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Full Commission Meeting Minutes

02/21/2019 4:00pm – 5:00pm

200 I St. SE Suite 1400 (Large Conference Room)

Washington, DC 20003

Attending Commissioners: Kay Kendall, Chair, Haili Francis, Alma Gates, MaryAnn Miller, Jose Uclés, Gretchen Wharton, Maria Rooney, Stacie Lee Banks, Edmund Fleet, Quanice Floyd, Rhona Wolfe Friedman, Chinedu Osuchukwu, Josef Palermo, Cicie Sattarnilasskorn

Not In Attendance: Commissioner(s) Miles Gray

Attending CAH Staff Members: Executive Director Terrie Rouse-Rosario, Deputy Director Michael Bigley, Kennisha Rainge (Chief of Internal Affairs), Ebony Brown (Events Manager), Earica Busby (Financial Analyst), Lauren Glover (Public Art Manager), Patrick Realiza (Social Media Specialist), Jeffrey Scott (Chief of External Affairs), Brenda Walker (Communications), David Markey (Arts Education Coordinator), Heran Sereke-Brhan (Senior Grants Officer)

Public Members Present: Joy Zimmerman, Harley Morgan, Peggy McClone

Public Comment Section:

- Chair Kendall welcomed everyone and asked Joy Zimmerman to give her remarks.
- Joy Zimmerman stated:
 - “Thank you, Kay. Good afternoon, Commissioners. My name is Joy Zimmerman, and I am extremely grateful to have this opportunity to speak to you today. For the past 43 years, it has been my great privilege and honor to train and nurture the talents of over 10,000 students, actors and directors through this rigorous curriculum that we have offered at the Studio Acting Conservatory, which I founded in 1975. As many of you know, I also founded the Studio Theater on the corner of 14th and P Street, and served as its artistic director for 35 years before retiring in 2010 to continue directing and operating the Acting Conservatory. I don't have to tell you about 14th and P Street in 1975. But each year, the Acting Conservatory serves over 500 students of all ages and backgrounds, and we have had a great commitment to the city and its residents during these four decades, and I believe we were and still are a powerful catalyst for the enormous growth of our ever-expanding theater community. In addition, and one of the things I am fierce and most proud of, is that we have a great commitment to young people ages 13 to 17, people who could not otherwise afford the tuition, and fully one-half of the young people in the program are absolutely free. So community has always been and will be one of our guiding principles and core tenets. Unfortunately, our history, our home, and our very existence are being severely and sorely tested at this very moment. At the end of May, really the beginning of June, last year the Studio Theater leadership informed me, with absolutely no warning, no discussion, that the theater would be discontinuing the Acting Conservatory and planned to expel the program from its premises in the summer of 2019. I was told that the theater is moving away from education initiatives and that a multi-million dollar renovation necessitates the conservatory's eviction. I want you to know that there was no precipitating event of any kind, no arguing, no nothing, prior to this notification. Had we received adequate notice, or been included in any of these conversations, we could and would have prepared ourselves better for a successful exit. Unfortunately, we now find ourselves trying to accomplish in seven -- several months what it should have taken us two or three years to execute. So although we were completely blindsided by this announcement, we knew without question that we needed to find a way to continue. The 20 members of the faculty, the staff, the 500 current students, said of course we have to go on, and it's in this spirit that we have established a separate entity, the Studio Acting Conservatory, and we are actively looking at property in Columbia Heights, which is a neighborhood we believe in, and which could have a vibrant arts presence. It is taking root. I was just there this morning. We have strong encouragement from Gala Hispanic Theater. Abel was my student at the Dance Institute of Washington, which is right across the street, and they have been fabulous, and I won't go on. But we found two spaces in

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Columbia Heights. One is a small church on Holmead Street, one block off 14th Street. That, if it was renovated, would meet our needs. And the other is a long-term lease on the corner space at the end of the Tivoli Theater, you know, right in the same building with Gala, which is, you know, a possible 10-year partnership. So everybody would be, you know, within throwing distance of each other. We have been negotiating with the church. I spent this morning with Horning Brothers, and in the last 80 days I have raised almost \$900,000, if you're the artistic director for 35 years, you know a lot of people. The school has never asked one student for a penny, ever. We have never asked anybody for one penny, so I don't know how many of you have gone to any schools that they never ask you for a penny. So there's opportunity here. But finding a space for our students is our absolute top priority. If we have a space, we can continue. We have to leave on August 4th, and we want to establish a strong financial foundation without enormous debt. I mean, I want the thing to succeed. What's the point of setting it up to just have it fail? So I have almost \$900,000. The truth is, I need about another \$600,000. With \$1.5 million, I could renovate the space and either buy that space and get a mortgage or take the long-term lease and be able to afford \$150,000 a year in rent. Because we must vacate the premises by August 4th, we might also need a temporary home, an interim home, and we're hoping to use the Garnett-Patterson Middle School on 10th and U Street. We're currently working perhaps with DCPS to get some kind of short-term occupancy, and we're also talking to the Dance Institute of Washington, about a possible temporary rental. But perhaps the loss that we have felt most immediately by this divorce is the discontinuance of our 501(c)(3) status. That 501(c)(3) status was shared by the theater and the conservatory. I got it four decades ago. In a divorce of this kind, one would hope that the division of assets might be fair, but this is not this kind of divorce. The existing institution keeps the 501(c)(3), so I don't need to tell you who got the house and the car. So last November, November 12th, we formed a 501(c)(3) corporation. We applied for a new not-for-profit status, but the recent government shutdown created a backlog and we're now waiting for approval. So, once received, our nonprofit status will be retroactive to the last day -- to the day of incorporation, which was November 12, 2018. So with this in mind, we respectfully request -- request the Commission's consideration of a one-time exception to the one-year status requirement, so we can apply for your program grants this coming May. We have applied for these grants for 40 years with a nonprofit status. Should we be so fortunate as to receive any funding from the Commission, we give you our absolute assurance -- I give you my word, I will not institute any kind of spending until after November 12, 2019, when the 501(c)(3) status has officially been ours for one full calendar year. I know this is a big ask, and granting this one-time exception would allow us to apply for these sorely needed funds at this difficult time. And our promise to delay the grant spending until November 12th would result in adherence to the Commission's requirement of nonprofit status for at least one year. I really hope that our 40-year history of having this designation until just recently, and my own work in the revitalization of 14th Street, will be factored into any decision that you might make. The tsunami of support that we have received from students and others in learning about our eviction has been humbling and overwhelming, and it also means that we cannot fail. I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on a very critical matter."

- Chair Kendall said that we appreciated hearing very much from Ms. Zimmerman. Thank you, and now we're going to hear from someone else and we're going to run over a little bit, I think, but I'll do the best I can. Harley, are you our last speaker?
- Kennisha Rainge stated yes, he is.
- Chair Kendall asked Harley Morgan to begin speaking
- Harley Morgan stated:
 - "Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Harley Morgan. I am a Washington, D.C. native and fashion and creative leader in our area. I have been a part of the fashion industry within our area for about 20 years. I've done everything from modeling, back show production, coaching, styling, photography, a little bit of everything. And I'm also an avid supporter of all of the programming and events that our city has to offer. I noticed that our programming and event offering as it relates to fashion and fashion entertainment, while we do have some, in my opinion, I think it's a bit up and down, and that is a really, really large market and base within our city. Over the years, I've had an opportunity to produce and stage many different fashion-infused events, everything from shows, parties, several different things, to engage people in their community for the sake of their businesses and their passions and just providing a platform for individuals to get their ingenuity out. And then the last couple of years I created a platform called Indie Fashion Week, which is a platform that highlights, publicizes, and motivates those emerging fashion, beauty and lifestyle brands and artists. Over the last couple of years, we have had an opportunity

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to help not only just start people's businesses, their artistic streaks, but that genuine push and platform has really, really fueled a lot of people mentally, as well as their creativity, to continue on and do other great things on their own, and, of course, adding to the creative economy of the city as well. I longed for the opportunity to come and speak to the Commission. I've sent emails and things like that, generally speaking, but, you know, I come before everyone to see how can a platform, fairly new, a newborn platform, can gain and garner support from the -- from the Arts and Humanities Commission and help expand and elevate such a platform that, in my opinion, is of great use and great need to the people in our area. It's been several different -- several different events that the community has offered that I have also been a part of to help elevate and expand the fashion experience such as Art All Night. It's a great turnout, and people are really, really interested and engaged when we add that fashion element. I had the opportunity to invite Patrick Realiza, an associate her at the Commission that I met last year, and he was really, really taken by how fashion and fashion entertainment can engage so many people when it's done in a creative way and space. So I have information to share that I will pass out, but my question is, how would one garner support to help elevate and expand such a platform to continue engaging these brands and these individuals that need that type of genuine support, genuine creative supportive?"

- Chair Kendall stated that she appreciated hearing from Mr. Morgan.
- Harley Morgan said thank you.
- Chair Kendall stated that it seems like there is a lot more going on right now in fashion in the city than before.
- Harley Morgan stated that it is and it's exciting. But he does believe that there is some room for a little bit more to help this city be noted for fashion as other cities are.
- Kennisha Rainge stated to Harley Morgan that she would connect him with the Commission on Fashion Arts and Events. They do a lot of work, too, and they can be of help.
- Harley Morgan said thank you and that he would leave some handouts for everyone to view.

The Full Commission meeting of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities (CAH) was called to order on February 21, 2019 at 4:00pm, at 200 I St. SE, Room 4019, Washington DC 20003

Adoption of the February Agenda

- Chair Kendall called the meeting to order at 4:00pm
- Chair Kendall motioned to adopt the agenda as presented.
- Commissioner Friedman moved to adopt the agenda presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wharton.
 - *The motion carried: Unanimous.*

Adoption of the January minutes

- Chair Kendall motioned to adopt the meeting minutes of the January Commission meeting.
- Commissioner Gates moved to adopt the minutes as presented, Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion.
 - *The motion carried: Unanimous.*

Chairperson's Report

- Chair Kendall stated :
 - "First up is my report, and a couple of things. You know, from time to time, we have all taken a moment to go around the room and talk about some of the things we have done in the community. I think it's an important thing to share. It helps highlight the arts that we support, and it helps us know what we're up to and get to know each other a little bit better.

So I'm going to ask you all, just be thinking of one thing you've done in the last month that you think was really meaningful and that you'd like to share. And maybe you didn't go out this month; that's okay, too. One thing I did do that I thought I'd share with you is that some very good friends of mine had a foundation in Puerto Rico. And about a year ago, of course, when Hurricane Maria came, Puerto Rico was devastated and they've been doing



everything they could to put the place back together. And they had the good fortune of being involved with Lin-Manuel's father, Luis, who is from Puerto Rico and wanted to help also. So maybe you've read in the paper or know that they took the play Hamilton to Puerto Rico to raise money for the island for the arts. And my husband and I went with our good friends who have the foundation there that's disbursing this money, and we got to go and see one of the performances. But more than that, more interesting in a way, is that we also got to see a lot of the arts groups that are in Puerto Rico. I met some dance groups, some artists, and they are looking forward to times that they might come to Washington. And they are excited about getting back on their feet and having this extra money come to help them. It was a very visceral way of seeing how much dollars raised can be infused back into the community and lift spirits and make a difference. So it was a very inspiring trip for me, and I think the lessons learned are lessons that are pertinent here, too."

- Commissioner Ucles stated that he saw a play at The Heiress based on Washington Square, the one at Arena. It was really good.
- Chair Kendall said it was very, very good and she highly recommends it for anyone to go see.
- Michael Bigley stated that he was at Anacostia Play House for a performance that they brought in of American Moor, and it was essentially a one-man show with a little bit of another actor sitting behind me screaming to the front, which scared me a little bit. But it's about an actor that is auditioning for Othello, I believe, and there is, you know, the racial ties and tensions to it, and it's just really an interesting piece, one-man show.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that she saw the Young Concert Artists at the KC, the Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra, which is supposed to be the best symphony orchestra in the world, put on by WPA, which was astounding. But the highlight was Matthew Bourne's Cinderella Ballet. It was set in the bombing of Berlin in World War II, and its theater ballet.
- David Markey stated that last week Chinedu and him were at sort of a town hall meeting to solicit input from the public for the new Poet Laureate position, and it seemed to go really, really well. There was a lot of great input, and so they are moving forward with creating sort of a rubric for interviews for that. And they are hoping to have a person in place by National Poetry Month, which is April.
- Chair Kendall stated that we have a new staff member with us, Brenda Walker.
- Brenda Walker stated that she works in Communications with Jeffrey Scott and the communications team. She had an opportunity to sit in on Tech with some kids that were doing virtual gaming, about like eight to ten kids, and they were just kind of teaching each other about the new gaming that they are learning in school that they could share, and that was at the Office of Cable Television. Very interesting subject.
- Commissioner Osuchukwu stated that the Poet Laureate, the criteria, it's really tough, and I like everything that's on it, and all of you that presented during the time. Apart from that, he had the opportunity to work at GW Corcoran outreach program at THEARC. They have a facility at THEARC, and it is every Saturday, and I taught a drawing class to high school students around the area. So some of the students came from Duke Ellington, and about three weeks ago they had a chance to audition a portfolio review at the Corcoran, and three students got into college -- Syracuse School of Visual Arts in New York, and Cooper Union -- three of the students. So they had a good portfolio to get in, so he was excited about that. And then, two weeks ago because he is a teacher at DCPS, somehow he got a trip to go to the Building Museum, and he took all of the third graders, and they had a great time.
- David Markey stated that it was funded by the field trip initiative.
- Commissioner Fleet stated that a couple of weeks ago, he took his daughter over to Imagination Stage to see the opening of Anatole: Mouse Magnifique.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that she also went to see The Heiress at Arena Stage, but the highlight for her was accompanying Director Rouse-Rosario at a black history event that was at the Lincoln Theater. They talked about the history of the Lincoln Theater and U Street, and it became part of the Mayor's Facebook streaming live. So that was a lot of fun, and it was just interesting the way you could see how the production was done.
- Lauren Glover stated that she had a really exciting opportunity to visit the Gordon Parks exhibit. It was actually a portrait of her mom, sister, and grandmother. And it is a picture that has been in her family since her mom was 15 when the picture was taken, and so it was very cool to see that hung in the gallery, and actually take pictures next to it.
- Commissioner Gates stated that January really held her in front of the Zoning Commission. However, in December, some may remember her stating that her and Harry went to the Phillips Gallery on their second date. And so they decided to go

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back. Of course, it has changed tremendously but Luncheon of the Boating Party is still there, and that was what I think really kind of did it for us.

- Commissioner Ucles stated that it's a great painting. So, District of Fashion at the Women's Museum. I mean, was sponsored by the Mayor and his office; Gala Hispanic, with Dolman and Lucy, which is amazing. He had the great pleasure of helping the Felix Collection reach out to Hispanic organization leaders and groups and media for their first-ever exhibit of a Hispanic painter-sculptor. Celia Sanchez, born in Cuba, raised in Puerto Rico, 93 years old. Awesome. Check it out. It is incredible. He went to the Textile Museum where I had the pleasure of being there for the Four Freedoms, which are Norman Rockwell paintings, which you should all go see it. It's a little departure, but that's what people do when we're living the current times that we're living. You know, textile has taken second place to talk about the four freedoms we all should have. And then, obviously, Arena, The Heiress, which was incredible.
- Patrick Realiza stated that this past weekend he was in New York for a Catholic Conference called the New York Encounter. It is put together by this Italian Catholic lay movement, Comunione e Liberazione, which means Communion and Liberation. So it was a weekend, like Friday to Sunday, and they had workshops in arts and culture and stuff, and part of that group here that meets at St. Matthew.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that she went to see Alvin Ailey, and a play at Imagination Stage that was for babies. It was a baby play, and she took her goddaughter. It was great, and very interactive. It just kind of a reminder that theater is for everyone, and it was pretty cool.
- Carl Wilson stated that the last art-related event that he attended was in New York. When he mentioned to Director Rouse-Rosario that he was going to spend a weekend in New York with his wife, she suggested that they stop by the Museum of Modern Art to see the exhibition of the painter, Charles White. And it was the most beautiful exhibition that he's seen in decades. It was so beautiful and it was so impactful. Actually, he was embarrassed that he didn't know more about Charles White. So, he appreciate s her for sharing that. It was amazing, and it's still there up in New York. And then the last thing he wants to mention, he hasn't done this yet, but he's going to do it the next couple of weeks. One of our colleagues, DJ Bachelor, is actually has an acting role in a local production of Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2. And so he promised him that he'd bring his family to see that one, too, it's in Baltimore.
- Jeffrey Scott stated that last weekend he went to Cultural DC's performance piece Ivanka Vacuuming with an actress portraying Ivanka Trump vacuuming the living room.
- Chair Kendall stated said that sounds very interesting.
- Kennisha Rainge stated that she wants to mirror Chinedu and Jose. She went to the fashion show put on by Deputy Mayor Kenner's office by the Commission on Fashion Arts and Events. And it was held at the Women's Museum here in DC, and it was phenomenal. And it just so happened my best friend was in town from Chicago, so we just made it a very great girls' night. So it was phenomenal, like absolutely phenomenal.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated:
 - “Well, I will tag to what Jose discussed, I saw the textile show Enduring Ideas, and I went to the Phillips Collection. I have to say, the Textile Museum is someplace I have gone to for the last 40 years, because I used to sew, so I am into textiles. So I used to come all the way down from New York City on the train to go to the Textile Museum. So it has been interesting to see it evolve over a period of time, and one of my colleagues is now the Director of the Textile Museum, so that was wonderful. But the best moment for me was the Gordon Parks exhibit, because it was wonderful to see how they have culled together his early work and only took you up to the '60s, because when I was a curator at the Studio Museum of Harlem, I think my first or second year we went to visit Gordon Parks in New York City. And he lived right next to the UN and I went with Mary Campbell, who is now the President of Spellman College, and she was my first boss at the Studio Museum of Harlem. I made \$12,000. I paid my rent and ate in a month, boy, that was really good. So, but it was good to be able to listen, because we sat and we listened to Gordon Parks talk about the photography experience, because, you know, he is self-taught. And then when he shot for Life Magazine, you know, the world was different. They just shot, put it in a pack, and sent it off. So it was Life Magazine, all of these publications that pulled together this photo journalistic moment. And he sat there in the window, and he was peeling an apple as he was telling the story. And I can still envision this very gracious man, you know, doing this. I had a lot of fun with the arts, and that's just the last few weeks, so that's pretty good.\
- Chair Kendall said that's wonderful and asked the Commissioners on the phone to chime in.
- Commissioner Banks stated :

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- “Well, I do want to mention community activism, and today I went and testified at the City Council on behalf of Duke Ellington School of the Arts regarding the debauched OSSE residency thing where they looked -- where they have found that a lot of -- a lot of the students that they accused of being non-residents are residents, and a lot of the parents came as well and told about their experience being targeted and acting -- and treated as criminals when they live in the city, but maybe their paperwork wasn't up to par. So I did that today. Also, went to Woolly Mammoth and saw the BLKS, which -- and I took my daughter, and it was good that it was really based on her age group, millennials, and got to see the play through her eyes, and it was really fun. I know my husband and I were cringing the whole time, but she really enjoyed it.
- Commissioner Miller stated that she has been sick for about two weeks, but finally getting over it. She did see the Gordon Parks show and she wants Director Rouse-Rosario to know, when she was in high school at Henderson High School, one of the first assignments that Gordon Parks had was to do a photo essay of the high school. And she has a picture where he had an exhibit here at The Corcoran, and Marion Barry was Mayor then. She made him take her to see Gordon Parks, and he signed one of the pictures they did not publish in Life Magazine, but it's one of the pictures he took with me in it at the school. So she has wonderful memories of Gordon Parks, and it was a great show. She also went to the Community Forum for the Poet Laureate, and then went to the Paxon Arts Center where there was a small exhibit of Michael Platt's work, who passed away like two days before the exhibit opened. He's a pretty well-known artist in this town, and she was glad she got to see to see his work, but she missed Arena, Phillips, the Textile Museum, and a lot of other things.
- Lauren Glover stated to Commissioner Miller that we do have some of his works in our collection, and some that he agreed to sell us for this time. So we're working with the family to finalize that acquisition.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that he just wants to use my time to bring a little shine to a fellow Ward 1 artist from the area that Cicie and him represent. A partner of mine named Robin Bell, who is a neighbor in Mount Pleasant, he has been a resident for many, many years. He just got his first solo exhibition at The Corcoran. Many of you probably are familiar with Robin's work. He is a projection video artist who has gotten international attention for his projection on the Trump International Hotel downtown. So his exhibition is all about shining a spotlight on government accountability and transparency. So I highly recommend folks to go see his show. It's called Open. It's at The Corcoran now until March 31st.
- Commissioner Francis stated that this past Sunday she attended a literary salon that was in support of the Richard Wright and Zora Neale Hurston Foundation. And it was a nice private event that was hosted in a home, and the author -- there were two authors there, and one author read an excerpt from her book. The other author kind of just gave a synopsis of what his book is about, but it was a really interesting opportunity to engage with the authors and ask questions about their writing, and they were able to sell books afterwards. It was a really nice opportunity with a few writers in the community to engage with.
- Chair Kendall stated that's great and she really loves hearing from everyone. She loves how much we intersect, but also love how much we do diverse things.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that Commissioner Floyd is sending a message through him as her background is noisy, but she wants everyone to know that she attended the CAAPA's Cotton Field to Concert Hall concert at The Kennedy Center. She says it was a really great blend of black history and opera.
- Chair Kendall stated:
 - “Well, the only other thing I really wanted to talk about in my part of the agenda was the meeting next week. Before Terrie was hired, she and her husband planned a trip -- next month, sorry. They planned a trip to Cuba, and so she is going to be out of the country when we have our meeting scheduled, and even the week after when we thought we might postpone it. So she is basically not here, and I think it would be not that productive to have a meeting without her. So I just wanted to get a read if you all felt it was okay to skip next month and then just have the meeting in April. If anybody really wants to have a meeting, we'll just figure out a time when she is back and squish it in. But then we might be pushing a meeting awfully close to the April meeting.”
- Commissioner Wharton stated that she thinks we have so many meetings, but she thinks we're ready for the April meeting.
- Chair Kendall stated that the April meeting is important because we'll have votes. There is no vote anticipated in March. So we'll look forward to good attendance at committee meetings in the interim, and we will cancel our March meeting. Does anyone on the phone have any other opinion?
- Commissioner Palermo stated no.
- Commissioner Banks stated that she is fine with whatever they decide.

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- Chair Kendall said okay, thank you, all. So now I'm going to turn it over to Executive Director Terrie Rouse-Rosario for her report.

Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated:
 - “Sure, thank you, Kay Kendall. My report is not very long, so I'll try to get through it fairly quickly, and it's mostly just sort of housekeeping things. Starting in March, we're going to invite anybody who wants to come from the Commission for something called Chat and Chew, which turns out it's an opportunity to have lunch with Terrie Rouse, which I guess is interesting, but it is mostly for me to talk about my life and for me to hear about your life. So you can -- we'll be inviting you over. It's bring your own brown bag lunch or your soup, and it will be two Commissioners each time sitting with us for a chat over lunch. You can just tell Kay you'd like to come, and then hopefully you'll come over and join us. It's a great way to actually share kind of ideas and things that are going on, so I encourage you to do that. We had a very good time, I guess it was about three weeks ago, with staff. They had me telling all my secrets, so don't ask them. So the hearing updates are FY19 agency performance hearing is tomorrow, and to say that we have been practicing would be an understatement. So it's tomorrow at 10:00, and I'll be reviewing our FY18 activities. So it's really not so many things that I've been involved with personally, but I've certainly been impressed with the work of the staff in putting all of this information together. We've gotten some new comments from the Chair on how we can make it even better. So I'm pleased about the feedback that we're getting. We will be also having a new appointment of a member of the Commission, Derek Younger. His hearing is tomorrow at 9:30 exactly, so it should be just before our hearing starts at 10:00. So, and I guess you know him because he has been here. General operating support. All of those applications closed on Friday. We closed out, believe it or not, 139 applications, which is a slight increase over FY18, and you'll be hearing more about that. And a lot of our increases have to really do with the advocacy on the part of the staff. They are going out to each ward talking about what we do and how we do it. And to Patrick's efforts with our website, I know the -- we hit a bump around this time of people using our website and our blog, so I'm pleased about that. And the never ending cultural plan, we are still in conversations with our partners across the various agencies in the city on the cultural plan, and hopefully it will begin to be rolled out. We did hear it had made it as far as the Mayor's office, so we are really curious to see where it is. But I have to say it has been an incredible process of working with the planning department and other agencies about something that has to do with the collective creative economy. Getting people's focus and their various perspectives on why this is important and it's been a very good part of it. And I guess my last piece of this is a little quasi-celebration. One of our long-time staff people has gotten a promotion outside of our agency, Earica Busby, who is our finance person. So she has gone on to bigger and greater and bigger paychecks. So we wanted to thank her for her efforts on behalf of her. She knows more about how D.C. government works, how our budget works, how to work with the various fiscal agencies, the checks and balances. Without her, we would not be where we are today. So thank you, Earica. I don't know if you have anything to tell us.”
- Earica Busby stated:
 - Well, I just wanted to say that it has definitely been a great experience. I have been here for eight years, and I told Chair Kendall I have been through four directors and four interim directors. But I just believe all things work according to God's will for my life. Eight is the number of new beginnings. So it is time for me to start a new journey, and I will take everything that I learned from here. And I just thank you all for allowing me to be a part of your Board meetings and gracing me. And I wish you guys well.”
- Commissioner Banks said congratulations.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario said, absolutely, we're really proud of you. Chair Kendall, that is my report.
- Chair Kendall said thank you and that's a great report.
- Commissioner Palermo stated to Chair Kendall that he has a question on behalf of Commissioner Floyd. She is asking if the Chat and Chew will be an option for community members as well.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that we haven't gotten that far yet. We were trying to do staff first, and then members of the Commission.



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- Chair Kendall stated that she knows a lot of people the community had said to me that they want to meet you, and so I think that there is certainly a way to do that, one way or the other, but I agree, I think these Chat and Chews were designed specifically at the outset so she could get to know us. But certainly Director is looking forward to getting to know the community as well.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated yes, absolutely.
- Chair Kendall asked to move on to our committee reports. Finance up first.

Finance Committee Report

- Commissioner Sattamilasskorn stated:
 - “Yes, first, I do want to publicly thank Earica for all of her efforts. She definitely makes it easy to be treasurer, and I know there will be big shoes to fill, but I've heard in the community how easy it has been to communicate with her and to understand the finances of a complicated and complex agency. So thank you, and best of luck, obviously. It is bittersweet. We wish the best for you, but we will be sad to see you go. I, unfortunately, was not able to make the last committee meeting, so I will defer to Earica to update us on the budget.”
- Earica Busby asked everyone to turn to the budget part, and look at the first page. She stated:
 - “The first page is, of course the overview of the agency's budget. As you know, we have local funding, dedicated tax funding, federal grant funding, special purpose, and operating funding. If you will pay attention to the highlighted items, which is our grants budget -- and as you can see, based on our available budget, we're almost at the finish line in processing all of our grants. Okay. If you go over to the second page, there is more of a detail about grants budget by each grant program. And as you can see, we have executed \$14.7 million in grants. We still have 11.4 million pending, which are basically the budget enhancement grants. But most of the grants that you see here that are pending has already pretty much been processed, and you will see an up-to-date revision for next month. I will make sure that's done before I leave. And then, also, there will be a surplus of funding that has not been used in grants, which will be about 227,000 that you all would discuss in the April meeting of how to use those funds. Are there any questions?”
- Commissioner Friedman stated that in line 32, all of that has been given out; is that what you're saying? Or is that pending?
- Earica Busby stated yes, they haven't gotten in the system yet. They are still working on receiving all of the documents that is required to process their purchase order and to pay them. I know Ben is working on them. We expect to have them by the middle of next week to go forth in the system.
- Commissioner Friedman asked if all of these are all the budget enhancements.
- Earica Busby said yes.
- Michael Bigley stated those are the ones that we awarded in December.
- Chair Kendall stated plus, the Chinatown arch repair.
- Earica Busby stated yes, and we're currently working out some things on that for the Chinatown. There is a possibility that the \$200,000 that has been budgeted for that will have to be reprogrammed, because it is a contract versus a grant.
- Commissioner Sattamilasskorn asked for line 4, is that a pass-through.
- Earica Busby stated that was an MOU for the student exchange program and yes, it has gone to DCPS.
- Chair Kendall stated great report and asked if there were any questions on the finance report. She thanked Earica Busby and asked for the grants report to be given by Commissioner Wharton.

Grants and Panels Committee Report

- Commissioner Wharton stated:
 - “Okay. Grant Department update, 592 awards have been processed, not including public art, and approximately 13 outstanding agreements at various stages of processing. In terms of the overall update, GOS, general operating support grant was launched on January 15th and closed on the 15th. Four online live chat and four workshops were conducted in the four quadrants of the District. This is really critical, and I really applaud the staff for doing this because this is one thing that we have known we needed to do. We need to take the information out to the



community versus having them come to places, you know, for it. So I think it has absolutely worked very well, as you can see by the number of -- increased number that we have. Fifty-seven participants attended the workshops. Said the deadline for applications was Friday, the 15th, had 139, which is an uptick from last year. And the panels will take place in the first two weeks of April, and I believe we are all signed up for them. Okay, our liftoff grant panel, which is the second round of liftoff, will launch on February 22nd. The deadline for the submissions is March 22nd. The liftoff grant program, as most of you know, is designed as a capacity-building grant for organizations and budgets under 250,000. The liftoff grant program will include consultant-led organizational assessment and dedicated financial support for infrastructure projects. It worked very well last year. I think we're very pleased with the way it worked, so let's do it again because it worked so well. That's pretty much it. Thanks."

- Chair Kendall asked if anyone on the telephone have any questions for Commissioner Wharton.
- Commissioner Banks stated no, but she knows that she signed up for a panel but I don't remember the date.
- David Markey stated that he locate that information and follow up.
- Chair Kendall stated that she signed up for a day that she has to change, so maybe we can figure all this out together after the meeting.
- Chair Kendall asked for the Public Art Committee report.

Public Art Committee Report

- Commissioner Gates stated:
 - "The D.C. Public Library Capitol View public art project is coming to you today for a recommendation for a \$30,000 grant to design, fabricate, and install a sculpture on the plaza of the library. Seven applications were submitted, one was ineligible, six were reviewed, and the funding recommendation spreadsheet is included just so you can see the ranking. **So I put forward a motion to adopt or to give a grant of \$30,000 to the Capitol View Library public art project.**"
- Chair Kendall asked for a second motion.
 - **Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion**
- Chair Kendal stated before we call for a vote that she would like to know if there is a photo.
- Lauren Glover stated no. We haven't been doing the pictures, but it's a sculpture, a stainless steel sculpture, that is going to go on the plaza.
- Commissioner Friedman asked so we don't have any picture of what we're voting for.
- Lauren Glover stated that we haven't brought them forward, just like none of the other grants have images. We didn't do it for the last round of grants we approved. We didn't bring the images forward.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that for public art, we've always shown images.
- Lauren Glover stated no, we didn't. We didn't in the last round.
- Commissioner Friedman asked is it possible to suggest we have images, so we know what we're voting for.
- Lauren Glover stated sure. We can circulate it.
- Commissioner Osuchukwu asked what a description of the sculpture is.
- Lauren Glover stated that it's a stainless steel sculpture, 10 to 12 feet high, that's going to go in front of the library. The library has a new facade, which is a stainless steel grillage, and so it works within that space. So you activate the space, so that it's not just an empty plaza.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that one thing you can say about the piece is that the stainless steel gives you the impression of a scroll.
- Lauren Glover stated that it's like pages from a book. And there is actually perforated lettering in it that the community will help identify the phrases. Maybe it's something from a book in the library, a favorite quote or something from a series of books. So as the light hits it, it will, you know, shine down on the plaza area, and you can also look up at it. It gives the impression of floating pages or like wings taking off.
- Chair Kendall stated that it got a great score, and you are recommending that we vote for it. She asked if there are any more discussion before we vote.
 - **Then all of those in favor?**

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- (Chorus of ayes.)
- *The motion carried: Unanimous.*
- Chair Kendall asked those on the phone to vote.
- Commissioner Banks stated aye.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that he will vote for it with the addition that he would also like to see photos moving forward.
- Commissioner Miller also stated that she would vote aye, but I also would like if you could send us a photo of what it will look like.
- Chair Kendall stated we'll show you all a photo now that we've voted.
- Chair Kendall asked for Commissioners Francis and Floyd to vote but no response was received from the phone line.
- Chair Kendall stated okay, well, the majority has voted yes, so we'll assume that has passed. Thank you all very much. We'll address this business of pictures later.
- Commissioner Gates stated
 - “We also have a bronze sculpture that CAH will be charged with facilitating and managing the design, fabrication, and installation, as an artistic commemoration of Charles Hamilton Houston, civil rights lawyer and dean of Howard University School of Law, in collaboration with the executive office of the Mayor and the Mayor's Commission to commemorate and recognize Mr. Houston. CAH is working to identify site location and other artistic parameters. The inaugural meeting of the Commission was held on February 4th, and Chair Kendall is a member of that. We will facilitate a call for artists for site-specific design to recommend to the Mayor, as well as manage the oversight of the design, fabrication, and installation of the final work. You will certainly hear more about this in the months to come. It is anticipated that an artist and site-specific design will be identified by September of this year.”
- Chair Kendall stated that they are going to go on a bus tour of different parts of the city to see what we think is the right spot. There are several places that are up for consideration for this statue to be placed.
- Commissioner Wharton asked Chair Kendall for an example.
- Chair Kendall asked Lauren Glover to speak more directly to this.
- Lauren Glover stated
 - “Well, there are a couple of things that we have some parameters that have been set for us. So commemorative works have to be on District property. One would think, naturally, it would go at Howard. We have looked at a variety of different spaces at Howard, and so we have to figure out how that would work. There has to be some legal things that could be done to -- if that was the final selection. Most of his work was done in sort of the Shaw/LeDroit/Michigan Avenue area, and that -- and he went to Dunbar. Still not sure which one of the various Dunbars he went to, which location it was.”
- Commissioner Wharton stated that he went to the original Dunbar which is no longer there.
- Lauren Glover stated that is correct.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that a part of the new school is built on the original one.
- Lauren Glover stated:
 - “Right. And so we actually did look at Dunbar, boo. So we are trying to identify places where there is going to be foot traffic. We don't want it, you know, hidden someplace. And also a place where the grounds can be maintained. So there are a lot of -- and it has -- and, yes, that's critical. So we are looking at a variety of different options. We did some preliminary work, and we're going to explore some more. You know, again one would think Howard would be the natural place, but there's not as much empty space on Howard's campus as one would think. So that's where we are. So we're looking at the end of March to do a bus tour with the 12 members of the committee, and then they will have to make a decision on the location by their April meeting, so that we can issue a call to artists. We can't do that until we know a site. They need to design to the site, and so that's a multi-month process. We do know that the call will be national and not local, so that we can fully embrace all of the many corners of Howard, and the Howard legacy, because we know that there are Howard graduates all across the country, actually all around the world, but we're going to keep this to the U.S., or people who have some kind of connection -- some kind of connection to Howard. So we just broaden the pool by going national.”
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked if the Commission financing this.
- Lauren Glover stated that the money will come through our budget.

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- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked if it falls under City Commission projects.
- Lauren Glover stated no, there is actually a budget that the Council did give us specific funds for this amount.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated okay, so it's not taking from our budget.
- Lauren Glover stated it's not taking from our budget. We actually have funds allocated.
- Chair Kendall stated that she wants to make sure we keep on a time schedule as there are a couple more things to cover.
- Chair Kendall stated thank you and asked Commissioner Miller to give the Events report.

Events Committee Report

- Commissioner Miller stated:
 - “We have Poetry Out Loud coming March 7th at Blind Whino. We have 143 people who have RSVP'd, which is wonderful. We have never had such a large response. We can only hold 250, so hopefully we won't exceed that number. Well, it would be great, but we won't have room for them. We have 11 schools that are participating, and we will have performances from Charity Blackwell, who will be the host, actually, and the performance of the Blaquestone House Band; Marjan Naderi, poet; and Howard University's step team. So it should be great entertainment and a great event, and Stacie is going to welcome everyone to the event before we get started. JaKenna, is there anything else that I need to add about Poetry Out Loud?”
- JaKenna Martin stated no.
- Chair Kendall stated that she hopes that everyone can attend.
- JaKenna Martin stated that she sent out an email she hopes we can get a number of Commissioners to attend to show their support.
- JaKenna Martin stated that we have the Mayor's Arts Awards, which Commissioner Ucles will speak more about.
- Chair Kendall stated that Commissioner Ucles is going to speak to the Mayor's Arts Awards for a second.
- Commissioner Ucles stated:
 - “Very quickly, Mayor's Arts Awards, there is a couple of things that you, fellow Commissions, have as homework. I sent you -- and I mean homework, because homework you have to get done sometime on a schedule. I sent you via email, and I will send you again as a reminder probably tomorrow or over the weekend, the special honors form. This is the special honors that we give in the category of lifetime achievement, visionary, and distinguished honor, or a special recognition. Our great events team has made it very simple. It's a very simple form to fill.”
- Commissioner Friedman asked who decides on this.
- Commissioner Friedman asked if it's from the Commission or the Mayor's office.
- Commissioner Ucles stated the Commission first, and then we send we send a roster, who the nominated people are, and the Mayor decides. Just so you also know, the Mayor's Arts Awards Committee is considering what we nominate, what the staff brings to the voting table, and what other agencies in the D.C. government bring. So that's important to show the variety.
- So, and the second piece of paper you will receive is previous people who have received those special honors or those top ones. So it's very important, deadline is the main thing, it will be March 1st for the special honors.
- Commissioner Friedman asked would he send it out again.
- Commissioner Ucles stated
 - “He would send it out again. It is important to have them because we all travel in so many different circles that it's nice if we get a variety that we can consider. And the qualifications on each of the special honors are on the back of the form. And then there will be the Larry Neal Award. In that case, it is more organization. So if you know of organizations for the rest of the awards that we give that night, please mention it to them, so they can submit their applications for someone. Thank you very much. The last thing is, as we all become aware, and I think we have always done a wonderful life celebration of those people who have been instrumental in our local arts, who have made a big difference in our city. So if you know of anyone that has passed on into a better life, please send their name, and then we'll make sure we get the info on them. So people for the life celebration who have been in the arts, please send those because that helps.”
- Chair Kendall asked for the Arts Education report.



Arts Education Committee Report

- Commissioner Friedman stated:
 - “We’ve heard about Poetry Out Loud, so I’m going to skip that. We’ve heard about Creative Spark before. And I want to just go to the Access and Inclusion Workshops. The first workshop took place on February 11th, and the facilitators can offer us a second workshop for teaching artists in May, and will engage four organizations in a mini-consultancy similar to those carried out last year. And the Teaching Artist Institute I want to spend a second on. It’s the celebration of our 50th anniversary. We are inaugurating a Teaching Artist Institute, and a committee of arts and humanities organizations and teaching artists working with youth have been put together to plan the event and that’s exciting. We have a total of 20, and we -- for the organizations, we have the organizations that are not listed here, but I’ll I want you to know there’s Shakespeare Theater Lab, Imagination Stage, Capitol Hill Arts Workshop, and DC Jazz Fest. So it sounds exciting, but we’re doing our first one.”

Chair Kendall asked David Markey if he had anything you want to add.

David Markey stated that we received about 100 responses to the survey, and so that will really help us do that.

Commissioner Friedman stated one last thing that it’s going to be the beginning of June.

New and Unfinished Business

- Chair Kendall asked if there was any new or unfinished business. She stated:
- “I would like to call for Executive Session. We have a matter to and to obtain legal advice and to preserve the attorney-client privilege between an attorney and a public body, we can go into Executive Session. So I want to do that, and I think we have to vote -- we have to vote to do this, so I’d like to ask everyone if that’s yes or no. Make a motion to go into Executive Session.”
- Commissioner Friedman stated so moved.
- Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion
- Chair stated all those in favor
 - (Chorus of ayes.)
 - Chair Kendall did a roll call of all the Commissioners present.
 - Commissioner Ucles
 - Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn
 - Commissioner Gates
 - Commissioner Wharton
 - Commissioner Fleet
 - Commissioner Osuchekwu
 - Commissioner Friedman
 - Commissioner Miller
 - Commissioner Palermo

*** (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 4:55 p.m. and resumed at 5:12 p.m.)***

- Chair Kendall moved to end Executive Session.
 - Commissioner Friedman seconded the motion.
 - Commissioner Ucles “aye”
 - Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn “aye”
 - Commissioner Gates “aye”
 - Commissioner Wharton “aye”
 - Commissioner Fleet “aye”
 - Commissioner Osuchekwu “aye”
 - Commissioner Friedman “aye”
 - Commissioner Miller “aye”



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- Commissioner Palermo “aye”

Chair Kendall stated that everyone said yes to come out of Executive Session. Thank you very much. Now the meeting is adjourned at 5:13pm.

Adjournment

- Full meeting was adjourned at adjourned at 5:13 PM.
- The next Full Commission Meeting will be in April 25, 2019.

DRAFT