

**Arts Education Committee Report**  
**Hector Torres, Committee Chair**

The Arts Education Committee met on Tuesday, January 9, 2024. In attendance were Commissioners Torres (Committee chair) Simms, and Commission chair, Van Lee.

**Arts Education**

**Poetry Out Loud/Words on Fire Planning**

Words on Fire Poetry Competitions; a two-day immersive experience for high school students which includes SLAM and written poetry, and poetry recitation via the National Poetry Out Loud competition. 13 DCPS and DCPCS schools have articulated interest and are participating this year. 13 Teaching artists have been assigned to prepare students for preliminary in-school competitions. This year's WOF festival will take place on March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, with the national finals for Poetry Out Loud scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Re-Igniting the Creative Spark!**

Plans are underway to re-launch the *Creative Spark* program for March FY24, after it's post-pandemic hiatus. The program provides 3-session arts experiences for District (DCPS and DCPCS) students in grades K-12. This year, Creative Spark will also include programming for older adults to take place in local senior centers. Additionally, the Arts Education Dept. met with the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs to discuss plans to expand Arts Education for older adults with plans to reach a broader demographic. Included in this conversation are MLK Library, and representatives from VA hospital.