

DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

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REGULAR MEETING

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MONDAY
JUNE 27, 2022

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The Commission on the Arts and Humanities met at the MLK Memorial Library, Room 401-D, at 5:30 p.m. EDT, Reggie Van Lee, Chair, presiding.

PRESENT

REGGIE VAN LEE, Chair
STACIE LEE BANKS, Commissioner
CORA MASTERS BARRY, Commissioner
MAGGIE FITZPATRICK, Vice Chair
RHONA FRIEDMAN, Commissioner
NATALIE HOPKINSON, Commissioner
KYMBER MENKITI, Commissioner
MARYANN MILLER, Commissioner
MARIA HALL ROONEY, Commissioner
CICIE SATTARNILASSKORN, Commissioner
CARLA SIMS, Commissioner
HECTOR TORRES, Secretary
JOSE UCLES, Commissioner
GRETCHEN WHARTON, Commissioner

DEREK YOUNGER, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT

**BRIAN ALLENDE, Resource Allocation Officer
CALENTHIA BANKS, Executive Assistant
HERAN SEREKE-BRHAN, Executive Director
LAUREN DUGAS GLOVER, Public Art Manager
KEVIN HASSER, Grants Manager
TERRELL JOHNSON, Senior Grants Officer
KHALID RANDOLPH, Grants Manager
PATRICK REALIZA, Social Media Specialist
JEFFREY SCOTT, Chief of Staff
TIM TATE, Artist**

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 5:31 p.m.

3 CHAIR VAN LEE: So we're going to go
4 ahead and get started. I have my gavel with me.
5 The meeting will come to order, the time is 5:31
6 on Monday, June 27, 2022.

7 This is a regular meeting of the
8 District of Columbia Commission on the Arts and
9 Humanities.

10 My name is Reggie Van Lee, chairperson
11 of the Commission. I'm an African-American man
12 wearing a white shirt with all sorts of colors,
13 of blue and purple and everything.

14 Notice of the meeting was posted on
15 the commission's website, dcarts.dc.gov, on the
16 DC Office of Open Government's Central Meetings
17 calendar, and in the District of Columbia
18 Register.

19 I will now call the roll. When you
20 hear your name, please answer present. Stacie?

21 (No audible response.)

22 CHAIR VAN LEE: Stacie?

1 (No audible response.)

2 CHAIR VAN LEE: Cora?

3 COMMISSIONER SIMS: Here.

4 CHAIR VAN LEE: That was Carla --
5 Carla, right?

6 COMMISSIONER SIMS: Yes.

7 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes, Carla. Maggie?
8 Quanice? Rhona?

9 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Here.

10 CHAIR VAN LEE: Natalie?

11 (No audible response.)

12 CHAIR VAN LEE: Kymber?

13 (No audible response.)

14 CHAIR VAN LEE: MaryAnn?

15 COMMISSIONER MILLER: Here.

16 CHAIR VAN LEE: Maria?

17 COMMISSIONER HALL ROONEY: Here.

18 CHAIR VAN LEE: Cicie? Hector?

19 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Here.

20 CHAIR VAN LEE: Jose?

21 COMMISSIONER UCLES: Here.

22 CHAIR VAN LEE: Gretchen?

1 (No audible response.)

2 CHAIR VAN LEE: Derek?

3 COMMISSIONER YOUNGER: Here.

4 CHAIR VAN LEE: And myself -- that's
5 one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight.

6 So, Cora? Stacie? We saw you earlier.

7 COMMISSIONER LEE BANKS: I'm here.

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: Good. That's nine.
9 So a quorum is present.

10 This meeting is being conducted in
11 person at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial
12 Library in Washington, D.C. and remotely using
13 the Cisco WebEx virtual meeting platform.

14 The meeting is being livestreamed to
15 the commission's YouTube channel for public
16 viewing, an electronic recording of the meeting
17 will be available for viewing online following
18 the conclusion of the meeting.

19 This meeting is governed by the Open
20 Meetings Act. Please address any questions or
21 complaints arising under this meeting to the
22 Office of Open Government at

1 opengovoffice@dc.gov.

2 I will now read the land
3 acknowledgment. Every community owes its
4 existence and vitality to generations from around
5 the world who contributed their hopes, dreams,
6 and energy to making the history that led to this
7 moment.

8 Some were brought here against their
9 will, some were drawn to leave their distant
10 homes in hope of a better life, and some have
11 lived on this land for more generations than can
12 be counted. Truth and acknowledgment are critical
13 to building mutual respect and connections across
14 all barriers of heritage and difference.

15 We begin this effort to acknowledge
16 what has been buried by honoring the truth. We
17 stand on the ancestral land of the Nacotchtank
18 and the Piscataway people. We pay respects to
19 the elders, past and present.

20 Please take a moment to consider the
21 many legacies of violence, displacement,
22 migration and settlement that bring us together

1 here today, and please join us in uncovering such
2 truths at any and all public events, and to use
3 such truths to guide the legacy of the arts
4 commission.

5 The agenda for this meeting was
6 previously circulated. If there are no
7 objections to the agenda it will stand as
8 adopted. Is there any objection to the agenda?

9 (No audible response.)

10 CHAIR VAN LEE: Hearing no objection,
11 the agenda stands as adopted. Next is the
12 approval of the May 16, 2022 meeting minutes.
13 Are there any corrections to the minutes?

14 (No audible response.)

15 CHAIR VAN LEE: Hearing no
16 corrections, the minutes stand as approved. By
17 way of my comments, some of you aware of this but
18 not everyone, a great artist, Sam Gilliam, passed
19 recently. And I've been asked by the Washington
20 City Paper to send in a comment, so I'll read to
21 you the comment and hopefully you like it.
22 Because it's already gone to the press anyway,

1 and the deadline was 5:00 o'clock so it is what
2 it is -- but hopefully you'll like it.

3 I've known Sam Gilliam for decades and
4 I'm proud to be a collector of his extraordinary
5 works of art. Sam was one of the most impactful
6 artists of his generation, his innovation in the
7 1970s of taking paintings off of the stretcher.
8 The Washington Valley, on who's board I sat for
9 many years, had a set made from one of these
10 works, remade the modernist canon.

11 Though art historians and critics were
12 late in acknowledging his contributions, it is
13 terrific and just that he is finally achieving
14 the recognition he has deserved for decades.

15 His artwork Ship was the first work
16 catalogued and accessioned into the D.C.
17 Commission on the Arts and Humanities' Art Bank
18 Collection in 1988. It will be installed at the
19 MLK Library in September as part of their new art
20 bank --

21 PARTICIPANT: Collection.

22 CHAIR VAN LEE: Collection -- I think

1 loans, sorry.

2 PARTICIPANT: Loans.

3 CHAIR VAN LEE: Loan, yes. So that's
4 the statement that's gone to the Washington City
5 Paper, and he will be greatly missed.

6 With that we move on to public
7 comments, we have no public comment speakers
8 scheduled for today's meeting. As you know, we
9 not only welcome feedback from our community, but
10 we also depend on it to provide the best public
11 service possible. So please reach out to us if
12 you'd like to be scheduled to present during the
13 public comment period on any upcoming meeting.

14 Now for the past several months we've
15 been incorporating a new artistic showcase as a
16 regular part of our meetings as a way to
17 highlight the diversity and talent hard at work
18 in the District's Arts and Cultural sector.

19 Last month, as we celebrated Asian
20 American and Pacific Island heritage, artist Khan
21 Lee spoke on how he uses his artwork to share and
22 explore his Vietnamese family's personal history

1 and the experience of coming to America.

2 June is LGBTQ Pride month, happy
3 Pride, everyone. And we're excited and honored
4 to be joined by mixed media sculptor, Tim Tate.

5 Tim was born and raised here in D.C.
6 and has spent much of his career discussing and
7 making queen glass -- queer glass, I'm sorry -- a
8 topic he has also spoken on at Yale University.
9 His last queer piece was at the Hermitage --

10 (Simultaneous speaking.)

11 COMMISSIONER YOUNGER: Yeah, I don't
12 hear him either.

13 PARTICIPANT: Oh, okay. Sorry. That
14 okay? We're going to pause for a minute.

15 CHAIR VAN LEE: Can you hear me now?

16 (No audible response.)

17 CHAIR VAN LEE: Can you hear me now?

18 (No audible response.)

19 CHAIR VAN LEE: Can you hear me now?

20 COMMISSIONER YOUNGER: Yes. Better.

21 CHAIR VAN LEE: Okay sorry about that
22 I'll start back at the top. Did you hear my

1 comments on the public comments and the fact we
2 have none?

3 COMMISSIONER YOUNGER: Yes, we did.

4 CHAIR VAN LEE: But --

5 COMMISSIONER LEE BANKS: Yes, but the
6 audio is really bad, Reggie. I don't know why.

7 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Is it better now?

8 (No audible response.)

9 CHAIR VAN LEE: Apologies.

10 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: We'll take a minute
11 to figure it out, yeah.

12 CHAIR VAN LEE: Is that any better?

13 COMMISSIONER LEE BANKS: Yes.

14 CHAIR VAN LEE: Good. So, apologies.

15 So I'll start back at the top with our guest
16 artists.

17 Now for the past several months we've
18 been incorporating a new artistic showcase as a
19 regular part of our meetings as a way to
20 highlight the diversity and talent hard at work
21 in the District's Arts and Cultural sector.

22 Last month, as we celebrated Asian

1 American and Pacific Island heritage, artist Khan
2 Lee spoke on how he uses his artwork to share and
3 explore his Vietnamese family's personal history
4 and the experience of coming to America.

5 June is LGBTQ Pride month, happy
6 Pride, everyone.

7 (Laughter.)

8 PARTICIPANT: Thank you.

9 CHAIR VAN LEE: Do it again, happy
10 Pride many times.

11 PARTICIPANT: Happy Pride.

12 CHAIR VAN LEE: And we're excited and
13 honored to be joined by mixed media sculptor, Tim
14 Tate.

15 Tim was born and raised here in D.C.
16 and has spent much of his career discussing and
17 making queer glass, a topic he has also spoken on
18 at Yale University.

19 His last queer piece was at the
20 Hermitage State Museum in St Petersburg, Russia -
21 - of course, before the war -- and was one of the
22 first pieces with a queer content to have ever

1 been shown there.

2 Tim is the founder of the Washington
3 Glass School, a multi-year awardee of the
4 Commission's Arts and Humanities Fellowship Grant
5 Program. And, in 2003, was the recipient of the
6 Mayor's Arts Award for outstanding emerging
7 artists. Please join me in welcoming Tim Tate.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. TATE: Okay. Can everyone hear
10 me?

11 (No audible response.)

12 MR. TATE: Can you guys on the screen
13 hear me?

14 (No audible response.)

15 MR. TATE: Uh-oh.

16 COMMISSIONER LEE BANKS: Slightly.

17 MR. TATE: Slightly? Uh-oh. They got
18 to work on that audio. Is that better now?

19 (No audible response.)

20 MR. TATE: Can anybody hear me up
21 there?

22 COMMISSIONER MILLER: We hear you.

1 MR. TATE: Okay. All right. Thank
2 you for having me, I so appreciate it. I could
3 have called this in because it would be so
4 tempting to stay at home and done this, but I
5 don't ever get face-to-face time with the
6 commission so I am so happy to be here.

7 I -- oh, there we go -- there it is.
8 Okay. I'm a resident here, a lifetime resident
9 of Washington, D.C., my father went to McKinley,
10 my mom went to Roosevelt. And we all come from,
11 like, Georgia and 13th, in that range -- just to
12 give you an idea of where are.

13 I lived right in that window across
14 the street for 11 years because of the generosity
15 of the D.C. Commission giving out artist
16 residencies, so I appreciate you all more than
17 you can imagine. So anyways, this is my pleasure
18 to be here and we'll go ahead.

19 All right. There is my grandmother's
20 house on Buchanan Street, and there's the
21 Washington Glass School. I've been here for
22 quite some time and have no intention of ever

1 leaving this city, it's the best city for being
2 an artist on Earth.

3 The Washington Glass School, we are
4 now in our 21 year -- which I still can't even
5 believe I'm saying because we really weren't sure
6 what we were doing when we started, but here we
7 are 21 years later. And we've had over 6,000
8 students go through there -- mostly from D.C. --
9 and it's known around the country as being one of
10 the places to see and to learn glass of the type
11 that we do.

12 We purposely decided not to be a
13 blowing studio -- glass studio -- and we decided
14 to try something new and different, and it's
15 worked out really well over the time. Okay, go
16 ahead.

17 And I'm going to be really quick
18 because I know we have only five to seven
19 minutes, so I'm going to be fast, okay? This is
20 the piece you asked about, in Venice right now,
21 about the rising waters and the difficulty with
22 global warming. And this is in a huge, old 16

1 century church, it's 111 inches tall, it's quite
2 large, all cast glass. And it's part of the
3 Venice Biennale, so if you go over there it is
4 there for anyone to see in the Berengo studio
5 hall.

6 So that one just got finished, that
7 one just got put up -- in fact, the metal is done
8 by another local D.C. artist named Chris Shay,
9 and the center was another D.C. artist, Michael
10 Janis. So all of them are recipients of
11 fellowships from this group. Okie-doke.

12 All right, so, I'm going to go through
13 -- this is going to be fast -- I couldn't do it
14 all, there just wasn't enough time. I mean, I
15 looked at this, it was, like, 400 slides, and I
16 thought, well, not going to do that -- there's
17 only, like, eight to nine slides.

18 I started doing queer glass back then
19 when there was no such term, they didn't use the
20 word queer back then. But this is back in the
21 '80s and '90s when nine of my friends died one
22 year, and I was not prepared, I was very ill-

1 prepared. Because I was in my 20s, very young
2 man, and the first person I knew to ever get HIV
3 in this city -- I'm not sure I was the very first
4 but it felt like it -- and so all of the sudden
5 it was rapidly hitting a very young person who
6 couldn't control it yet.

7 So those are nine little angels --
8 those are not crosses, they're plus signs -- so
9 those are the nine people I lost. That was my
10 way of dealing with things -- these might seem
11 kind of harsh or disturbing, they're not meant to
12 be. This is just what queer people were going
13 through in this city during AIDs.

14 And this city was hit particularly
15 hard so I'm just going to go -- so we have to go
16 back in time for this. I should show you
17 probably something I'm doing now, I know, because
18 it would be related to my fellowship, but I
19 thought this would be stronger for the Pride
20 month, all right? Next.

21 This one, it's called Two Paths Taken.
22 The inside has a little magic 8-ball where, who

1 knows what it's going to say. And the inner
2 dome, I've etched the story of how my life
3 changed on the day I thought I was -- or, found
4 out I was positive at Whitman-Walker Clinic.

5 The outer dome is my fantasy of what
6 my life would have become had I been negative
7 that day, and as I was writing it I realized both
8 have their pluses and minuses because a life-
9 altering, potentially deadly -- also harnesses
10 other energies inside you.

11 Suddenly you don't put off anything
12 you're going to do, suddenly you make sure that
13 you have a legacy -- that's why the school
14 started, that's why we have so many students, it
15 all started because of this moment where I was in
16 shock and I wanted to give something back to the
17 city I was raised in, and that was going to be
18 the Washington Glass School. Okie-doke.

19 I did a lot of sacred hearts, I did
20 sacred hearts not because I was Catholic, that
21 wasn't it at all. But my mom, who was ill -- she
22 had pancreatic cancer -- just liked me to bring

1 her little glass hearts. And so I would do that
2 and when she passed away I started doing that
3 with these larger versions of it, kind of, in her
4 memory. With the JFK eternal flame from the
5 cemetery across the way where we used to go see
6 the eternal flame.

7 We did a lot of these, all of these
8 have to do with healing. You see the dice in one
9 on the left-hand side, that is because it was
10 chance, it was like a roll of the dice, who was
11 going to get it. All of the sudden, you'd be
12 talking to someone and the next week you'd see
13 their obituary -- it was very jarring.

14 The middle one, you see the biohazard
15 symbol in the center, we embrace that symbol as
16 HIV positive people in this town, you've kind of
17 been raised by it because everyone thought you
18 were kind of hazardous.

19 And the last one, it's just a
20 beautiful silver -- I just wanted to do a -- this
21 is my memorial to hospice workers. Because at
22 that point the AIDs hospice workers were, I

1 thought, the most heavenly, amazing people on
2 this planet -- certainly in this city.

3 You didn't see them on the street, you
4 didn't know who they were but there were hundreds
5 of people who went out and helped all those
6 people in all those AIDs hospices. So that's
7 what that last one went to, as a result of that.

8 I put this one up, the blue side is
9 heaven, the other side is hell. I was told I was
10 going to hell on such a regular basis that I
11 thought I would find out which it would be. And
12 I would spin that, it would go a certain way --
13 and, I think, Margery Goldberg from -- what's her
14 name Arielle, I forgot now -- but she sold that
15 to a preacher which I thought was kind of
16 interesting.

17 I like that, I guess he wanted to see
18 which one he was going to, too. You know, if he
19 played it right, he would've weighted it so he
20 always went to heaven, but I didn't suggest that
21 to him, so. This was at the Artomatic in the
22 Hechinger Building, to give you a time frame.

1 Okay. Next. I can do this in seven minutes.

2 The video of this is from the Library
3 of Congress. It was in 1896, the first time two
4 men were ever filmed dancing together. Now that
5 place where they were was Thomas Edison's studio,
6 he wanted to see if he could have sound play and
7 someone dancing would sync up, because they
8 didn't know enough about movies at that time, so
9 this was him testing it.

10 So two men in his lab got up to dance
11 and they did that for 30 seconds to see how that
12 would work, and there's no way they could know
13 that, over a century later, that this would be an
14 iconic video for so many people.

15 To actually see recognition of two
16 people dancing together, two people of the same
17 sex. I mean, they had great grandkids that are
18 now dead, but yet that 30 seconds that they had
19 lived longer than anything they had done.

20 And also, new media kind of begins
21 with Edison's experimental films, so the
22 combination of this new media and this beautiful

1 thing -- and they look so sweet when you see it.

2 You know, over the years it probably
3 looked silly, or horrible, or -- they had a lot
4 of things, I'm sure, thought about them. Now
5 it's quaint, it's sweet. We hope they met back
6 then, we hope they're dancing together. But
7 it's, you know, things have changed a lot, that's
8 all.

9 Okay. This one was two women I knew
10 in the '70s, they had met when they were in their
11 early 20s and fallen amazingly in love here in
12 D.C..

13 And both their parents pulled them
14 apart, they could not stand the thought that
15 their daughters were gay. One set an arranged
16 marriage up with one of the daughters and the
17 other one eventually married a man because she
18 just felt so horrible, and dirty, and guilty that
19 she thought, well, this is what you're supposed
20 to do.

21 They re-met in their '70s, one had
22 divorced her husband already, the other one had -

1 - her husband had been pretty abusive all those
2 years -- she left him. The two women were
3 together for the last 10 years of their life, it
4 was a lovely, beautiful moment.

5 The video is of a woman dreaming and
6 as she dreams you see a hand touch her head, and
7 then, kind of, a ghost comes out of her body to
8 go and explore what her life should have been.
9 So, I'm glad they made it. Next.

10 On this one I put up, this was -- I
11 was feeling bad that day, I guess, but once --
12 the inside is a small, little white ceramic
13 figure covered in paint, it looks like blood
14 almost. And it's because, back then, once you
15 told someone you were HIV positive, they could
16 never see you any other way.

17 Whatever other identities you had were
18 gone, they were erased. So, from that moment,
19 they only saw you through that lens of being HIV
20 positive -- at least back then. Again, things
21 have gotten so much better, these seem harsh but
22 they were harsh back then, not so much in

1 retrospect now, so.

2 Okay. This is called Where We Hide
3 From No One, and you see this, it's a really
4 large, floral field. And then there's a video,
5 it's an eye actually blinking out of the foliage.

6 It serves two purposes. One, to say
7 we hide from no one ever again, there's no more
8 passing, no more anything, we're just going to be
9 ourselves. And number two, when I first
10 found out that I had this and thought I was dying
11 within a year, the only thing that kept me sane
12 and whole, the only thing that made me feel
13 comforted was, I remember my aunt, who I loved
14 very much, had passed. And I remember thinking
15 that she was watching over me and guarding me, so
16 this is also a protector.

17 Whoever sees this should see someone
18 they love very much who passed over, looking over
19 them, keeping them safe, keeping them on this
20 side.

21 Okay. This was just in the Tacoma
22 Glass Museum in Seattle. It's called We Rose Up,

1 it's an endless mirror form. And you see the
2 Vitruvian Man with a HIV positive symbol on him.

3 So, in an endless mirror, they say
4 anything over 13 images, you're seeing into the
5 next world. And on all mine you see at least 16,
6 and the reason that's important is, you see
7 there's a next world but it's indistinct, you
8 can't tell exactly what it's going to be. So
9 that's sort of when faith is involved at this
10 point.

11 But, for me, since there's that
12 tunnel, that four-foot tunnel on that thing --
13 which is only this thick -- we know it doesn't
14 exist, it's only in our minds, right? That four-
15 foot tunnel, we all know it's a trick, we saw it
16 as a kid, we always have. This is, kind of, the
17 grown up version, it's quite a large piece.

18 But in this one -- so since I can make
19 that interior any metaphysical world I wish, in
20 this one, everyone I lost over the years, there
21 they are saying, thank you for remembering us.
22 You know, here we are, we're doing fine but I'm

1 glad you keep us close to your heart and memory.

2 Okay. This is the one at the
3 Hermitage -- that's the Hermitage Museum
4 catalogue, they put mine on the cover, but it's
5 all in Russian so I can't read any of it. It was
6 very nice of them.

7 This is called Justinian's Oculus, and
8 in 541 AD the Emperor Justinian who lived in
9 Constantinople was one of the first people to
10 catch what we call, the Plague, these days -- the
11 bubonic plague. And, while he survived, one-
12 fifth of Constantinople did not, and they used to
13 say, when he looked in the mirror he saw the
14 people who passed looking back saying, you know,
15 don't forget us, don't forget us.

16 Well this is my second pandemic, the
17 one I had after this, of course -- and this, 800
18 years later became the regular bubonic plague,
19 but this is before. But I had the AIDs pandemic
20 and the AIDs pandemic affected many of you here,
21 certainly affected me heavily, I lost so many
22 people.

1 And also, I've even lost two people to
2 COVID, so to me these pandemics have a way of
3 reminding us to never forget those people who
4 were there before us. Those people supported us,
5 who paved the way, Sam Gilliam who passed so --
6 who helped so many people in this town, you could
7 almost trace half the painters here back to his
8 tutorage.

9 So there's a lot of people like that
10 and we never forget them, that's what this --
11 this is why it's called Justinian's Oculus, that
12 mirror, you see those faces looking back. That's
13 solid cast lead crystal, that thing -- I can't
14 pick it up. All right. Next. Oh, that was --
15 yeah, anyway, that was in Venice, too.

16 I also did the AIDs monument in New
17 Orleans, the second one ever made, the San
18 Francisco Globe was the first. It took 12 years,
19 I was in a bar on Lafayette Street -- whatever it
20 was down the French Quarter -- and someone said
21 they're thinking of doing a memorial and I said,
22 oh, I got a good idea, and I didn't.

1 And I just drew this out really
2 quickly, 12 years later it finally came to
3 fruition. As you go through, there were small
4 words printed, like, mother, son, friend, lover,
5 you know, grandmother, whatever. So that when
6 you went up, you could identify, you could say,
7 you know, I lost my son, or I lost my, you know,
8 whatever that is.

9 It's the final end of the candlelight
10 march vigil they have every year, so very proud
11 to put that up.

12 And I think I ended with that, that
13 was the quickest I've ever talked. And I'm
14 getting choked up, I'm really sorry. I didn't
15 mean to -- all right. Thank you so much for
16 having me here, you all have changed my life so
17 much.

18 I would not be standing here, nor
19 would the Washington Glass School be here, nor
20 any of this work made if it hadn't been for the
21 constant support of the D.C. Commission. And I
22 wanted to come today to see you in person just to

1 thank you in person, because, you know, I don't
2 think letters or anything like that do enough to
3 -- just to see everybody and thank all of them
4 from heart, okay?

5 (Applause.)

6 CHAIR VAN LEE: We cannot thank you
7 enough. And I'm one of these people who
8 appreciates that art should be interpretive, but
9 there's nothing more profound than when the
10 artist explains to you their work. I mean, the
11 insight that you added in this presentation is
12 something many of us never would've gotten, and
13 it's really sort of enriched us. So thank you so
14 much for that.

15 MR. TATE: Thank you so much for
16 having me.

17 CHAIR VAN LEE: And it reminds us why
18 we're here, because we can get wrapped up in all
19 the drama and consternation, and that sort of
20 stuff, and be dismayed over what's happening in
21 the world. But, at the end of the day, to enable
22 an artist like you to do what you do, and to give

1 back to us multiples of what we give to you is
2 why we're here. So thank you.

3 MR. TATE: And there's so many that
4 you all help, I hope they all get a chance to
5 come in and present to you all because it's such
6 an honor to be here to finally -- I would -- I've
7 been wanting to do this for 15 years. So I'm
8 really happy you all had me, again, thank you.

9 CHAIR VAN LEE: Thank you. Well we
10 will continue to provide this platform for
11 artists, this is what we want to do and so thank
12 you for taking the time --

13 MR. TATE: I'm sure I was the first
14 person -- I saw them come out, within 13 seconds
15 I already I'd already squashed it.

16 (Laughter.)

17 CHAIR VAN LEE: Thank you. So, on the
18 phone, can you all hear me?

19 (No audible response.)

20 CHAIR VAN LEE: Can they hear me?

21 PARTICIPANT: It was really hard to
22 hear when I was on the phone.

1 CHAIR VAN LEE: Can anyone hear me?

2 COMMISSIONER MILLER: Yeah, we can
3 hear you.

4 CHAIR VAN LEE: Good, good. Again, I
5 apologize for the --

6 COMMISSIONER HALL ROONEY: There's a
7 lot of feedback.

8 COMMISSIONER MILLER: There's a lot of
9 feedback.

10 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yeah. I apologize for
11 the --

12 COMMISSIONER HALL ROONEY: I can't hear
13 you --

14 (Simultaneous speaking.)

15 CHAIR VAN LEE: For the technology --
16 what did they? I can't hear.

17 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Someone said they
18 couldn't hear, it sounded like it was --

19 PARTICIPANT: It was Maria.

20 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Maria. Yeah.

21 CHAIR VAN LEE: Well we are working
22 desperately to move into the 21st century, and we

1 are challenged here but I commit to -- we're
2 going to find a solution to this problem. This
3 has persisted too long, this does not make any
4 sense. So we've got to figure out this, this is
5 ridiculous. So, anyway -- so thank you again.

6 MR. TATE: Thank you, I'll let you all
7 move along with your meeting.

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: You're welcome to
9 stay.

10 MR. TATE: I understand perfectly well
11 --

12 CHAIR VAN LEE: It's a public meeting.

13 (Laughter.)

14 MR. TATE: I've already heard her
15 talk, and she's not going to be controversial,
16 so.

17 (Laughter.)

18 CHAIR VAN LEE: Thank you. Thank you
19 so much. So now we'll move to the Executive
20 Director Report.

21 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Okay. Thank you,
22 Mr. Chairman. I'm assuming I can just speak --

1 yes. Good evening, everyone.

2 Chairman Van Lee is being very, very
3 modest. The idea of bringing artists into the
4 commission meeting was all his, we helped
5 facilitate. So this is a good thing, it's a
6 wonderful thing. And --

7 CHAIR VAN LEE: It takes two to tango,
8 I just gave her the idea or chore of finding the
9 artist to come, so.

10 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: We found a way to
11 tango so this is all good, yes.

12 Before I jump into my report, I just
13 would like to acknowledge also the way that we
14 have honored Sam Gilliam in the past, and I think
15 this was part of our 50th year anniversary series
16 of interviews that happened. But we have a
17 really good video of E. Ethelbert Miller, a
18 literary activist, poet, interviewing Sam Gilliam
19 -- they were very close friends of many years.

20 And so we will share that video on our
21 platforms, but we will also find a way to pay
22 tribute to Sam Gilliam, who was a huge figure

1 unto himself but also a mentor to so many. And
2 so I just wanted to acknowledge his contribution
3 to the arts, and that we will acknowledge, we'll
4 find occasion to acknowledge his work.

5 My report is pretty self-explanatory,
6 I'll move through it fairly quickly.

7 We have a new staff member who's
8 joined as a human resource specialist, Ms. Denise
9 Jackson. She has about a cumulative 12 years of
10 experience with the D.C. government, we are very
11 fortunate to have her working with us. She's up
12 and running already.

13 We have also received our NEA
14 partnership reward for \$861,200 for fiscal year
15 2022, we're moving through sort of finalizing our
16 paperwork for receiving the funds.

17 More locally, our Grants and Public
18 Art programs are closing, these last few weeks
19 will be the final few programs closing out.
20 We've had a pretty robust show of numbers for
21 submissions, it's going to take us a while to vet
22 through and make the comparison to last year's

1 application numbers. But just at first blush, it
2 looks like we have really good numbers.

3 Our Arts Bank submission, it closed on
4 Friday, was over 200 submissions. So -- and I
5 use the word submissions because we have to vet
6 through for eligibility to make sure that they
7 are, you know, eligible applicants moving
8 forward. But it speaks to all of the outreach
9 and the good work that we're doing, bringing new
10 folks into the fold for our grant programs.

11 Our Create and Thrive arts learning
12 program for older adults closed out, this was a
13 first time opportunity to apply for a grant.
14 This happened two years ago almost, and we
15 received a National Assembly of States Arts
16 Agencies grant program to try this as a pilot
17 grant program.

18 It involves having some training for
19 our teaching artists, we had about nine apply and
20 be a part of the program. And they went out into
21 our community centers to provide arts learning
22 program activities to our community members, very

1 well received. Huge shout out to the Arts Ed
2 team, to Alorie and to Camille, for really running
3 a very successful program.

4 We had a number of people, you know,
5 who signed on to this and who really enjoyed what
6 we had to offer. So we are looking to retain
7 this program through our Arts Ed funding next
8 year. So we're super excited this is a new thing
9 we tried and it worked out.

10 I've been out and about doing some --
11 attending some community events. We had one in
12 Shaw area with our commissioner Gretchen Wharton,
13 which was a dedication of two murals on women's
14 empowerment with some artists that are our
15 fellows. That was really a good occasion to be
16 out in the community.

17 I've also attended some of the, sort
18 of, national happenings. There was a American
19 for the Arts annual convention that we were
20 invited to provide welcoming remarks for, a big
21 turnout, good robust conversations, we were able
22 to provide registration opportunities for our

1 staff members. So there was professional
2 development opportunities that we took advantage
3 of there.

4 Our community outreach through our
5 three track virtual programming has been quite
6 successful as well. And a huge shout out to our
7 own staff members who are working across
8 departments, and working very creatively to
9 provide programs for the community out there.
10 And that's been really successful and exciting to
11 see happen.

12 We had a visit from the U.S. State
13 Department that was organizing -- or hosting an
14 event for International Arts Administrators,
15 mostly from Jordan, and Egypt, Morocco,
16 Mauritania. So we had a really good morning
17 hosting them, and exchanging ideas and knowledge
18 around arts administration, and even arts
19 education.

20 There was at least -- one theater
21 artist was a part of that group as well, we had a
22 really good morning, kind of, having a discussion

1 and networking opportunities with some staff
2 members and the guests.

3 And then our last piece was with D.C.
4 Public Library, where we are now. We have had a
5 really good set of conversations that resulted in
6 a MOU between the two agencies, to support the
7 work of our Humanities and Arts programming and
8 be able to provide more, sort of, outreach
9 opportunities through the networks of libraries
10 that he have here in D.C.

11 So, as part of a piece of that
12 equation, we have been invited -- Chairman Van
13 Lee and myself -- to be a part of the arts
14 advisory council, which is an initiative of the
15 trustees of the D.C. Public Library.

16 There was an inaugural meeting last
17 week that went really well, we talked about
18 opportunities to share our visual artists' works
19 through the libraries, the conversation is
20 centered on the MLK Library for now but there are
21 25 other venues that we will be making use of to
22 host some of our community engagement programs.

1 So I'll stop there, Chairman Van Lee.

2 CHAIR VAN LEE: Questions? Thank you,
3 Keran. Questions, anyone? Comments?

4 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Just -- I'm
5 sorry. With the public library, is that --
6 they're going to be part of the group that's
7 going to be able to take advantage of the Art
8 Bank?

9 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: That's the plan,
10 yes indeed.

11 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Fantastic.
12 That's great.

13 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: And we're going to
14 start with -- here, the MLK Library, there's so
15 many vast walls that need artwork. So the first
16 attempt is going to be to install a show here at
17 MLK, and then eventually -- because there are
18 sort of security and specific sort of concerns
19 with the different libraries for installing
20 artwork, we're going to sort of scale out once we
21 do it here.

22 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Excellent.

1 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yeah. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Good luck
3 getting the artwork.

4 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yeah.

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes?

6 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Keran, you
7 mentioned that --

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: Just speak up because
9 --

10 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Excuse me.
11 You had very good application, 200 for some
12 programs?

13 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: That's right, yes.

14 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: What was the
15 rate last year? The volume increase?

16 (Simultaneous speaking.)

17 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: That's the only one
18 that I happen to know about because I had that
19 conversation this morning, so it was around 150
20 last year and it's 200 this year. So we're going
21 to do another readout once the dust settles on
22 the numbers, that you can see the difference.

1 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Thank you.

2 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yes.

3 CHAIR VAN LEE: That's like a greater
4 than 30 percent increase.

5 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yeah.

6 (Simultaneous speaking.)

7 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: So seven. Seven
8 organizations -- there were 200 individual
9 applicants, and then seven organizations.

10 CHAIR VAN LEE: Be sure to speak louder
11 so they can hear you.

12 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Oh. I'm sorry. So
13 it was actually 207, it included 200 individual
14 applicants to Art Bank, and seven non-profit
15 organizations.

16 CHAIR VAN LEE: And I think -- I've
17 been tracking this, but it seems that in all of
18 our programs we're seeing an increase in
19 applications -- a significant increase, so that's
20 good.

21 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Yep. It's been
22 very steady, yes.

1 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Can I just ask
2 another question? You spoke earlier about the
3 expansion, probably, of the creative drive?

4 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yes.

5 COMMISSIONER TORRES: And how --
6 because, you know, once you send out these
7 professionals into the field that have been
8 trained and gotten so much information, my
9 question is always, who then do we count on to
10 sponsor them for this to become an ongoing
11 program?

12 Because it needs to be funded as an
13 ongoing program but also for them to be able to
14 go to the seniors directly, so that's great
15 because that's been the discussion that I've had
16 with the education committee for quite some time.
17 So I'm very happy to see that, that's great
18 progress --

19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yes. And we will
21 sustain it, we will figure out the vehicle for
22 it. Right now we have it as an aspect, a cohort,

1 possibly in our FY23 Arts Education -- David, am
2 I miss-speaking? I hope I'm not.

3 MR. MARKEY: No -- and yes, there's a
4 grants part to it and a programmatic, like, a
5 contracts part to it as well.

6 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: So we're trying
7 this already, and there may be even more ways we
8 can try to sustain the programming.

9 The interesting news was also that at
10 least, maybe two, maybe three of the participants
11 in this round of (inaudible), right, ended up as
12 faculty, teaching artists with the Arts for the
13 Aging that we've partnered with.

14 So the artists themselves are
15 interested in continuing to do this work and so
16 they've become a part of the faculty of this
17 group that does -- that provides arts programming
18 for older community members.

19 COMMISSIONER TORRES: I've had some
20 discussions with some community centers per se,
21 and one of the issues is that obviously the
22 funding process, you know, they may not be able

1 to get funding but they can get funding directly
2 by getting an artist.

3 To be sponsored by the commission, so
4 that probably would be a direction that we should
5 be heading towards because that's where a lot of
6 possibility does exist.

7 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Right. Yeah. And
8 this helped us try out the way, and it seemed to
9 work. It seemed to work, the teaching artists
10 are interested, they provided three sessions at
11 the community centers. They were interested in
12 maybe doing more or doing different centers,
13 moving around, you know. So this allowed us to,
14 kind of, work out all the ideas in a programmatic
15 way.

16 COMMISSIONER TORRES: The assumption
17 is that these are different disciplines?

18 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Okay, great.

20 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: They are. And they
21 got paired up, so poetry and music, it was -- the
22 closing event was really interesting because they

1 were talking about their process. Yeah.

2 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Thank you.

3 CHAIR VAN LEE: Other questions?

4 Comments? We'll move on to the Financial Board.

5 Kymber?

6 COMMISSIONER HALL ROONEY: I'm sorry.

7 Hi, it's Maria. I do have a quick question for

8 Keran.

9 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yes, please?

10 COMMISSIONER HALL ROONEY: And that
11 is, you know, I went to the Fragile Beauty event
12 today and it was so beautiful, the exhibit was
13 fantastic. They had a seminar also, as you're
14 aware, and it was just a very powerful event.

15 And I was really sad that not -- that
16 more people didn't know about it, and not as many
17 people as I would have liked to have seen
18 actually came to the event.

19 And I'm just wondering about our
20 outreach, our communication programs, and also
21 the communication about the grants, and how
22 things are coming along with each -- or the

1 communications going forth from the commission in
2 a timely way, and in a broad and effective way.

3 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: I will say it is,
4 Maria. I stepped into the program towards the
5 end and, you know, the in-person events are still
6 sort of touch and go on many levels everywhere
7 else as well. You know, even the
8 theater settings, the performances, the places
9 that I've been, it's like, the first day is,
10 like, it's a full house and then the numbers
11 start dropping.

12 So I think partly, you know, we're
13 beefing up our outreach, we have more muscle
14 behind it, more staff working on it, there's a
15 lot more regularity to when the announcements go
16 out. There's always more that can be done, you
17 know, in terms of our outreach. We can do the
18 grassroots thing, we can go out to community
19 events -- we had an event a week ago that Terrell
20 and our commissioners, Barry and Wharton were
21 there for.

22 So some of it is going to be that

1 grassroots effort that we need to make and then
2 some of it is, you know, it's sort of
3 skittishness and audiences not wanting to be in
4 enclosed spaces, and that kind of thing as well.

5 When I stepped out, there was a group
6 of students from Georgetown -- did you see them?
7 Yeah, from the day school. And so, and the
8 artist was commenting about -- there were about
9 maybe 20, 25 participants and she said, to have
10 that on the sorry, you know, everyone sort of
11 working on the sorry about, and making their mark
12 on global climate change.

13 That number was a good number for that
14 length of sorry, as it were, so -- but they do --
15 I take your point and, you know, always trying to
16 do more, and bringing in more people, you know --

17 CHAIR VAN LEE: I would actually make
18 two points here. One, for those who didn't see
19 it, in Friday's Washington Post there was an
20 amazing, very complimentary article on that.

21 (Applause.)

22 CHAIR VAN LEE: And I sent a note to

1 Rhona and Jeff saying, we need our PR firm to
2 blow this up, to, you know, just anybody who
3 wants to hear it that doesn't hear it, want to
4 hear it, should get this. We need to make a big
5 deal of this because it's such positive press for
6 us.

7 But the second part is where I think
8 you're exactly right, and I have huge frustration
9 over the wonderful programming we do and people
10 aren't there. I mean, the stuff we have in our
11 gallery, amazing stuff, but it's a handful of
12 people -- like, 20 or 30, whatever, right?

13 So we have challenged this PR firm,
14 Bame LLC, to really help us get to people in a
15 way we haven't before.

16 So, to me, it's not sufficient that
17 it's on our website, it's not sufficient that we
18 send out the email blasts, we've done that but
19 that doesn't work, right? So we're going to do a
20 program where we're going to the community.

21 I'll go further to say, there was a
22 \$125,000 budget that was set aside for

1 advertising the stuff we do and about the
2 commission. My view is, I would rather spend
3 \$5,000 for 25 in the community events, go to the
4 community. Because some people don't look at
5 this stuff with ads, and ads are expensive and
6 that sort of stuff, so maybe we won't go that
7 far.

8 But, no, Maria -- I hear you loud and
9 clear, the first thing you have to do is make
10 sure you have good programming, we do have that,
11 then we have to make sure that people know about
12 it.

13 And, no indictment of what we've done
14 in the past, but it hasn't worked sufficiently.
15 So we've got to do something different, and we're
16 challenging the PR firm to help with that.

17 COMMISSIONER TORRES: If I may make a
18 comment. Once you go past that building you
19 don't know there is an art gallery there unless
20 you're really looking.

21 CHAIR VAN LEE: Right.

22 COMMISSIONER TORRES: There is no

1 outward signage that actually says that this is
2 the gallery, welcome.

3 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER TORRES: And I think you
5 already got it in a location that is thriving. A
6 lot of people live there. So, as a consequence,
7 I think you're missing opportunities that people
8 don't know. They look at it as a government
9 building and don't look at it as a gallery. And
10 we should really take advantage of that walk in
11 traffic because more people will know.

12 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes. No, it's clear

13 --

14 (Simultaneously speaking.)

15 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- whatever we try, as
16 thriving as it may have been, has not worked and
17 so we got to try something different. And we've
18 hired a firm. And so they've got to help us find
19 a way for people to at least be aware.

20 I'm sure if people are aware of, and
21 we can get there this one time, then they'll want
22 to come again.

1 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Oh yes.

2 CHAIR VAN LEE: But otherwise who
3 knows. I mean, I didn't know it was there until
4 I got on the Commission. And I've been in DC
5 since 2007.

6 (Simultaneously speaking.)

7 CHAIR VAN LEE: You know, I had no
8 idea. So, I don't want to beat a dead horse, but
9 no, Maria, that your point was very well taken,
10 you're exactly right, and we're working on fixing
11 that.

12 COMMISSIONER HALL ROONEY: Yes,
13 Commissioners aren't the ambassadors.

14 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes, that's another
15 thing. We need the Commissioners out there and
16 bringing people to the gallery, bringing them to
17 Fragile Beauty, for the Washington Post to write
18 such an amazing article. And some of us haven't
19 seen it.

20 What is that about? You know, anyway.
21 Enough of me on my horse. The finance update.
22 Give us some good news Kymber and Brian.

1 COMMISSIONER MENKITI: All right, I
2 think we got some good news. And a brief update,
3 because we're going to pass a bunch of grants.
4 But Brian will reconnect earlier.

5 The finance committee met last week to
6 get \$49.8 million voted into the budget.

7 CHAIR VAN LEE: So let's pause there.
8 We got \$49.8 million to give out to
9 organizations.

10 COMMISSIONER MENKITI: \$42 million of
11 that is scheduled to go out through the worker
12 grants. This I think is a really cool number.
13 Our budget right now is 80 percent grants, 20
14 percent sort of admin overhead. And an
15 additional \$12 million that comes in, all of that
16 is allocated out to the worker grants bringing
17 that allocation to an 85/15.

18 So just, I think a lot of effort being
19 put to get as many resources as we can out to the
20 community. So, Brian, anything you want to add
21 before we kick it to grants?

22 CHAIR VAN LEE: Just in case Brian

1 doesn't say, let's manage expectations. We can't
2 guarantee we'll have \$49 million next year. We
3 have \$49 million because some of the money was
4 delayed taxes and Brian can explain it better.

5 But for this year we want to have
6 maximum impact with the money to people who
7 haven't gotten money before. We're going to give
8 money that is GOS, that's capacity building.

9 All the stuff we've been talking
10 about, we can't say we can't do it because we
11 don't have any money. So we got to find a way to
12 make real the finance report because we have the
13 resources behind it. So with that, Brian.

14 MR. ALLENDE: Good evening, everyone.
15 I really don't have anything. I think Kymber hit
16 the nail on the head.

17 Again, this is truly a testament of
18 this Commission and the executive leadership's
19 vision when we add in the additional funding that
20 we focused on, getting the funding out to the
21 community. And not staying along the lines of
22 what the legislative mandates would be, which

1 would be allocating any additional funding to the
2 administration of getting the funds out.

3 So, again, worth doing the job getting
4 this \$42 million. It's more, \$42 million is more
5 than we have ever budgeted in CAH's budget as a
6 whole, not just grants. So, that is a monument
7 to all.

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: And we're going to do
9 good with that money.

10 COMMISSIONER MENKITI: That's correct.
11 We're going to do good and tell that story.

12 CHAIR VAN LEE: Exactly. Exactly.

13 So, questions or comments because
14 grants is going to really tell us what we're
15 going to do with the money. Any questions for
16 finance before we move on?

17 And again, I'm going to remind you
18 that we can't guarantee we'll have that much
19 money next year. In fact, I can almost guarantee
20 we won't have that much money next year. So
21 while we have it we're going to do the very best
22 we can with it.

1 Thank you. Thank you, Kymber and
2 Brian. Grants. Gretchen, are you with us?

3 MR. JOHNSON: I think I'm filling in
4 for Gretchen --

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: Oh, good.

6 MR. JOHNSON: So, my name is Terrell
7 Johnson, senior grants officer with the
8 Commission. I am a Black male wearing a black
9 shirt, purple shirt underneath with a quickly
10 graying beard.

11 (Laughter.)

12 MR. JOHNSON: Just some quick updates
13 for you guys. The FY22 update. So we have the
14 relief and recovery fund. So that's one of our
15 new grant programs for this year.

16 We were tasked with bringing some
17 grant programs that would bring in new
18 organizations to the fold.

19 So our relief and recovery fund for
20 individuals, we had 343 applications. That's 21
21 percent more than we had for FY21. And we had
22 19.5 percent new applications over FY21 for that

1 one.

2 For our relief and recovery fund
3 organizations, we had 30 applications. Thirty-
4 three percent of the new applicants were, 33
5 percent of those applicants were brand new.

6 The other 66 percent were
7 organizations that didn't get funded in FY22. So
8 they were newer. Or they didn't at first but
9 they're coming back into the fold. So that was a
10 great win there.

11 The capacity building initiative. I
12 feel like I have talked about that each month but
13 --

14 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes. Keep talking
15 about it.

16 (Laughter.)

17 MR. JOHNSON: -- we are there. So, we
18 just finally worked with our nine organizations
19 that will lead that firm. We had our first
20 orientation with them on Friday, answered all
21 their questions.

22 We had a meeting this Wednesday, June

1 29th, at 1 o'clock with 81 organizations who will
2 participate in the capacity building. So we're
3 excited to get them going. They're going to work
4 through July, August and September to roll out
5 some of these programs.

6 CHAIR VAN LEE: So in the spirit of
7 beating a dead horse, is this what I call the
8 mentor protege program?

9 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, it is. Yes.

10 CHAIR VAN LEE: Turn it on.

11 Yes, the light off means it's working.

12 (Laughter.)

13 CHAIR VAN LEE: So good. So for those
14 who in the past have heard them, and I always
15 talk about the mentored partnership program,
16 where both large and small organizations have
17 mentored each other because those large
18 organizations don't think small, small don't
19 think large necessarily. That's what this
20 program is. So it's the grantees helping each
21 other.

22 MR. JOHNSON: And those nine

1 organizations are made up of just that. Both
2 small and large organizations. So, we're waiting
3 for our selection. It was tough to whittle it
4 down because everyone had such great
5 applications, but we're happy with where we
6 landed.

7 So, update --

8 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: How do
9 you know who they are?

10 MR. JOHNSON: Oh, you know what, I can
11 announce them. I don't have the list with me,
12 can I send you guys an email with that
13 information?

14 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Well, you
15 can't remember any of them --

16 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. See, you're
17 putting me on the spot --

18 (Laughter.)

19 MR. HASSER: Washington Project for
20 the Arts.

21 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

22 CHAIR VAN LEE: Speak into the

1 microphone.

2 MR. JOHNSON: Washington Project for
3 the Arts, the Preservation --

4 MR. HASSER: DC Preservation.

5 MR. JOHNSON: DC Preservation.

6 MR. HASSER: Heurich House.

7 MR. JOHNSON: Heurich House.

8 MR. HASSER: J Stage. J --

9 (Simultaneously speaking.)

10 MR. JOHNSON: Theater J.

11 MR. HASSER: There you go. And --

12 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Are these --

13 MR. HASSER: WALA. Washington --

14 MR. JOHNSON: So WALA is a very small
15 organization. They have two full time staff, but
16 most of their staff are made of volunteers.

17 (Simultaneously speaking.)

18 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: WALA is
19 Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts.

20 (Simultaneously speaking.)

21 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Washington
22 Area Lawyers for the Arts. And they just

1 volunteer. There is just two staff members and
2 people who need to be incorporated to do legal
3 help --

4 CHAIR VAN LEE: Participants on the
5 phone can't hear anything you said.

6 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Speak
7 into the microphone. Or speak loud like me.

8 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Right.

9 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Okay, so
10 what are the other ones? I don't want to belabor
11 this but I'm just curious.

12 MR. JOHNSON: So what I can do is I
13 can, it was nine organizations.

14 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Nine
15 small or nine in total?

16 MR. JOHNSON: Nine. We picked nine
17 total.

18 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Okay.

19 MR. JOHNSON: But it was a mix of
20 large organizations. And we had, right now we
21 had nine communities of practice, so we just
22 needed nine organizations.

1 So, out of the applications that we
2 received we had to whittle it down to nine. But
3 we were very conscious and not make it all big
4 organizations we wanted some small organizations
5 who needed to grow their capacity building and
6 that kind of thing.

7 The other thing is we let the
8 organizations know that they weren't the experts.
9 So they wanted to head up a community of practice
10 that they needed help with at their organization.
11 We encouraged them to do that.

12 So what we want, the idea is we really
13 want them to bring in experts in those areas. So
14 we don't want any of our organizations there
15 saying, we know everything and this is how you do
16 it. That's really not it.

17 We want to make a community of
18 practice where everyone is learning. These
19 administrative lead organizations are more so
20 that people who are scheduling the meetings,
21 making sure that the resources are there and
22 finding the resources to bring in.

1 So none of the organizations are kind
2 of leading that space. But the administrative
3 lead organizations are making sure the space is
4 setup, moving it along forward.

5 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: I'm
6 comfortable with the concept and I'm comfortable
7 with the philosophy, what I don't know is the
8 diversity. I mean, I hear nine small but are
9 they --

10 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: I just
12 want to make sure that everybody is on the table.

13 MR. JOHNSON: We have two small ones.
14 So it's --

15 MR. HASSER: Dennis Institute --

16 MR. JOHNSON: Dennis Institute.

17 MR. HASSER: -- medium sized
18 organization. But a Hundred Reporters is
19 relatively small.

20 (Simultaneously speaking.)

21 MR. JOHNSON: -- and Dennis Institute
22 both identify as Black Art. So two of them are -

1 -

2 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: They are
3 Black Art? Are they Black Art or Latino, what
4 are they?

5 MR. JOHNSON: They're African-American
6 organizations.

7 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Okay.
8 Call it what it is.

9 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

10 CHAIR VAN LEE: There's new
11 nomenclature. You have to give it the new
12 nomenclature.

13 (Simultaneously speaking.)

14 CHAIR VAN LEE: So are you satisfied?
15 Can we move on?

16 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Sure.
17 I'm going to get a little deeper, but yes, let's
18 move on.

19 (Laughter.)

20 (Simultaneously speaking.)

21 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER TORRES: May I ask --

1 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes. Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Of the number,
3 you said nine had been paired up. What drew the
4 limitation to nine, and was it a budgetary issue
5 or what, or just the eligibility?

6 MR. JOHNSON: It was really where the
7 interest was. So we sent out surveys to all of
8 our organizations.

9 We didn't just want to say, here are
10 the areas that you wanted to learn, we wanted to
11 find out the areas that these organizations
12 really needed the help. Because again, we're not
13 the experts so we don't want to say, you need to
14 do this.

15 So we did an extensive survey saying,
16 here are the areas that you want to learn. And
17 it came out to be nine specific areas. Things
18 like how to cultivate your board, how to
19 incorporate idea, how to do marketing for a small
20 organization. So there is very specifically
21 places that they landed.

22 With the organizations as, that will

1 take on the administrative leads, they had to
2 send me three of their top places that they're
3 comfortable with or community of practice that
4 they wanted to do so that we could place them and
5 make sure that everyone had someone to kind of
6 lead that community.

7 We also took into account that there
8 is a chance that there is going to be one that's
9 really popular. So say, I'll just say board
10 cultivation. If we had most of our 81
11 organizations, they dive into those two areas,
12 we're prepared to have two of that one community
13 of practice so that we're able to really work.

14 So we really try to be thoughtful
15 about how we brought the communities and practice
16 forward. Making sure that the community was
17 included in the entire process.

18 It was very clear how to apply. So
19 meaning, we had a broad window for the
20 applications to come in with reminders. And we
21 brought a committee together to review it. So it
22 was very kind of thoughtful in making sure that

1 everyone felt comfortable with the decision.

2 COMMISSIONER TORRES: I have a further
3 question with regards to, all those people who
4 applied, of the number of people who applied,
5 that may not necessarily be paired up,
6 immediately accessible or available information,
7 that need is still yet unfilled and probably a
8 very strong need of that organization that was
9 not accepted into the program?

10 MR. JOHNSON: No, no. we didn't turn
11 any --

12 (Simultaneously speaking.)

13 MR. JOHNSON: -- we only had nine that
14 are administrative --

15 (Simultaneously speaking.)

16 COMMISSIONER TORRES: You had
17 organizations --

18 MR. JOHNSON: So including that,
19 including the nine, we have 90 organizations.
20 Because again, even the administrative leads
21 they, they're not fee, they're really
22 administrative.

1 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Right.

2 MR. JOHNSON: So making sure

3 everything is scheduled --

4 (Simultaneously speaking.)

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- choose them to be

6 in the program --

7 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Yes, I

8 understand.

9 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- just some shows

10 them to be the administrative --

11 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Now I

12 understand.

13 (Simultaneously speaking.)

14 MR. JOHNSON: Anyone who said they

15 wanted them --

16 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes, within --

17 MR. JOHNSON: -- partner of the

18 program. Yes, so the 90 is across the board.

19 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Okay, good.

20 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Thank you.

22 CHAIR VAN LEE: So let me back on my

1 PR high horse.

2 (Laughter.)

3 CHAIR VAN LEE: Okay. So \$49 million,
4 slice \$42 million. Now there is the Prot,g,
5 Program, where we are with this, and it's great
6 PR. We should be getting that out.

7 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Absolutely.

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: We should be getting
9 that out. So I don't know what they're working
10 on, but I think it's just kind of, this is just
11 what's off the top of my head.

12 So we got to do a much better job the
13 minute these things pop up to publicize it and to
14 clarify it. Because some of the questions being
15 asked now can be answered in the PR if we were
16 practical about it.

17 So I know Jeff isn't here --

18 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: He's on the
19 meeting.

20 CHAIR VAN LEE: So, Jeff, with
21 preparing people we need to make sure that things
22 like this are pushed out significantly. I don't

1 care what else they're working on, artist table,
2 whatever, this stuff I think is really important.
3 We have to find the capacity for them to push
4 this stuff out.

5 Because again, we'll continue to do
6 good stuff and nobody knows about it. Including
7 commissioners.

8 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: That's right.

9 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: With your
10 permission, Chairman Van Lee, it's just a good
11 moment to take a minute to really thank staff.
12 It's not magic. This stuff is not magic. The
13 budget being \$42 million, payments going out the
14 door, programs being created, it's not magic.
15 It's really a lot of work on behalf of staff.

16 So just a huge thank you from today in
17 this room, this meeting, Patrick Calenthia,
18 everyone running around to make it work. All the
19 invisible hands. It's truly, truly, truly --

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Thank you all.

22 (Applause.)

1 CHAIR VAN LEE: I did want to make
2 sure that your good work is recognized. I want
3 to make sure that people are aware of this great
4 work, so --

5 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yes. Yes.
6 Absolutely.

7 CHAIR VAN LEE: So that's good.
8 Sorry, I cut you off from your grants committee
9 presentation.

10 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, no worries. A
11 couple quick things. I'll move through these
12 relatively quickly.

13 Our FY23 project based grants, right
14 now for the arts or humanities education projects
15 we have 43 applicants. Field trip experience we
16 have 26 applicants. Projects, events and
17 festivals for individuals we have 76 applicants,
18 projects, events and festival organizations we
19 have 48 applicants.

20 The arts and humanities fellowship
21 program closes on July 8th. So that's another
22 week that we have that going. And this is all

1 found on Page 84, if you're looking in your
2 packet.

3 East Arts, formerly known as East of
4 the River, closes on July 15th. Facilities and
5 Buildings closes on July 15th as well.

6 Just a reminder, we are going to have
7 our panel starting up in July for our grants.
8 And we will be looking for commissioner
9 conveners. So I will probably be reaching out to
10 all you guys, or Gretchen reaching to you guys,
11 to see if you will sit on the panel.

12 Last piece really quickly, CAH in the
13 community, you know, this is something that we
14 wanted to start with having the managers be,
15 grant managers in the community interfacing.
16 Once the public emergency happened we kind of
17 drew the program back and went virtually with CAH
18 in the community. We're happy to report we're on
19 the pin of going back out there.

20 So last weekend, the 18th, weekend of
21 Juneteenth, I had the pleasure of being with
22 Commissioner Masters Barry and Commissioner

1 Wharton at the United Covenant Baptist Church for
2 a Juneteenth program.

3 It was a great program because we had
4 the opportunity to connect directly with artists.
5 Commissioner Masters Barry and Commissioner
6 Wharton had the chance to give very inspirational
7 words to the young people there and the artists
8 there. I bought entirely too much art work --

9 (Laughter.)

10 MR. JOHNSON: But in this week alone
11 I had two meetings with organizations that are
12 perfect fits for our grant. It happened in Ward
13 8. So the two organizations are both perfect
14 fits for our new East Arts Program. So we're
15 excited about that. We're excited about new
16 opportunities. And we look forward to doing more
17 of that.

18 CHAIR VAN LEE: Good. Good. As I
19 said before, I'm curious of these grants, the
20 applications. Does this feel like an increase
21 over the past year, it's a decrease or what, how
22 do we measure whether we're being successful or

1 not?

2 MR. HASSER: The numbers are pretty
3 comparable to last year. There's not a, so far
4 anyway, there is not a huge uptick in the
5 project. Those three project --

6 CHAIR VAN LEE: So they're the same?
7 The numbers are pretty similar to the last year.
8 I know the need is there, so I think we need to
9 find a way to increase the applications. And the
10 need is there.

11 MR. JOHNSON: And the other thing, we
12 see a huge application increase that last week.
13 So I expect that these numbers are still, one
14 doesn't close until the 15th, the other doesn't
15 close till the 8th. So we'll see a kick off.

16 Because even with the RFI grant, when
17 it closed last Friday we seen a huge increase
18 during that last week. So people wait until the
19 last minute. And they can do it online.

20 We just want to give you an update
21 that --

22 CHAIR VAN LEE: No, I get it. I get

1 it. And again, since I have my hobby horse, I
2 keep pushing it.

3 MR. JOHNSON: Okay.

4 CHAIR VAN LEE: The PR effort --

5 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

6 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- how to make
7 amendments here --

8 MR. JOHNSON: I agree.

9 CHAIR VAN LEE: So we need to push on
10 them to make sure because of the capacity issue.
11 But I'd rather fix that problem than just some
12 people know about it or not enough people know
13 about it. And they don't -- like I said, they
14 don't know.

15 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

16 CHAIR VAN LEE: Even if they're late,
17 they at least knew about it.

18 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Right. I have
19 a question about the field trip experiences. Are
20 you going to all eight wards and everyone gets
21 included because in the past --

22 CHAIR VAN LEE: So Rhona is asking if

1 you go to all eight wards for the field trips?

2 MR. HASSER: So that particular grant
3 is open to presenting or performing arts
4 organizations.

5 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Right.

6 MR. HASSER: And just as the, there
7 are more presenting and performing, so I'm sorry,
8 Rhona, there are more presenting and performing
9 organizations in certain wards of the city.
10 There just, there are certain wards that are,
11 that don't have, I live in Ward 4, there are very
12 few arts organizations in Ward 4, but a lot of
13 individual artists. So generally I think there
14 is one applicant from Ward 4. One or two at the
15 very most.

16 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: When you say
17 field trips, can you explain so people, I mean,
18 you take people there or you go there or --

19 MR. HASSER: Sure. And arts
20 organizations apply to bring students --

21 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Right.

22 MR. HASSER: -- to their venues during

1 the school day for field trip experiences. From
2 Kindergarten through 12th grade.

3 CHAIR VAN LEE: So these are
4 traditional school field trips.

5 MR. HASSER: Yes. Like a student
6 matinee. Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Are there any
8 exceptions for seniors?

9 MR. HASSER: Sure. And not in this
10 particular, in Kindergarten through 12th grade
11 because usually there is an education piece.

12 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Yes.

13 MR. HASSER: But moving forward there
14 is nothing to say that they're not included.

15 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Because I know
16 that there probably would be a great deal of a
17 need or use for that in a lot of senior centers
18 because some of them actually, they're able to go
19 to the center so there is no reason why they
20 can't go further out into an art experience or --

21 MR. HASSER: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER TORRES: -- any kind of

1 experience --

2 MR. HASSER: It's definitely worth
3 looking into to see if there is --

4 (Simultaneously speaking.)

5 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Yes,
6 that's a great idea.

7 (Simultaneously speaking.)

8 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: We do
9 three different performances. And one is in the
10 day time, that we have seen bused in and they
11 look forward to it every year.

12 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Absolutely.

13 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Do you visit them
14 or they come to --

15 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: No, we
16 pick them up.

17 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Ah-ha.

18 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: At the
19 different centers around. And bring them, they
20 look forward to it every year.

21 COMMISSIONER TORRES: How do we go
22 about expanding it to seniors and making it

1 available for seniors so that it is already in
2 the programmatic action --

3 MR. ALLENDE: So perhaps we can
4 partner with the Office on Aging.

5 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Okay.

6 MR. ALLENDE: And that's a vehicle.

7 (Simultaneously speaking.)

8 MR. ALLENDE: So one of the things
9 that we have, I think that we can probably do,
10 that it may not be as much as a herculean effort,
11 is to partner with other existing agencies that
12 service those different communities. And if we
13 can just do some intradistrict agreements with
14 them, perhaps the groundwork is already there.
15 Meaning they have the number --

16 (Simultaneously speaking.)

17 CHAIR VAN LEE: Well, recommendations
18 like this exist in the taskforce recommendations.

19 (Simultaneously speaking.)

20 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Yes. But the
21 education committee, this is a discussion I've
22 had over and over about how do you expand that.

1 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: It's already a
2 partner. That office is already a partner for --

3 MR. HASSER: Right.

4 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: So we're already
5 working with them for the senior program so --

6 COMMISSIONER TORRES: So it's just a
7 matter of getting the field trip experience --

8 (Simultaneously speaking.)

9 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: We can think of a
10 way.

11 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Or the important
12 thing is, how do we, as a commission, expand our
13 services to our senior citizens.

14 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER TORRES: They should not
16 be not included. And the pandemic I know is a
17 slowing portion, but now we need to move ahead
18 because that's a great opportunity for us to
19 really do important work in the community.

20 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes. Yes, thank you.
21 So who can take this as an action item?

22 MR. HASSER: Sure, I can take it back

1 to the arts.

2 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Okay. All
3 right.

4 CHAIR VAN LEE: Because my frustration
5 is, we have these conversations and they go
6 nowhere. So instead of just talking about it
7 again, and I know, because I work with
8 recommendations, this was a recommendation from
9 the taskforce in December of 2020.

10 So it isn't the lack of somebody
11 thinking about it, but we need someone to have
12 the accountability to go and make it happen. So
13 I'm happy for it to be whomever.

14 MR. HASSER: Sure.

15 COMMISSIONER TORRES: As long as we
16 make it be, and function and be reported and
17 conferred the same rights as a standing committee
18 rather than a ad hoc committee because --

19 (Simultaneously speaking.)

20 COMMISSIONER TORRES: I know it is.
21 I'm well aware of it. However, it still, in some
22 ways, is behaving as --

1 (Simultaneously speaking.)

2 COMMISSIONER TORRES: No, no, no, it's
3 not behaving, it's being forwarded as such.

4 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: What?

5 COMMISSIONER TORRES: It's being
6 forwarded somewhat as such. But anyway, we'll go
7 over that --

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: We should have a
9 separate conversation about that.

10 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Absolutely.

11 CHAIR VAN LEE: Because we purposely
12 made it a standing committee.

13 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: That's right.

14 CHAIR VAN LEE: And I know that. If
15 it's not --

16 COMMISSIONER TORRES: I know --

17 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- to my attention,
18 I'll support it or whatever --

19 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Okay.

20 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- that's a separate
21 conversation. But let's move to actions. Let's
22 just not have the same conversations like

1 Groundhog Day over and over again.

2 Anything else on grants?

3 MR. JOHNSON: That was it.

4 CHAIR VAN LEE: Thank you. Thank you.

5 Public arts? Is Maggie with us or --

6 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: I think Lauren is
7 stepping in.

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: So, Lauren --

9 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: I'm happy to do
10 that.

11 CHAIR VAN LEE: There are a couple of
12 recommendations, I think --

13 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Yes, there are a
14 couple of recommendations. And I just wanted to
15 tag on to some of the things that Terrell was
16 mentioning.

17 We also are looking for panel
18 conveners for the remaining three programs for
19 fiscal year 23. So we're anxious to get that
20 taken care of as well.

21 And one of our programs we, by next
22 meeting, we can be able to really do a full show

1 and tell, which was the Color the Curb Program
2 with the DC Public Schools and DDOT. Those
3 artists are finishing up those locations in Ward
4 7. And so that's going to be a full program next
5 year.

6 But weather happens, things get
7 delayed. But by the July meeting we should be
8 able to do a full show and tell. And there is
9 lots of engagements with the schools, even though
10 they started back in, kind of strange, in
11 January. We were able to, the artists were able
12 to engage with all the schools.

13 So we have three programs that are
14 before the Commission for funding
15 recommendations. And the first one is for the
16 Cooper Gordon Park Sculpture Project.

17 And this is a civic commission
18 project. Again, these are, this is a one-off
19 project, it's not a regular program. It's
20 usually in partnership with another district
21 agency. And this particular project is in
22 partnership with the D.C. Water and Sewer

1 Authority. And along with the Department of
2 Parks and Rec.

3 It has to do with the park that's
4 being reconstructed as a result of the Deep
5 Tunnel Project over in Shaw. And as, once the
6 park is completed and that is done there is a
7 space for public art installation.

8 And this was for one sculpture that
9 would go in that park. It has a budget allocated
10 at \$75,000 that was sent to D.C. Commission Arts
11 and Humanities by D.C. Water.

12 And it was a panel that convened.
13 Gretchen was the commissioner convener. There
14 was one application that was requested to be
15 moved forward. And it was only for one award at
16 \$75,000. The highest score was selected. And
17 the recommendation is to move forward with one
18 applicant. One grant award at \$75,000 for that
19 top scoring applicant.

20 So there is a motion. I don't know if
21 it's appropriate for me to bring the motion or
22 someone else should bring this motion --

1 CHAIR VAN LEE: The chair can either
2 make the motion without us having to have a
3 second. I'll make the motion.

4 COMMISSIONER UCLES: I second it.

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: Good. So Jose made
6 the motion --

7 (Simultaneously speaking.)

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- a second.

9 COMMISSIONER UCLES: Yes, I can do the
10 motion.

11 CHAIR VAN LEE: Could you read it
12 please?

13 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Yes. I don't think
14 he has --

15 CHAIR VAN LEE: I'll read it. I'll
16 read it. Resolved. That the Commission adopt
17 the funding recommendation for the FY2022 CCP
18 Cooper Gordon Park Sculpture Project Grant as
19 presented for the total funded amount of \$75,000.
20 So we can move to discussion.

21 There is no discussion. And we'll do
22 a roll call on the vote. So I'm going to do the

1 roll call. Stacie?

2 COMMISSIONER LEE BANKS: Yes.

3 CHAIR VAN LEE: Cora?

4 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Yes.

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: Maggie? Quanice?

6 Rhona?

7 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Yes.

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: Natalie?

9 COMMISSIONER HOPKINSON: Yes.

10 CHAIR VAN LEE: Kymber?

11 COMMISSIONER MENKITI: Yes.

12 CHAIR VAN LEE: MaryAnn?

13 COMMISSIONER MILLER: Yes.

14 CHAIR VAN LEE: Maria? Maria? Cicie?

15 COMMISSIONER HALL ROONEY: Yes. Yes.

16 Yes. Maria says yes.

17 CHAIR VAN LEE: Okay. Cicie? Carla?

18 COMMISSIONER SIMS: Yes.

19 CHAIR VAN LEE: Hector?

20 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Yes.

21 CHAIR VAN LEE: Jose?

22 COMMISSIONER UCLES: Yes.

1 CHAIR VAN LEE: Gretchen? Derek?

2 COMMISSIONER YOUNGER: Yes.

3 CHAIR VAN LEE: So all present said
4 yes and it passes.

5 COMMISSIONER WHARTON: Gretchen votes
6 yes.

7 CHAIR VAN LEE: Oh, Gretchen, hey.

8 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Derek, and Cicie
9 just walked away from her camera.

10 CHAIR VAN LEE: Derek said yes.

11 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Derek, okay.

12 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes.

13 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Cicie too, okay.
14 She walked away from her camera.

15 CHAIR VAN LEE: Good. Thank you.

16 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Okay.

17 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: All right.

18 CHAIR VAN LEE: Next.

19 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: All right, thank
20 you. So the next one is for the Fiscal Year '22
21 MURALSDC Program.

22 This program is now in its 15th year.

1 Pretty amazing it's been here 15 years. But it
2 was established as a legislative program to deal
3 with the local graffiti inappropriately going on
4 private buildings and creating beautiful murals
5 using graffiti art and aerosol mural artists to
6 design and create these special murals throughout
7 the district.

8 It's is a partnership with the
9 Department of Public Works. They identify
10 property owners who kindly donate their space.
11 We have one who is sitting here, a Commissioner
12 who has done this in the past, who had a wall
13 that was, had illegal graffiti on it but now has
14 a beautiful mural on the side of it.

15 So in our 15th year, you know, again,
16 is again to establish and beautify neighborhoods
17 and communities in the District of Columbia.
18 It's positively to demonstrate the culture and
19 techniques of graffiti art, to promote and
20 respect the public and private property, and
21 heighten community awareness.

22 And the other really unique thing that

1 this program does is it provides a canvas for
2 artists, and mural artists, to create their work.
3 Because there is not a lot of space to do that in
4 the District so this is a nice way to provide
5 that palette for them.

6 It is an annually funded program at
7 \$100,000 between DPW and CAH. We collected, we
8 selected a roster of 12 muralists, finalists were
9 selected. And they will be matched with property
10 owners with up to eight walls that are approved
11 by DPW and the property owners.

12 So not all of the roster of mural of
13 finalists will be selected, but of the 12 that
14 are selected, the property owners will have a
15 range of artists from whom to choose.

16 And so this is a request to approve
17 this finalists roster. The exact amount will be
18 determined once the wall is selected. And it has
19 to do with the complexity and the size of the
20 wall.

21 CHAIR VAN LEE: So the amount is not
22 \$100,000?

1 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: It is \$100,000 --

2 CHAIR VAN LEE: Okay.

3 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: -- but the
4 individual amount for each grantee will be
5 determined once the artist is matched up with the
6 wall.

7 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Well,
8 that is my question. So, \$100,000 --

9 CHAIR VAN LEE: We'll get to
10 discussion. We're going to get the motion first.

11 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Okay.
12 All right.

13 CHAIR VAN LEE: So the recommendation
14 is resolved that the Commission adopt the funding
15 recommendation for FY2022 MURALSDC Grant as
16 presented for a total funding amount of \$100,000
17 for discussion. Sorry.

18 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: So,
19 \$100,000 is the total budget?

20 Is that the fee for the artist?

21 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: That's \$100,000
22 that goes directly, grants that will go directly

1 to the artist.

2 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: For the
3 artist?

4 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Well, it would be
5 up to eight walls. So some, you know, so up to
6 eight walls.

7 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: So --

8 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: And it has to do
9 with the size. Some of them are really big, some
10 of them are smaller.

11 Last year we had some walls that were
12 big with multiple artists working on it. So it
13 really just depends on that, that --

14 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Well, my
15 problem is, \$100,000, that's, don't you think
16 they ought to make more than that?

17 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: And that is a very
18 good point. And so there are lots of things that
19 we're thinking about as the --

20 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: We got
21 \$15 million you all, let's --

22 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Right. So we have

1 \$15 --

2 (Simultaneously speaking.)

3 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: -- and so this was,
4 you know, this is the 15th year, we can, we're
5 looking at ways that we can expand on the program
6 next year. If there is a willingness to add to
7 that --

8 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Because
9 these people right here, if there is a way to
10 increase the amount each individual gets. I know
11 it depends on the size and all, but with eight
12 people, \$100,000, they're not making that much
13 money.

14 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: And you've got a
15 good point. And that's something that we're
16 really talking about for next year, but that is
17 the role of the commission --

18 (Simultaneously speaking.)

19 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: I'm
20 talking about --

21 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: -- it has to be, it
22 would be that CAH would be contributing to this

1 for this year.

2 DPW intradistrict some money to us and
3 we added some money onto it to reach the
4 \$100,000. So, we can do, I guess, whatever the
5 will is of --

6 (Simultaneously speaking.)

7 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: -- about?

8 COMMISSIONER TORRES: The interesting
9 things that --

10 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: --

11 because many of these people --

12 COMMISSIONER TORRES: -- five new that
13 have not been there before, of the ones selected.
14 And then of the next set there are eight, four of
15 which are also new.

16 COMMISSIONER LEE BANKS: So it looks
17 like they're coming, are they coming from other
18 parts of the country and --

19 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: They're coming, so
20 this particular call is an international,
21 national and local call. It has been that way
22 for 15 years.

1 I know there is a lot of conversation
2 about it, and even though there is the one person
3 who is international who lives in, the person
4 lives in DC but is an international resident and
5 has to use that type of W-9, whatever, to
6 establish --

7 (Simultaneously speaking.)

8 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: -- between local
9 and --

10 COMMISSIONER LEE BANKS: California
11 and Florida --

12 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: -- international.

13 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Why?

14 COMMISSIONER LEE BANKS: Tennessee.

15 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Because that's who
16 applied. And that was based on --

17 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: So why,
18 why not just local? I mean, I'm just asking.

19 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: That's because,
20 well one, that's because the way the program has
21 been run for the past 15 years. And we do an
22 annual MOU with DPW, and that's how it's been

1 written. So --

2 (Simultaneously speaking.)

3 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: And we're looking
4 at that for next year --

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: Let's segment the
6 conversation between that which we can do now --

7 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Yes.

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- and that which we
9 should --

10 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Do in the future.
11 Right.

12 CHAIR VAN LEE: So right now, if
13 wanted to double that \$100,000 to \$200,000 we
14 would have the ability to do it. That's a
15 question. The double is just an arbitrary thing,
16 we're just trying to see --

17 MR. JOHNSON: I mean, that's something
18 that we can look at to see. And to Ms. Masters
19 Barry's point, it is funding \$42 million that we
20 have, so that is something to consider. But
21 going forward, I do, I've had conversations with
22 Ms. Dugas Glover about the program in looking at

1 the scope and how much we've budgeted. And so I
2 have increased the allocation from CAH's
3 perspective.

4 (Simultaneously speaking.)

5 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: I mean, we've been
6 interested in doing that.

7 CHAIR VAN LEE: And I'll suggest at
8 this point it's too late to open it up to new
9 people for right now.

10 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Yes.

11 CHAIR VAN LEE: But we could give more
12 money --

13 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Sure.

14 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- to the people that
15 we've already --

16 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Sure.

17 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- right?

18 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Sure.

19 CHAIR VAN LEE: So my question again
20 is, if we wanted to double that \$100,000 to
21 \$200,000, or even \$250, whatever, it is possible.

22 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Can we give

1 precedent to people who live in DC because this
2 has been going on for years, and if we're going
3 to give more money in this pot I'd like to see
4 the DC residents get more --

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: Once again, once
6 again, we had a panel, I think it's too late to
7 change that for now. We can do it going forward.
8 But it's not too late to increase the --

9 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Right.

10 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- amount. So I'm
11 just trying to segment the conversation between -
12 -

13 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Sure.

14 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- that which we can
15 do now versus that which we should think about
16 changing going forward.

17 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: We can always find
18 ways to spend money. And it's up to --

19 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Process.
20 Process. We're talking about the process right
21 now.

22 (Simultaneously speaking.)

1 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: So it's just a
2 matter of increasing that number and --

3 CHAIR VAN LEE: Now, if we wanted to
4 reopen the process completely --

5 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: How?

6 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- and hold these
7 grants until we, we can do a re-panel. But I'm
8 not sure if we want to do that.

9 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: I think that's
10 complicated because it would have to be completed
11 --

12 CHAIR VAN LEE: Exactly. Exactly.
13 That's my point.

14 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Yes.

15 (Simultaneously speaking.)

16 CHAIR VAN LEE: So we have two
17 conversations going on, right?

18 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Right.

19 CHAIR VAN LEE: I would suggest the
20 conversation we can have now is about can we,
21 that this group has already been paneled --

22 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Sure.

1 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- of the 12, five are
2 new people, so that's good news, can we give them
3 more money, since we have more money?

4 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: If they are
5 selected, if they are the ones that get paired
6 with the eight buildings, yes, we could. And
7 perhaps if there are more buildings, maybe with
8 more buildings we could also add that.

9 CHAIR VAN LEE: Right.

10 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: So we can go back
11 and work that out --

12 CHAIR VAN LEE: Is that something we
13 can do now?

14 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: That's something we
15 can do now --

16 CHAIR VAN LEE: Okay.

17 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: -- in terms, and in
18 my conversations with DPW, if there are more
19 walls we can do that.

20 CHAIR VAN LEE: And I know the
21 commission was saying --

22 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: We're working on --

1 yes.

2 (Simultaneously speaking.)

3 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: -- more money to
4 it. Yes.

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- let's either make
6 it all D.C. or put more emphasis on D.C.

7 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Sure.

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: And let's make sure
9 that the amount of money is an amount of money
10 that is meaningful for the artist.

11 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Yes.

12 CHAIR VAN LEE: And maybe the offering
13 this year is just the beginning and next year
14 it's three times. I don't know.

15 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: And let's
17 take care of our economy.

18 (Simultaneously speaking.)

19 CHAIR VAN LEE: Cicie, did you want to
20 say something? We can't hear you if you're
21 speaking.

22 PARTICIPANT: You're on mute.

1 PARTICIPANT: Oh yes, I'm fine.

2 CHAIR VAN LEE: No, we were asking
3 Cicie if she wanted to say something. You're on
4 mute.

5 PARTICIPANT: We can't hear you,
6 Cicie.

7 CHAIR VAN LEE: And honestly I'm not
8 trying to belabor this but I think --

9 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: No, I think --

10 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- that we do what we
11 think makes sense. If we have the ability right
12 now --

13 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: And the money --

14 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- to fix it, then
15 let's fix it and next time, do it a little --

16 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Sure.

17 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- little differently.

18 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Sure.

19 CHAIR VAN LEE: Cicie, were you trying
20 to say something?

21 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: She's
22 still on mute.

1 CHAIR VAN LEE: We still can't hear
2 you.

3 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Could these
4 people, has this panel gone through already?

5 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Yes.

6 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes.

7 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: This has been --
8 (Simultaneously speaking.)

9 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: -- and it was based
10 on an MOU. And we do an MOU with --

11 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Right.
12 (Simultaneously speaking.)

13 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: So we'll start
14 doing the --

15 CHAIR VAN LEE: Cicie?

16 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: -- MOU for next
17 year.

18 (Simultaneously speaking.)

19 CHAIR VAN LEE: In the mean time,
20 Hector, you wanted to say something, I'm sorry?

21 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Yes. That's a
22 double-edged sword. And I'm all for funding D.C.

1 muralists that live and reside here, but at the
2 same time, it is important to recognize that D.C.
3 is a very international city and that gives us
4 some bargaining based on we attract artists from
5 all over the world to create work in Washington,
6 enrich our city as well.

7 But it doesn't mean that we cannot do
8 it ourselves --

9 CHAIR VAN LEE: Right.

10 COMMISSIONER TORRES: -- it just
11 simply means that we perhaps have to treat it
12 separately and differently.

13 CHAIR VAN LEE: So I would say that to
14 the Public Arts Committee to have a fulsome
15 conversation --

16 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Sure.

17 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- and come back with
18 a recommendation to the Commission --

19 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Sure.

20 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- and then we can
21 decide on it for the next time. But for this
22 time --

1 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Yes.

2 (Simultaneously speaking.)

3 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- the selection is
4 done. It's not a bad selection but, if Cora is
5 right, as I think she is, that may be just enough
6 money to not make it interesting enough, that
7 lets -- If we have the money, this is the year to
8 do it.

9 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Patrick, could you
10 read us out --

11 CHAIR VAN LEE: So Cicie said --

12 (Simultaneously speaking.)

13 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- but I suspect --

14 (Simultaneously speaking.)

15 CHAIR VAN LEE: I hear what you're
16 saying, Cicie, but I suspect if we gave more
17 money to the artist --

18 (Simultaneously speaking.)

19 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- they would gladly
20 take it. They're not going to say, all I asked
21 for was a dollar, give me a dollar, right? So
22 maybe they had a sense of how much money you

1 could get and that was impacting their decision.
2 But if we can increase it, and they can justify
3 the expense, then I think we should do it.

4 MR. HASSER: So if I can just add, is
5 there a dollar amount in the RFA cap? Do they
6 specify a dollar amount to the RFA?

7 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: No. When they said
8 they would --

9 MR. HASSER: Does it say up to --

10 CHAIR VAN LEE: No, no.

11 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: In the RFA -- I
12 can't tell whether it's glowing --

13 CHAIR VAN LEE: When the light is off
14 it works.

15 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Okay, so it's off.

16 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes.

17 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: So in the RFA it
18 just gives a range of the amount of the grant.
19 Of the grants that can be.

20 And last year we had grants that we
21 had unexpected private partnerships with that
22 increased the grant amount.

1 MR. HASSER: Right.

2 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: So, all it says in
3 the RFA is a grant range.

4 MR. HASSER: But there is a dollar, is
5 there a dollar, the reason I'm asking is that the
6 Office of the City Administrator has very clear
7 stipulations around RFAs and maximum amounts in
8 RFAs.

9 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: So there is a
10 maximum amount, but we could perhaps add more
11 walls with more money. So we --

12 MR. HASSER: Correct.

13 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: -- can work around
14 that. I guess what I'm saying is, if there is
15 more money and that is authorized by --

16 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Then you just
17 add more walls.

18 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: -- we just figure
19 out how we make it work.

20 CHAIR VAN LEE: But in fairness to
21 Cicie, she is saying, also keep in mind that they
22 would be making requests for travel, et cetera.

1 Because many of them are traveling from --

2 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Yes.

3 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- afar that, in my
4 opinion, is not an ideal use of Commission funds.

5 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Right.

6 CHAIR VAN LEE: So what I'll suggest
7 we do now is let us vote on the maximum amount
8 that we can fund this and let the public arts
9 committee work with the grantees, figure out what
10 amount is due to them.

11 If \$120 adds up to be fine, but if
12 there are people that need, and you justify a
13 need for more, we would have at least allocated
14 that money for them.

15 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Right.

16 CHAIR VAN LEE: Is that an okay
17 solution? So I'm asking, Cicie, do you feel
18 comfortable with that or is that still, thumbs
19 up, good.

20 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Yes, so they're
21 not, so just -- Yes. And we can do that.

22 CHAIR VAN LEE: Good.

1 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: But for clarity,
2 they figure that into their budget. And that is
3 true, those who have travel, they're going, less
4 is going to go into their pockets --

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: Right.

6 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: -- right?

7 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Yes.

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: Right.

9 (Simultaneously speaking.)

10 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: -- from
11 California, well, you know.

12 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: For some people,
13 the honor to be part of --

14 (Simultaneously speaking.)

15 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: -- Mural scene and
16 DC and so maybe they have family here --

17 (Simultaneously speaking.)

18 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: There are lots of
19 different reasons why people --

20 (Simultaneously speaking.)

21 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: -- from far away
22 would do it. But it's involved, you know.

1 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes. So if you all
2 allow me, I will suggest an amendment to the
3 recommendation that says, resolved, that the
4 Commission adopt a funding recommendation for the
5 FY2022 MURALSDC grant as presented for a total
6 funding amount not to exceed \$200,000.

7 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Okay.

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: So, the discussion
9 now.

10 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: I think that's
11 really fair.

12 CHAIR VAN LEE: And once again, let's
13 not spend money we don't have to.

14 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Right. No, I hear
15 you.

16 CHAIR VAN LEE: But, if indeed an
17 artist can justify that --

18 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: That's right.

19 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- to your point
20 they're going to say, I'm going to take a loss on
21 this because it's important for me to be in this
22 work.

1 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Right.

2 CHAIR VAN LEE: It would be nice if
3 they didn't have to take a loss. This starving
4 artist thing is like, I never liked that, that's
5 problematic and that's a no.

6 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: One of the first
7 things we do is tell our -- because public
8 artists tend to do that.

9 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes.

10 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: The first thing we
11 tell them to do, you take your percentage off the
12 top.

13 CHAIR VAN LEE: Right.

14 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: And then --

15 CHAIR VAN LEE: Right.

16 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: -- make sure you
17 get paid.

18 CHAIR VAN LEE: Right.

19 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Don't do this
20 project so you're not getting paid.

21 CHAIR VAN LEE: Right.

22 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Because, yes, you

1 get the recognition, but you --

2 CHAIR VAN LEE: But that's not --

3 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: -- the practice of
4 paying yourself. Right.

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: That's how they --

6 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: I know they do.

7 That's what we try to --

8 (Simultaneously speaking.)

9 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: -- what we try to
10 work towards, right?

11 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER TORRES: If we were just
13 simply to expand in looking at the ones that were
14 graded here, underscoring, and we've done that
15 before --

16 (Simultaneously speaking.)

17 COMMISSIONER TORRES: -- there are
18 people here that we can include more regional on
19 this local, Maryland and Maryland, and one that I
20 don't know where from. You see what I'm talking
21 about. So it can go into a more local economy.

22 CHAIR VAN LEE: So let me give this

1 back to the local arts committee and see if you
2 can find a way to get more D.C. people in there.

3 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Okay.

4 CHAIR VAN LEE: See if artists need
5 more money.

6 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Sure.

7 CHAIR VAN LEE: Just give them more
8 money. Not to exceed the \$200,000. And then for
9 next time we'll have a more fulsome --

10 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Sure.

11 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- set of criteria
12 that reflect this conversation.

13 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Yes.

14 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Mr. Chairman?

15 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes.

16 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: I would ask that we
17 internally also have a conversation so that it's
18 not just this decision that is commission driven.
19 We need to sort of regroup --

20 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes.

21 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: -- and see what it
22 all looks like.

1 CHAIR VAN LEE: All we've said is not
2 to exceed \$200,000.

3 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yes.

4 CHAIR VAN LEE: That's all we're at.

5 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yes.

6 CHAIR VAN LEE: And I'm happy to go
7 back to the Public Arts Committee and the Staff -
8 -

9 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Right.

10 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- to come back with
11 a recommendation of how the money should be spent
12 specifically. They may come back with exactly
13 what they did.

14 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yes. The reason I
15 say this is because it's a shared program with
16 another D.C. government agency, so just give us a
17 minute to think through the pieces there.

18 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: It's a
19 sure thing with another agency but they're giving
20 what they're going to give. So whatever is going
21 to be increased is going to be on our side.

22 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: I understand that.

1 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: I mean,
2 just like any --

3 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: They're not going
4 to say no --

5 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Right.
6 I mean, yes.

7 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: It's not about no
8 or yes, it's about giving us a moment to think
9 through --

10 (Simultaneously speaking.)

11 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: -- it's actually
12 the work. So we do have to think through the
13 pieces to it.

14 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Sure.

15 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: So we just need a
16 moment to like figure out what that looks like on
17 the programing side.

18 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: And I think we
19 should do them over quickly so they can go back
20 to the public art committee --

21 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Right.

22 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: -- and we can

1 be done.

2 (Simultaneously speaking.)

3 CHAIR VAN LEE: So let's go to the
4 vote. The motion is that we have a funding
5 amount not to exceed \$200,000. And that we will
6 let the Public Art Committee working with the
7 Staff to serve through, you now have extra money,
8 is it increasing the number of awardees, more
9 money per awardee --

10 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: More walls.

11 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- more walls.

12 (Simultaneously speaking.)

13 CHAIR VAN LEE: Because you're going
14 to have to bring that back to us for final
15 approval anyway, so let's not try to do their
16 work in this session.

17 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Okay.

18 CHAIR VAN LEE: But just given, that's
19 the direction. So I'm going to go through the,
20 Stacie?

21 COMMISSIONER LEE BANKS: Yes.

22 CHAIR VAN LEE: Cora?

1 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Yes.

2 CHAIR VAN LEE: Maggie? Quanice?

3 Rhona?

4 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Yes.

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: Maggie?

6 VICE CHAIR FITZPATRICK: Yes.

7 CHAIR VAN LEE: Kymber? MaryAnn?

8 COMMISSIONER MILLER: Yes.

9 CHAIR VAN LEE: Maria?

10 COMMISSIONER HALL ROONEY: Yes.

11 CHAIR VAN LEE: Cicie?

12 COMMISSIONER SATTARNILASSKORN: Yes.

13 CHAIR VAN LEE: Carla?

14 COMMISSIONER SIMS: I actually had a
15 question.

16 CHAIR VAN LEE: Okay. Sorry.

17 COMMISSIONER SIMS: Can I raise it
18 now?

19 CHAIR VAN LEE: We'll go out of --
20 just for a minute. Yes?

21 COMMISSIONER SIMS: Well, my question
22 was, why does it -- the amount that you

1 designated as \$200,000, and the Commission can
2 come back with a recommendation of what that
3 increase should be based on a lot of variables
4 that go into producing these murals and the scope
5 of the murals, so we could be limiting to
6 \$200,000 if we don't take that into
7 consideration.

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes, I was just
9 assuming if we could have somehow gotten
10 comfortable with \$100,000, we certainly can be
11 comfortable with \$200,000. That was an arbitrary
12 number.

13 But a recommendation came from the
14 committee to us for \$100,000 and doubling that
15 hopefully will be sufficient. But I can't
16 guarantee that. If you can come back and say,
17 change the resolution, change the recommendation
18 just so that you can work within some boundaries,
19 I just arbitrarily suggested doubling it. I hear
20 your point, Carla.

21 COMMISSIONER SIMS: Yes, because I
22 would imagine that that \$100,000 has been what

1 they've been working with for several years, so -
2 -

3 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Fifteen. Fifteen
4 years.

5 COMMISSIONER SIMS: Fifteen, yes.

6 CHAIR VAN LEE: So I'm happy to let
7 the committee go and do its work and come back
8 with a, if you discover the \$200,000 is not
9 sufficient, tell us and we'll rework it.

10 COMMISSIONER SIMS: Right.

11 CHAIR VAN LEE: So, Carla?

12 COMMISSIONER SIMS: Yes.

13 CHAIR VAN LEE: Hector?

14 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Yes.

15 CHAIR VAN LEE: Jose?

16 COMMISSIONER UCLES: Yes.

17 CHAIR VAN LEE: Gretchen?

18 COMMISSIONER WHARTON: Yes.

19 CHAIR VAN LEE: Derek? Derek?

20 Kymber? It's already passed --

21 COMMISSIONER MENKITI: Yes.

22 CHAIR VAN LEE: Oh, thank you, Kymber.

1 COMMISSIONER MENKITI: Kymber yes.

2 CHAIR VAN LEE: Derek? Is that a yes?

3 COMMISSIONER YOUNGER: Yes.

4 PARTICIPANT: I heard him say yes.

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes. So it passes.

6 One more.

7 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Okay, thank you.

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: We're having so much
9 fun.

10 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Okay. So --

11 CHAIR VAN LEE: And again, my goal is
12 not to belabor this, but this is important things
13 that we're doing here.

14 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Sure.

15 CHAIR VAN LEE: I'm hoping you feel
16 comfortable that the time we're taking is well
17 spent. Because this is very material to these
18 artists, right?

19 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Very important.

20 CHAIR VAN LEE: Okay.

21 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: I agree.

22 CHAIR VAN LEE: And I don't want a

1 rubber stamp, I want to make sure we have a
2 discussion. And if anybody opposes anything,
3 please don't let me ramble like this, that's not
4 my goal --

5 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: I mean really --

6 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- I'm just challenged
7 by, I can tell when I look, seeing we have the
8 thumbs up and that sort of thing.

9 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Okay.

10 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Can I
11 just ask, since you don't want to belabor, but
12 you keep belaboring when you add something so --

13 (Simultaneously speaking.)

14 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: -- I'm
15 going to add some more belaboring, that this is
16 about leveling the playing field. I get a
17 headache even thinking about us over here talking
18 about \$200,000.

19 When I came on this Commission they
20 were so balanced people were getting millions and
21 hundreds of thousands of dollars and we can just
22 keep trying to get that art in a more equitable

1 place. So this is nothing. This is just the
2 start.

3 And we should be doing much more for
4 our local artists. And so let's not even make a
5 big deal out of it and let's just find some more
6 opportunities to get some more money for our
7 artists who don't get paid enough around here.

8 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Yes. And I
9 think that's a major discussion for next year --

10 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: -- that won't
12 be forgotten.

13 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes. Sorry.

14 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: All right. Okay,
15 thank you. It's not glowing so it's off. Okay.

16 So the next one is for the Fiscal Year
17 '23 Marion Barry, Jr. Legacy Public Art Project.
18 It's also a civic commission project because it's
19 a one-time program and it's in partnership with
20 another district agency.

21 And in this case it's with the
22 Department of General Services. And it's also in

1 partnership with the Marion Barry, Jr. Legacy
2 Foundation. Which is a 501(c)(3).

3 This is a two-step project. The first
4 step was a qualifications round. And from the
5 qualifications round those finalists, up to three
6 finalists, would be asked to produce a written
7 proposal and submit design concepts, however they
8 want to display what their vision is for the
9 lobby of the 441 building, which is now the Mayor
10 Marion Barry Building.

11 They would get a stipend to produce
12 the -- or an honorarium to produce their written
13 proposals that would be due in early August. And
14 then there will be an in-person presentation to
15 the same panel for the finalists to explain how
16 they envision adding all the components to this
17 project.

18 There are three major components. One
19 is a legacy mural, the other one is interactive
20 kiosk or other kind of multimedia digital display
21 units. And then the third part is the placement
22 of the plaster mold of the bronze statue of

1 Marion Barry, which is in front of the Wilson
2 Building on Pennsylvania Avenue 13th 1/2.

3 So this request is for the honorariums
4 for up to, for \$7,500. For three finalists to
5 receive the honorarium of \$2,500, to produce the
6 written proposals. Natalie Hopkinson was the
7 commissioner convener.

8 And we met a couple of days ago. It
9 seems like it was a long time ago but we met a
10 couple of days ago.

11 So this is the recommendation for the
12 honorarium for the three finalists that the panel
13 is recommending to the Commission.

14 CHAIR VAN LEE: Okay. So then I'll
15 read the recommendation and then we can go to
16 discussion.

17 Resolved, that the Commission adopt
18 the funding recommendation for the FY 2023 Marion
19 Barry, Jr. Legacy Public Art Project Program
20 Grant finalists as presented for a total funding
21 amount of \$7,500. Which is \$2,500 for each of
22 the three --

1 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Each of the three.

2 CHAIR VAN LEE: -- finalists.

3 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: And the project
4 itself is \$250,000.

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: Good.

6 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: And that money,
7 this is not coming from that money.

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: Discussion? Natalie,
9 since you are convening the panel, did you want
10 to comment here at all?

11 COMMISSIONER HOPKINSON: No big
12 comment other than this is a really exciting
13 project. You know, to be able to commemorate
14 this historic figure that's so important to the
15 City. And I just, I really have enjoyed being
16 part of the conversation about it, so, excited
17 about seeing it move forward.

18 CHAIR VAN LEE: Any discussion? I'll
19 take the vote. Stacie?

20 COMMISSIONER LEE BANKS: Yes.

21 CHAIR VAN LEE: Cora?

22 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Abstain.

1 CHAIR VAN LEE: Maggie?

2 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: I'm sure
3 you all know that.

4 (Laughter.)

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: Quanice? Rhona?

6 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Yes.

7 CHAIR VAN LEE: Natalie? Natalie?

8 COMMISSIONER HOPKINSON: Yes.

9 CHAIR VAN LEE: Kymber?

10 COMMISSIONER MENKITI: Yes.

11 CHAIR VAN LEE: MaryAnn?

12 COMMISSIONER MILLER: Yes.

13 CHAIR VAN LEE: Maria?

14 COMMISSIONER HALL ROONEY: Yes.

15 CHAIR VAN LEE: Cicie?

16 COMMISSIONER SATTARNILASSKORN: Yes.

17 CHAIR VAN LEE: Carla?

18 COMMISSIONER SIMS: Yes.

19 CHAIR VAN LEE: Hector?

20 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Yes.

21 CHAIR VAN LEE: Jose?

22 COMMISSIONER UCLES: Yes.

1 CHAIR VAN LEE: Gretchen?

2 COMMISSIONER WHARTON: Yes.

3 CHAIR VAN LEE: Derek?

4 COMMISSIONER YOUNGER: Yes.

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: Good. It passes with
6 one abstention.

7 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Okay.

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: Good. Anything else
9 from Public Art?

10 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: I have nothing.

11 CHAIR VAN LEE: Thank you.

12 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Thank you.

13 CHAIR VAN LEE: Thank you. Sorry I
14 was laborious but --

15 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: No, no. It was a
16 good discussion.

17 CHAIR VAN LEE: Okay. You bet.

18 MS. DUGAS GLOVER: Thank you.

19 CHAIR VAN LEE: Good. So governance.

20 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Last but not
21 least, this is very easy. It's housekeeping
22 issues.

1 The rationale is, one, we're just
2 correcting a typographical error. Two, I want to
3 clarify that the chairperson of the Commission is
4 the chair of the committee and is therefore
5 counted towards a quorum of the committee. Which
6 is very important on the --

7 CHAIR VAN LEE: Of the executive
8 committee.

9 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: No, we're just
10 talking of the executive committee. I'm sorry,
11 this is to amend Article VI, Committee, Section
12 3, which is only the executive committee.

13 And then three establishes the
14 executive committee meetings are public when
15 governed by the D.C. Public Meetings Act. So, as
16 chair, you're recommending --

17 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: And I am
18 recommending that we accept this and propose that
19 this be put into a motion and voted on.

20 CHAIR VAN LEE: Thank you. Now we'll
21 do discussion. Discussion? Is there any
22 discussion? Yes?

1 COMMISSIONER HALL ROONEY: Hi, this is
2 Maria. I'm a little bit confused. Can you just
3 explain again --

4 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Sure.

5 COMMISSIONER HALL ROONEY: -- Rhona?

6 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Sure. The
7 bylaws had some typos, and to have typos we had
8 to go through this to correct them. In other
9 words, one officer was repeated twice, so we just
10 had to strike it. It's just a housekeeping
11 issue.

12 The second one is that the chair of
13 the commission is the chair of the executive
14 committee and therefore counts as a vote in his
15 own committee towards a quorum.

16 CHAIR VAN LEE: The reason that's
17 important is, as chair of the committee I don't
18 vote on any of the other things you all vote on
19 unless there is a tie or something like that.

20 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: That's right.

21 CHAIR VAN LEE: In the case of the
22 executive committee, of which I am a member of

1 the committee, I'm ad hoc of the other committees
2 but I'm a member of the executive committee, so I
3 can actually be represented in the quorum.

4 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Right.

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: With just that
6 exception of the executive committee.

7 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Right. And
8 the last one is, we already are open and public
9 and this just codifies it into law, that's all.
10 It just puts it in our bylaws.

11 CHAIR VAN LEE: In the first writing
12 of the bylaws we didn't say that the executive
13 committee meetings would be open meetings. Now
14 because we gave the executive committee some
15 powers, later came back and said, if you give it
16 powers to represent the full commission, then it
17 has to be an open meeting like a full commission
18 meeting would be. Which we're fine with. We're
19 not hiding anything so we're fine with it. So
20 does that answer your question?

21 COMMISSIONER HALL ROONEY: Yes. Thank
22 you.

1 CHAIR VAN LEE: Good. Other
2 discussion or questions? If not, I'll take the
3 vote. Stacie?

4 COMMISSIONER LEE BANKS: Yes.

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: Cora?

6 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: Yes.

7 CHAIR VAN LEE: Maggie? Quanice?

8 Rhona?

9 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Yes.

10 CHAIR VAN LEE: Natalie?

11 COMMISSIONER HOPKINSON: Yes.

12 CHAIR VAN LEE: Kymber?

13 COMMISSIONER MENKITI: Yes.

14 CHAIR VAN LEE: MaryAnn?

15 COMMISSIONER MILLER: Yes.

16 CHAIR VAN LEE: Maria?

17 COMMISSIONER HALL ROONEY: I'm going
18 to abstain.

19 CHAIR VAN LEE: Okay. Cicie?

20 COMMISSIONER SATTARNILASSKORN: Yes.

21 CHAIR VAN LEE: Carla?

22 COMMISSIONER SIMS: Yes.

1 CHAIR VAN LEE: Hector?

2 COMMISSIONER TORRES: Yes.

3 CHAIR VAN LEE: Jose?

4 COMMISSIONER UCLES: Yes.

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: Gretchen?

6 COMMISSIONER WHARTON: Yes.

7 CHAIR VAN LEE: Derek? Derek? So
8 those voting all yes, with one abstention from
9 Maria. So that passes as well. So thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: And one more
11 thing. Heran, can you please have someone send
12 out the corrected bylaws to all the Commissioners
13 please so everyone has the new and they don't
14 have to go into them and correct it?

15 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Do you have it?
16 Who has it? Who has the corrected version?

17 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: It's going to
18 be corrected. Jeff is going to put these into
19 the new bylaws now that this has passed. Jeff
20 will have it.

21 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: There isn't a
22 corrected document? There isn't a corrected

1 bylaws?

2 CHAIR VAN LEE: Until this is --

3 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: We had to vote
4 on this.

5 CHAIR VAN LEE: This wording has to be
6 changed.

7 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Okay. So first
8 Jeff has to change it, right?

9 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Yes.

10 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Okay.

11 PARTICIPANT: And issue it.

12 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Reissue it, yes.

13 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: And then just
14 reissue the bylaws with these changes so everyone
15 has the same document.

16 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yes. I can do
17 that.

18 CHAIR VAN LEE: So we're almost there,
19 ladies and gentlemen. Next on the agenda is new
20 business. Is there any other new business from
21 any of the Commissioners?

22 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: One. I really

1 would like your Sam Gilliam tribute on our
2 Commission website as soon as possible because if
3 we wait and think about it, it's too late. This
4 man just died, I think this is --

5 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: How long
6 does it take to get things on our website?

7 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yes, we plan to do
8 a tribute in the next day or two.

9 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: With the paper
10 do you have a sense of when --

11 CHAIR VAN LEE: The dead -- the
12 general deadline is 5 o'clock today so I assume
13 they want to get it out today or tomorrow or
14 something like that.

15 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yes.

16 CHAIR VAN LEE: Otherwise it's not
17 timely.

18 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yes.

19 CHAIR VAN LEE: So you can take my --
20 (Simultaneously speaking.)

21 CHAIR VAN LEE: I think we should do
22 that.

1 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: Yes. In a day or
2 two we plan on doing it.

3 CHAIR VAN LEE: So do we have to vote
4 on that? I think that's --

5 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: No.

6 CHAIR VAN LEE: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: No, we do not.

8 CHAIR VAN LEE: Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: You just have
10 to say that I am moving that we --

11 CHAIR VAN LEE: Okay.

12 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: -- are asking
13 that we use the Chairman's statement as the chair
14 of the Commission for the Commissioners as
15 supposed to just a general --

16 (Off microphone comment.)

17 CHAIR VAN LEE: So I'm going to read
18 it again because some of you came after I did
19 this. I'll read again the comment that I sent to
20 the Washington Post. I'm sorry, the Washington
21 City Paper.

22 I have known Sam Gilliam for decades

1 and am proud to be a collector of his
2 extraordinary works of art. Sam was one of the
3 most impactful artists of his generation.

4 His innovation in the 1970s of taking
5 paintings off of the stretcher, watching -- for
6 many years had a set made from one of these
7 works, remade the Modernist Canon. Though our
8 historians and critics relate and acknowledge in
9 his contributions it is terrific and just that he
10 is finally achieved in the recognition he has
11 deserved for decades.

12 His artwork Ship was the first work
13 cataloged and accessioned into the D.C.
14 Commission on the Arts and Humanities art bank
15 collection in 1988. It will be installed at the
16 MLK Library in September as part of their new art
17 bank loan.

18 So that's the statement I wrote.

19 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: We'll probably have
20 to wait till the paper is published with the
21 quote --

22 CHAIR VAN LEE: Right.

1 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: -- but we can do
2 it. Yes.

3 CHAIR VAN LEE: Something like that.
4 So, thank you all. The next --

5 COMMISSIONER SATTARNILASSKORN: I just
6 have something really quick.

7 CHAIR VAN LEE: I'm sorry. Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER SATTARNILASSKORN: Are
9 people leaving?

10 CHAIR VAN LEE: They are. Go on.

11 COMMISSIONER SATTARNILASSKORN: Oh,
12 okay. I'm sorry to do this at the last, at the
13 end of the meeting, and I apologize to those who
14 I have not been able to tell personally, but I
15 just wanted you all to know that I will not be
16 seeking reappointment to the Commission.

17 Reggie and I had a long talk about it
18 and it was a very difficult decision to make, but
19 it's one that I made with a heavy heart but I
20 know it's for the best moving forward. I don't
21 know how exactly the, I know the sort of past
22 tense is a little bit up in the air right now, so

1 I believe there is like 90 days or something that
2 I can continue to serve if necessary, and I told
3 Reggie I would be more than happy to do that.

4 The truth is that my position is
5 filled and this is the last meeting. I just
6 wanted to publicly say how much this experience
7 has been to me and I really, thoroughly enjoyed
8 working with all of you and it's been so
9 meaningful for me to sit on this Commission and
10 to meet all of you.

11 And I will not be a stranger. I
12 already told my grants manager friend that I can,
13 I will be happy to be a panelist once again when,
14 I think I have to wait some time. But I'm not
15 going to be a stranger. I'm always going to be
16 here supporting from a distance.

17 And I just wanted to say thanks to
18 you. It has really been a true honor and
19 privilege to be on this board. And I thank you
20 for that.

21 CHAIR VAN LEE: Thank you. Thank you.
22 (Applause.)

1 CHAIR VAN LEE: Thank you very much.
2 And we did have this long conversation and I
3 completely understand why she wants to step off.
4 I wish I had the courage to step off of one of my
5 14 boards. And perhaps you can tutor me and
6 mentor me in how one can do that, but thank you,
7 thank you.

8 And we'll find another way to
9 recognize your service and your contributions,
10 but thank you so much. I'm sorry, Cora?

11 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: I was
12 just going to say, put Rhona on the spot because
13 she is leaving also and she might want to say
14 something.

15 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: No --

16 MS. SEREKE-BRHAN: You going to cry or
17 something?

18 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: No.

19 COMMISSIONER MASTERS BARRY: All
20 right.

21 COMMISSIONER FRIEDMAN: Thank you.

22 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes, so I think we're

1 done. Thank you all. The next regular meeting
2 of the Commission will be held --

3 (Off microphone comments.)

4 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes?

5 COMMISSIONER WHARTON: It's me.

6 CHAIR VAN LEE: Yes, Lauren?

7 COMMISSIONER WHARTON: Hi, it's

8 Gretchen.

9 CHAIR VAN LEE: Oh, hi, Gretchen.

10 COMMISSIONER WHARTON: No, no. Please
11 check your email. I cannot panel the --

12 CHAIR VAN LEE: Oh, so yes. We need
13 Commissioners to sign up for convening panels.
14 Please, please.

15 Maria, did you have something you
16 wanted to say or were you just trying to get me
17 to recognize Gretchen?

18 COMMISSIONER HALL ROONEY: I was just
19 saying, thank you so much, it's been a joy
20 working with you all very much. I wish you all
21 the best.

22 CHAIR VAN LEE: Thank you. Thank you.

1 So I'm going to try one more time. The next
2 regular meeting of the Commission will be held on
3 Monday, July 18th, 2022. We will try to make it
4 an in-person meeting again. We will try to fix
5 the technology issues for those who will be
6 joining by, in a virtual way. The time is now
7 7:19, this meeting is adjourned.

8 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
9 went off the record at 7:19 p.m.)

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Commission Meeting

Before: DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities

Date: 06-27-22

Place: teleconference

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate complete record of the proceedings.



Court Reporter

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