

12.15.16 Minutes



Full Commission Meeting Minutes

12/15/2016

2:00 pm to 2:30 pm – Public Comment Period

2:30 pm to 4:00 pm – Deliberative Meeting

CAH Large Conference Room

Attending Commissioners:

Kay Kendall, CHAIR; Kim Alfonso (phone); Stacie Lee Banks; Susan Clampitt; Edmund Fleet; Rhona Wolfe Friedman (phone); Darrin Glymph (phone); Barbara Jones (phone); MaryAnn Miller (phone); Elvi Moore; Maria Rooney (phone); José Alberto Uclés; Gretchen Wharton; C. Brian Williams (phone)

Attending Staff Members:

Arthur Espinoza, Jr., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; Michael Bigley; Ebony Brown; Earica Busby; David Markey; Steven Mazzola; 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 December 15, 2016 at 2:32 pm at 200 I Street, SE, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20003.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Adoption of the November 17th 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 announced that Antoinette Ford has announced her resignation as a CAH Commissioner and has been appointed to the Humanities Council.

Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Arthur Espinoza, Jr. shared that he is working on the FY18 budget, a 3% decrease from FY17 at \$14,089,675 that is not inclusive of funds received from other sources, such as intradistrict funds. He is pursuing budget planning to reduce the impact on grantmaking.
- Executive Director Espinoza noted that he and Chair Kendall testified at the October 6th hearing for the Jazz Preservation, Education, Promulgation and Performance Artist Act of 2016 and have been in touch with Councilmember Jack Evan's Office, the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) and other agencies, including DC Public and Charter Schools that are named in the bill to assess its implied consequences.
- Commissioner MaryAnn Miller asked if there is an authorization for a specific amount of money to go towards the bill.
- Executive Director Espinoza answered that one of the concerns with the bill is that there was no funding listed in the original legislation or hearing.
- Executive Director Espinoza reviewed staffing updates, changes and additions.
- Executive Director Espinoza mentioned that the Grants and Arts Education teams recently carried out Fall grant cycles and panels.
- Executive Director Espinoza explained the Public Art department is working on projects that carried over from FY16, the Public Art Master Plan (PAMP) and establishing application guidelines for new programs, as well as overall grantmaking within Public Art.
- Executive Director Espinoza noted that work is still being done with the Office of Planning (OP) on the District's Cultural Plan. An event is being held this evening to engage with youth in the community – Deputy Director Michael Bigley plans to attend. The goal is to submit the Cultural Plan draft to Council in Spring 2017 so that it can be implemented in FY18.

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- Executive Director Espinoza stated that the Events department is focused on the production of Women of Plums and the 202 Arts and Music Festival will be held near the SW Waterfront Metro station – noting that the area has potential for future growth. Plans are to engage other DC agencies and community organizations for this event.
- Chair Kendall shared that she has been working with a consultant on a Commissioner manual, scheduled to be completed in January when three new Commissioners will begin.
- Commissioner Susan Clampitt asked Executive Director Espinoza to share interesting news from the Cultural Plan sessions.
- Executive Director Espinoza responded that the topic of space has continuously been raised in all sessions, as well as residents’ issues with navigating through and gaining support from government agencies. Recently visited a group who will be losing their space on G Street NW.
- Commissioner Miller asked if that group has looked into the University of the District of Columbia for space.
- Executive Director Espinoza answered that they are looking to find space where they have an office and warehouse.
- Commissioner José Alberto Uclés noted that Shakespeare Theatre is having difficulties obtaining the building they want for an expansion, as they are receiving push back from the community around them.

Committee Reports

- Arts Education Committee:
 - Commissioner Rhona Wolfe Friedman noted there was an Arts Education Committee meeting to put forth goals and objections per Chair Kendall’s suggestion.
- Events Committee:
 - Commissioner Miller stated that the Events Committee met December 10th to discuss the following upcoming activities:
 - Women of Plums at the Lincoln Theatre on February 16th. A panel was held on December 1st for auditions.
 - Poetry Out Loud at the Office of Cable Television, Film Music and Entertainment on March 8th.
 - Poets in Progress at the Folger Library on April 8th.
 - Music on the Mall will be June 6th to August 10th.
 - Chuck Brown Day with Department of Parks and Recreation on August 19th.
 - Live at the Lincoln Theatre during Labor Day weekend September 1st – September 3rd.
 - 202 Arts and Music Festival in the SW corridor – date TBD.
 - Commissioner Uclés mentioned the Mayor’s Arts Awards will take place September 8th at the Lincoln Theatre and will be incorporating the Larry Neal Writers’ Awards as a humanities component.
 - Chair Kendall asked for feedback regarding the combination of the Mayor’s Arts Awards and the Larry Neal Writers’ Awards.
 - Commissioner Elvi Moore responded that it signals the Commission’s work with the humanities and will give the writers a larger audience.
 - Commissioner Miller agreed that it will give the Larry Neal Writers’ Awards more visibility and added that there was some concern about time limitation for each award ceremony but that adjustments will be made to incorporate both.
- Finance Committee:
 - Commissioner Moore stated \$2.8M has been dispersed thus far to grantees.
 - Commissioner Miller asked if the funds for Projects, Events and Festivals (PEF) Fall, voted on during this meeting are to be expended within FY17 or just administered by then.
 - Executive Director Espinoza answered that the funds must be spent by the end of FY17.
- Grants Committee:
 - Commissioner Clampitt explained that Commissioner Gretchen Wharton convened the Fall panel of Projects, Events and Festivals on December 2nd.
 - Commissioner Wharton shared that she was pleased with the panelists who were all experts in their fields and in total agreement with regard to conversation and scoring.
 - Commissioner Clampitt stated a funding recommendation for the National Children’s Museum of \$1M.
 - Commissioner Moore motioned to approve funding recommendation. Commissioner Uclés seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

- Commissioner Clampitt stated a funding recommendation for the Pen Faulkner Foundation of \$200K. Commissioner Miller motioned to approve funding recommendations. Commissioner Moore seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous
- Commissioner Clampitt stated a funding recommendation for the Washington Performing Arts Society of \$50K.
- Commissioner Moore motioned to approve funding recommendation. Commissioner Darrin Glymph seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous
- Commissioner Clampitt stated a funding recommendation for the National Theatre Corporation of \$1M.
- Commissioner Miller motioned to approve funding recommendation. Commissioner Uclés seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous
- Commissioner Clampitt stated a funding recommendation for the African American Civil War Museum of \$200K. Commissioner Glymph motioned to approve funding recommendations. Commissioner Miller seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous
- Executive Director Espinoza stated that intended grantees will be notified of their awards in order to move forward with their grant agreements.
- Commissioner Clampitt mentioned the Fall cycle of the Heritage Grant Program (HGP) is approaching.
- Commissioner Clampitt explained that the Grants Committee discussed the implementation of a service-based grant category.
- Commissioner Friedman asked if partners would follow a competitive process.
- Commissioner Clampitt responded yes, but it will be discussed in greater detail during the January meeting.

Panel Recommendations

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

New Business and Announcements

- Chair Kendall explained that a special meeting will be held on Monday December 19th to vote for Arts Education grants: Creative Spark! and Arts Field Trip.
- Commissioner Uclés asked for the names of the new commissioners.
- Chair Kendall answered Haili Francis, Cicie Satarnillaskorn and Josef Palermo.
- Executive Director Espinoza stated that their biographies and headshots will be included in the weekly Commissioner Bulletin.
- Executive Director Espinoza explained that the Grants Committee has been discussing how to address “partners:” Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts (WALA), DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative, Humanities Council and Culture Capital as they receive grants in a non-competitive, repetitive manner – reviewing this practice, and any sub-granting.
- Commissioner Wharton noted that the Grants Committee had to determine what ‘partnership’ meant since the partners are not contracted, and questioned if they are organizations that could receive a grant instead. Decided to discuss eliminating partnerships and in turn create a new grant category for service organizations.
- Executive Director Espinoza mentioned that grants relate to the type of funds used in the budget. In previous years, Culture Capital and Humanities Council acted as fiscal agents which was not a practice that could be continued. If partners were put in a general grant category, they may have a disadvantage against other organizations since they do not produce artwork, which is why a special service grant category would be helpful.
- Commissioner Friedman asked who would compete with WALA.
- Grants Program Director Steven Mazzola noted that there are other organizations that provide support services to artists that similarly do not have arts and humanities personnel or content.
- Commissioner Friedman voiced that if an organization like WALA did not receive funding, they would not survive.
- Grants Program Director Mazzola explained that the criteria would be based on applicable points for service organizations.
- Commissioner Friedman inquired how it would be possible to compare different service organizations.
- Grants Program Director Mazzola shared plans to meet with Chicago’s grants director who offers a similar program.
- Chair Kendall mentioned that the Commission still wants to be supportive of these organizations, but needs to determine a way to do so while ensuring they follow a competitive process like all grantees.

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- Executive Director Espinoza addressed that compliance is of concern with the way partnerships are currently handled as government funds are required to go through a competitive process.
- Executive Director Espinoza stated that one organization is looking to narrow down or discontinue its services and that another has expressed an interest in taking it over.
- Chair Kendall noted that there will be a formal proposal about the suggested service grant.
- Chair Kendall explained that Executive Director Espinoza and Staff have been directed to only use dcbc.dc.gov email addresses when communicating with Commissioners to ensure compliance.
- Executive Director Espinoza said that the Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments (MOTA) and the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) are working on technical glitches and that as government emails they have to be refreshed regularly for security purposes.
- General Counsel J. Carl Wilson noted that Commissioners are required to use government given email addresses per the Open Meetings Act.
- Executive Director Espinoza addressed that security issues are raised when government content is shared with private emails.
- Executive Director Espinoza mentioned that he is looking into a board management portal-based system.

Unfinished Business

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

Adjournments

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 pm.