



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

MINUTES

**THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMISSION
ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES**

REGULAR MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order at 4:00 pm, Thursday, June 18, 2020 in open session via the WebEx virtual meeting platform, with Kay Kendall, Chairperson, presiding.

Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kay Kendall, Chairperson; Stacie Lee Banks, Vice-Chair; Cora Masters Barry; Edmund C. Fleet; Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Alma H. Gates; Natalie Hopkinson; Kymber Menkiti; MaryAnn Miller; Chinedu Felix Osuchukwu; Maria Hall Rooney; Cicie Sattarnilasskorn; José Alberto Uclés; Gretchen B. Wharton; Derek Younger

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Quanice Floyd; Josef Palermo

STAFF ATTENDEES:

Heran Sereke-Brhan, Acting Director; Carl Wilson, General Council; David Markey, Interim Senior Grants Officer; Lauren Dugas Glover, Public Art Manager; Brian Allende, Resource Allocation Analyst; Jeffrey Scott, Chief of External Affairs; Patrick Realiza, Social Media Specialist

Quorum

A quorum was present.

Land Acknowledgment

Chair Kendall read the acknowledgment of the ancestral lands of the Nacotchtank and Piscataway Peoples.

Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Kendall asked to modify the agenda by striking the closed executive session and adding unfinished business from the special meeting held on June 15, 2020; the modified agenda was adopted unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the May 21, 2020 regular meeting were approved with unanimous consent.

Welcome

Chair Kendall thanked everyone for continuing to make the effort to meet virtually in spite of the difficulties of the ongoing public health emergency.

Chair Kendall proposed rescheduling the regular meeting for July from the 16th to the 23rd; the rescheduling was agreed to without objection.

Public Comment Period

No public remarks were made.

Director's Report

Acting Director Sereke-Brhan gave her Director's Report. Phase Two of the District's reopening plan would begin the following week, but many agencies including CAH would maintain their current telework posture. Application review for CAH-NEA CARES Act grants was complete, awards for \$2,500 would be made to 134 individuals and awards for \$3,000 would be made to 29 nonprofit organizations to provide COVID-19 emergency relief funds for the arts and cultural sector. FY21 grant applications were opened, with the application period for the Facilities and Buildings grant program being moved into the Fall. To commemorate Juneteenth, CAH's partnership with the Lincoln Theatre will support a free live-streamed performance by the musical group, Sweet Honey in the Rock. The Americans for the Arts annual convention was planned to happen in DC, but pivoted to an online format due to the health emergency. CAH is underwriting the convention fees for 18 grantees, allowing them to learn from top professionals in the field at no cost. The Chinatown Friendship Archway conservation project is underway with scaffolding being installed around the archway this week. The conservation work is expected to be completed by the end of September 2020.

Unfinished Business

Commissioner Friedman, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Legislation, resumed the discussion from the June 15 special meeting on portions of the Commission's enabling statutes related to the agency's grantmaking authority and programs, specifically D.C. Official Code §§ 39-202 and 39-205, along with the Legislation Committee's suggestions for amendments to these statutes to propose to the Council of the District of Columbia. The following items were considered:

A proposed amendment to D.C. Official Code § 39-202.(9) that incorporates the following:

“Eligibility requirements for organizations receiving a grant award under the National Capital Arts Cohort shall include a midterm report, an annual report, a review of the organization's artistic merit and excellence, and the positive impact on the District of Columbia.”

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Banks, Barry, Fleet, Friedman, Gates, Hopkinson, Menkiti, Miller, Osuchukwu, Rooney, Sattarnilasskorn, Uclés, Wharton, Younger

Noes: none

Adopted 15-0

A proposed amendment to D.C. Official Code § 39-205.(c-1)(2)(C) that incorporates the following:

“All grant funds awarded to organizations under the National Capital Arts Cohort that are not fully or partially utilized in the current fiscal year shall be returned to the

Commission for use in the Arts and Humanities Cohort, and shall not be allowed to roll over to the following fiscal year for use in the National Capital Arts Cohort.”

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Banks, Barry, Fleet, Friedman, Gates, Hopkinson, Menkiti, Miller, Osuchukwu, Rooney, Sattarnilasskorn, Uclés, Wharton, Younger

Noes: none

Adopted 15-0

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Kendall adjourned the meeting at 4:52 pm.

Minutes approved this 24th day of September 2020.