



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Aaron L. Myers II, Executive Director

October 26, 2023

The following is a summary of the agency's activities and operations.

1. New Staff

Welcome to our newest team members!

- Lauryn Mallard , Program Support Assistant
- Denise Tolliver, Supervisory Public Affairs Specialist

Lauryn's Bio is attached to this report. We look forward to working with each of them and are excited to see their skills and talents in action.

2. Office Space Update

UPDATE: The current space at 200 I St SE is designed for 31 people, but the organization will be accommodating 45 people within the next month. The request for additional space in the former Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment space in the same building, is pending approval from the Office of the City Administrator's.

REQUEST: To OCA, CAH needs that space today.

3. Art Week DC 2025

UPDATE: A stakeholders meeting for Art Week DC was held last week on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. More information will be presented by Chris, from the Events Team. Our events team will be project managing this from the staff side while Reggie & Carla will continue the efforts from the Commissioners side. Updates towards this effort will be shared at all future meetings.

4. Foundation

UPDATE: Andrew will provide one.

RECOMMENDATION: The Commissioners form an Exploratory Committee who will define its function, outline a timeline, and seek statutory authority from the Council

5. Racial Equity SOAR Analysis

UPDATE: ORE uses a SOAR (strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results) framework to do their analysis, and here are some of the highlights.

Opportunities include: collaborating with other agencies in the DMPED cluster, and assessing and communicating our progress toward more racially equitable grantmaking practices. And it was noted that CAH has taken important steps to cultivate an agency culture anchored on fairness, equity, and antiracism.

6. Art Now 2023 Exhibition Reception

UPDATE: Just over 300 people registered, with 163 people attending. Lauren, head of the Public Art department, will provide more of an update. Thank you to the Commissioners who attended it, staff who worked it, and attendees who participated.

7. Grants

UPDATE: The grants team will be reviewing grantee data and feedback from grant applicants and grant managers, in an upcoming revamp of the grant application, review, and award process for the FY 2025 application cycle. More details to follow.

8. Spaces for Arts

UPDATE: Staff has been continuing to assess and examine the current post-pandemic space needs. They will be reaching out to Commissioners regarding ideas and input they have, as Business Improve Districts and Councilmembers have been reached out to.

Music Census

9. We will be announcing our timeline for the Music Census in a few weeks. As updated before, we've joined a multi city cohort in conducting a music census led by Sound Music Cities.

10. FY 2024 Grantee Meet & Greet

UPDATE: From 6 to 9 pm on Wednesday, November 8, at the Eaton House, CAH will be hosting a meet & greet to celebrate our FY 2024 Grantees and provide an opportunity for the grantees, Commission staff, Commissioners, and public to connect and be in community.

Meet CAH's newest teammate!

Program Support Assistant

Lauryn Mallard is a PG County, Maryland native and a recent college graduate from the Trinity Washington University here in the Nation's capital. She studied General Psychology with a focus in Childhood Development and Adolescent Psychology. Lauryn is a very detail-oriented person and when she's not color-coding an Excel spreadsheet or her Google calendar, you can find her in the gym or trying out new restaurants throughout Washington, D.C!

