

DC Art Talk and Youth Digital Media Pilot

Written Public Comment to the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities

Submitted by HodeBaba International LLC and ChatEdge AI | September 2026

Chairperson, Commissioners, and Commission staff:

HodeBaba International LLC and ChatEdge AI respectfully submit this comment to introduce a community-centered initiative that would help DC artists reach wider audiences while preparing young people and emerging creatives for opportunities in digital media.

The proposed DC Art Talk and Youth Digital Media Pilot would feature local artists and their work through recorded interviews, educational conversations, and accessible digital programming. The Art Talk Channel would use two clearly identified AI-assisted hosts to discuss an artist's background, creative process, cultural influences, and the educational meaning of selected works. Artists would review and approve their biographies and artwork information before publication.

Participating artists could also promote signed limited-edition works or direct interested viewers to an artist-approved sales or inquiry page. Any commercial activity would use clear written terms addressing ownership, copyright, pricing, commissions, payment, delivery, and returns. The purpose is to create responsible new exposure and income opportunities while preserving each artist's control over their work and story.

The Art Talk Channel would work alongside a Community Information Channel that shares exhibitions, performances, workshops, grant notices, calls for artists, and other cultural opportunities across DC neighborhoods. Captions, transcripts, plain-language summaries, and audio descriptions could expand access for residents with different communication and accessibility needs.

The ChatEdge AI Academy would provide the workforce-development component. DC youth, emerging artists, and community participants could receive practical instruction in responsible AI use, digital storytelling, interviewing, podcast and audio production, art documentation, online promotion, audience engagement, and content moderation. Participants could help produce real community arts programming while building portfolios and earning certificates of completion.

We recommend beginning with a small pilot serving approximately ten DC artists and ten DC youth. The pilot could produce artist interviews and Art Talk programs, distribute community arts announcements, and conclude with a public online or neighborhood showcase. Results could be measured through student completion, programs produced, artists featured, audience engagement, event referrals, and artist inquiries.

We respectfully request an opportunity to meet with Commission staff, demonstrate the Art Talk Channel and ChatEdge AI Academy, and learn how this concept might complement existing DC arts, humanities, youth-development, and accessibility priorities. We welcome guidance regarding potential partnerships with artists, schools, cultural organizations, community groups, and other District stakeholders.

Thank you for supporting the artists, cultural organizations, educators, and residents who strengthen Washington, DC's creative community.

Respectfully submitted,
HodeBaba International LLC and ChatEdge AI