza, Jr., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; Michael Bigley; Earica Busby; Tonya Jordan; Dolores Kendrick; Patrick Realiza; Kyra Saffran; Jeffrey Scott; J. Carl Wilson; Derek Younger

The Full Commission meeting of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order on October 27, 2016 at 4:02 pm at 200 I Street, SE, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20003.

Adoption of the Agenda

- Commissioner Rhona Wolfe Friedman motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Adoption of the September 8th Minutes

- Commissioner MaryAnn Miller motioned to adopt the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Chairperson's Report

- Chair Kay Kendall asked that Commissioners and Staff share any recent art events they attended.
- Chair Kendall thanked Commissioners who serve on Committees, such as Public Art, Grants, Finance, Arts Education and Mayor's Arts Awards.

Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Arthur Espinoza, Jr. shared that he attended the jazz bill hearing on October 6th with Chair Kendall to address the agency's response to the draft. DCCA is named as one of the prime agencies to support this bill, and will continue to research and consider programs related to provisions. Recently met with the jazz program at the University of the District of Columbia as part of ongoing bill research.
- Chair Kendall added that she was impressed with the amount of support the jazz bill garnered.
- Executive Director Espinoza noted that the bill was drafted without any budget impact statement, and questioned if DCCA is to carry out programs, what would be the agency's impact.
- Executive Director Espinoza reviewed the INTERMISSIONDC Cultural Plan sessions that were held every Tuesday during the month of October in each quadrant of the city, and noted that attendees raised similar concerns in each breakout session.
- Executive Director Espinoza explained that he plans to meet with the Office of Planning (OP) to discuss ways in which they can ensure more members of the community are heard and involved in the process. Encouraged Commissioners to gather information from residents in their respective neighborhoods.
- Executive Director Espinoza stated a spring deadline for the Cultural Plan may not be possible, as more time may be needed to obtain community feedback and ensure inclusion from all.
- Chair Kendall cautioned against extending the deadline as it has already been postponed once from December to April, but noted that there could be repercussions if the plan is not done well.
- Commissioner Alma Gates asked if subsequent meetings are being planned.
- Executive Director Espinoza answered that right now the only planned meeting is for Arts Action DC Committee.

- Deputy Director Michael Bigley explained that OP felt the INTERMISSIONDC sessions provided an interesting cross-section of the city, but not a full cross-section and is interested in conducting follow-ups, as some demographics i.e youth were not fully represented.
- Commissioner Gates stated that her concern is that there was only one meeting per quadrant, and suggested taking the plan back to the community during the draft stage before completing the final version.
- Commissioner Miller suggested reaching out to Van Ness Main Street to incorporate them into the discussion as one of the closest links to the Ward 3 community.
- Executive Director Espinoza asked if DCCAH is doing enough due diligence to include as many people as possible, and has discussed doing additional outreach if necessary.
- Executive Director Espinoza explained that the Cultural Plan is intended to be a 10 year plan and to align with the comprehensive plan, but that it should not be rushed.
- Executive Director Espinoza noted that most of the INTERMISSIONDC attendees were creatives, many of which did not reside in the quadrants where the attended session took place.
- Executive Director Espinoza mentioned that that the 202Creates initiative, started in September by Mayor Bowser was so successful that plans for FY17 September events are already underway.

Office of Poet Laureate

- Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick stated plans to meet with the Mayor about poetry in the workplace.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick shared that Women of Plums will possibly be performed for a second time at the Lincoln Theatre in February.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick added that she plans to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Gwendolyn Brooks with another poet and a musician in 2017.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick mentioned plans to finalize work through the Sister Cities Programs in Aix-en-Provence, France. A book will be completed in 2017 with poems from high school students in both DC and Aix-en-Provence.

Committee Reports

- Arts Ed Committee:
 - Commissioner Rhona Wolfe Friedman stated the Spotlight on Arts Education: Creativity, Impact and Innovation will take place November 15th at the Harman Center and consist of a few panels and breakout sessions.
 - Commissioner Elvi Moore asked if people can register for tickets.
 - Commissioner Friedman answered yes, but reservations are restricted to two tickets per organization since space is limited.
 - Commissioner Miller asked if the event could be recorded.
 - Executive Director Espinoza responded yes, DCCAH can livestream the event, but will first need to confirm with the center.
 - Chair Kendall congratulated Commissioner Friedman for creating this event in going beyond grantmaking.
 - Commissioner Gates added that DCPS is trying to close the Fillmore Arts Center at the end of the school year, which has reached out to ANCs for resolutions.
 - Commissioner Gates explained that the center represents community art, by providing a variety of disciplines in a meaningful manner.
 - Commissioner Miller agreed that the Fillmore Arts Center provides valuable arts education for students, but that DCCAH cannot give money as a DCPS.
 - Deputy Director Bigley stated that the school has a “Friends of Fillmore” fundraising group, and added that the infrastructure has not been supported since the previous director left a few years ago.
- Finance Committee:
 - Commissioner Moore explained that there are two packets, one for the FY16 budget close out and the second for FY17. All FY16 grants have been paid out, the variance total reflects non-personnel and personnel contracts.
 - Executive Director Espinoza explained that the variance does not rollover to the next fiscal year, and will go back into the District’s general fund. The only thing that remains are the O-type funds which carry over, and noted there are still some final payment settlements.

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- Commissioner Moore stated the FY17 budget is \$21,804,000 out of which there is \$20M in local funds, the area grants funding comes from.
- Commissioner Moore noted that the Arts Symposium known as Spotlight on Arts Education needs to be moved from grants to contracts.
- Commissioner Friedman mentioned the total allocated \$20K may not be spent because some grantees could not meet requirements.
- Executive Director Espinoza explained that the goal is to only reprogram symposium expenses, but a final number will not be known until after the event.
- Commissioner Friedman expressed that she would like the remainder of the \$20K to be kept in Arts Education grantmaking, not general grant funds.
- Commissioner Miller motioned to move up to \$10K from grants to contracts for the Arts Education Symposium. Commissioner Friedman seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous
- Commissioner Moore called attention to sponsorships under non-personnel services to explain that the money is split between the Hip-hop Festival and Velocity DC.
- Commissioner Friedman asked if Velocity is receiving a decreased amount from last year.
- Commissioner Glymph stated the money for Velocity was budgeted at \$75K in FY16.
- Chair Kendall explained that last year's budget accounted for their over spending from the previous year, and added that the FY17 amount reflects what was given in FY15.
- Executive Director Espinoza mentioned DCCAH arrived at an agreement of \$50K with Velocity DC for FY17, and plan to have a follow-up debrief meeting.
- Commissioner Friedman asked if the finance report from the debrief meeting between DCCAH and Velocity could be brought to the Finance Committee for review to determine if it should be brought before the Commission to vote on additional funding.
- Executive Director Espinoza explained that the funds were distributed as a grant when in reality it was a program that was delivered, raising the question if it should be done as a contract due to the non-competitive nature.
- Commissioner Glymph inquired if someone is looking into this matter.
- Executive Director Espinoza responded that he and General Counsel J. Carl Wilson and Program and Communications Director Jeffrey Scott, PhD have been looking into the process and procedures around it.
- Commissioner Glymph asked Finance Manager Earica Busby to put an asterisk by sponsorships as a reminder to discuss Velocity DC funding.
- Executive Director Espinoza explained that a FY16 intended grantee of The Washingtonia Collection had concerns about language in their grant agreement worked with General Counsel Wilson to resolve the issues but was unable to do so by the FY16 deadline. He requested to gain approval to execute the \$200 grant with FY17 funds.
- Commissioner Friedman asked where the money would come from.
- Executive Director Espinoza stated the money would come from the public art grants budget.
- Commissioner Moore motioned to execute the FY16 grant with FY17 funds. Commissioner Jose Alberto Uclés seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

- Public Art Committee:

- Commissioner Gates reviewed current art projects, such as the Space to Dream Murals Project, Vision Zero and Pepco.
- Commissioner Gates mentioned that there will be a second Pepco opportunity specific to DC artists for artwork to be placed inside the niches of the new substation.
- Commissioner Gates noted that the Barry project is moving along with the two selected artists. The final piece will probably be two separate sculptures, one bronze figurative statue and one bas-relief.
- Commissioner Gates stated the selected K Street Gateway artist recently presented to the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) who will in turn provide recommendations.
- Commissioner Gates reviewed Art Bank Collection statistics, including FY16 The Washingtonia Collection and FY16 Art 202 Festival.

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- Commissioner Miller credited Curator Zoma Wallace for her excellent work on the National Center on Creative Aging exhibit.

Panel Recommendations

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

New Business and Announcements

- Chair Kendall reminded Commission that the next two meetings are scheduled for November 17th and December 15th.
- Commissioner Barbara Jones shared that the 6th year of Dancing with the Scholars, a dance between high school students and city officials will take place on November 12th.
- Executive Director Espinoza clarified that the Harman Center donation that was noted in October's minutes will not be pursued because donations must follow a certain protocol. The costs for the center's use will be paid at full rate.

Unfinished Business

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 pm.