



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
SUBMITTED BY HERAN SEREKE-BRHAN, PhD  
JULY 2022

---

Please see the attached agency progress report summary for FY 2022 to date.

# Agency Progress Report FY 2022

## Executive Summary

---

### Results

#### Indicator 1: Funding Allocations

##### Key Takeaways

- Available grants funding increased by 27% over FY21, due to administrative cost savings that were utilized and increases in the agency's revised budget
- In comparison to pre-pandemic grants budgets, FY22 represents an increase of 59.7% from FY19, which was also the first year of agency funding from dedicated taxes
- FY22 represents the largest grants budget in the agency's 53-year history

#### Indicator 2: Grant Payments

##### Key Takeaways

- A total of 1,473 grant payments totalling \$29,449,087 were disbursed in FY21
- To date in FY22, a total of 989 grant payments totalling \$23,093,399 have been disbursed

#### Indicator 3: Right-Sizing GOS

##### Key Takeaways

- In FY22, 123 organizations not previously included in the NCAC program saw an average increase of \$92,359 in their GOS awards.
- The 21 organizations previously included in NCAC had an average decrease of \$210,143 in GOS grants.
- For the 32 non-NCAC organizations with budgets over \$1 million, the average GOS award was \$21,809 less than the average GOS award for the 21 NCAC organizations, all of which have budgets over \$1 million.

#### Indicator 4: Capacity Building

##### Key Takeaways

- There are 85 organizations participating in this summer's capacity building program
- Each participating organization is assigned to be part of a community of practice around a specific capacity building theme
- The results of this summer's program will help inform the scope of the new capacity building grant scheduled to launch in the fall

## **Indicator 5: COVID Relief**

### **Key Takeaways**

- The recovery of the arts and cultural sector is progressing, but there is still a need by many for discretionary relief funding
- There was a notable increase in both the total number of applications and the increase in number of new applicants to CAH in FY22
- The increase suggests that a) outreach efforts (including marketing and technical assistance workshops) are having an effect in attracting new applicants, and b) the grant application itself was accessible, understandable, and did not discourage the applicant from applying (also attributable to the assistance workshops)

## **Indicator 6: Going Beyond Grantmaking**

Through public and private partnerships, CAH is able to extend its reach to areas that may not be encompassed by existing grant programs. The following is an update on FY22 activities with CAH partners.

### **1. Art All Night**

CAH increased its initial funding to DSLBD from \$150,000 in FY21 to \$200,000 in FY22 to support and expand the festival.

### **2. Lincoln Theatre Rental Underwriting**

To date, three District agencies have either produced or are confirmed to produce events at the Lincoln through CAH – the Mayor’s Office on Asian American and Pacific Islander Affairs, the Office on LGBTQ Affairs, and the Mayor’s Office on Latino Affairs – along with five DC-based nonprofits.

### **3. Color the Curb**

Based on the successes of two pilots, CAH, DDOT, and DCPS will identify additional locations as it rolls out this regular grant program beginning in FY23. This will include a call for artists and matching muralists with DCPS elementary schools.

### **4. MOU with DC Library**

CAH has begun a new partnership with the DC Public Library, allowing for collaborative cultural programming to be developed and presented free for District residents and visitors. In March, the MLK Library hosted CAH’s two-day youth poetry event, Words on Fire. Later in July, CAH will be installing a new exhibit of works from the Art Bank at MLK Library.