



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

## MINUTES

### DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES REGULAR MEETING MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021

#### Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order at 5:32 pm, Monday, October 18, 2021, in open session via the Cisco Webex virtual meeting platform, with Chairperson Reggie Van Lee presiding.

#### Roll Call

##### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Reggie Van Lee, *Chairperson*; Cora Masters Barry; Maggie Fitzpatrick; Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Alma H. Gates; Kymber Menkiti; Maria Rooney; Cicie Sattarnilasskorn; Hector Torres; José Alberto Uclés; Gretchen B. Wharton; Derek Younger

##### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stacie Lee Banks; Quanice Floyd; Natalie Hopkinson; MaryAnn Miller; Carla Sims

##### STAFF ATTENDEES:

Heran Sereke-Brhan, *Executive Director*; David Markey, *Deputy Director*; J. Carl Wilson, *General Counsel*; Lauren Dugas Glover, *Public Art Manager*; Brian Allende, *Resource Allocation Officer*; Jeffrey Scott, *Chief of Staff*; Patrick Realiza, *Social Media Specialist*; Kevin Hasser, *Grants Manager*

#### Quorum

A quorum was determined to be present.

#### Land Acknowledgment

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

#### Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting's agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

#### Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the September 22, 2021, regular meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

#### Welcome

Chair Van Lee welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a recap of activities in September and October to date, including the annual Art All Night arts festival, the Mayor's Arts Awards, and team building events between commissioners and staff. The Chair read the following Mayoral Proclamation from Mayor Bowser in recognition of October as National Arts and Humanities Month:

*"WHEREAS, the arts and humanities enhance and enrich the lives of every American, and every District resident, expressing much of the collective wisdom, intellect, and imagination of humankind; and*

*"WHEREAS, the arts help us tell our stories and enable diverse communities to explore their history and culture to better understand one another, with the support of the National Endowment*

*for the Arts, the 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies, including our own District of Columbia Commission on the Arts and Humanities and HumanitiesDC; and*

*“WHEREAS, the nation's arts and culture sector-nonprofit, commercial, and educational-is a \$919. 7 billion industry that supports 5.2 million jobs, 4.3% of the nation's economy, and boasts a \$33 billion international trade surplus; and*

*“WHEREAS, in the District, arts and cultural production account for over \$12.6 million and 8.8% of our local economy, contributing over 57,000 jobs; and*

*“WHEREAS, the COVID, 19 pandemic challenged all business and arts sectors, and their workforces demonstrated resiliency, inspiration, and community--despite having 99% of its producing and presenting organizations cancel events--all the while being on the forefront of jump starting the economy; and*

*“WHEREAS, Washington, DC is committed to supporting and building equity, diversity, and access for our creative community:*

*“NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON DC, do hereby proclaim October 2021 as "NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH" in WASHINGTON, DC.*

*Signed, Mayor Muriel Bowser.”*

### **Director’s Report**

Executive Director Sereke-Brhan presented the Director’s Report, which included an overview of various agency accomplishments and activities in FY 2021.

### **Public Comment Period**

Yasmin Paraskevas presented on an upcoming event, DC Fall Fashion Collective, being planned for November 2021, to feature 5 -10 small fashion retail businesses from the Metro DC area with a focus on woman/LGBTQ owned businesses.

### **Finance Update**

Finance Committee Chair Kymber Menkiti stated the Committee was able to meet briefly and would be doing a deeper dive in the budget to have a more robust finance update at the next Commission meeting. Finance Committee Chair Menkiti thanked former Committee Chair Sattarnilasskorn for all her work in the transitioning of the committee chairpersonship. Brian Allende, Resource Allocation Officer, stated that the agency was still in the process of closing out FY 2021 as was reported at the September meeting. Officer Allende stated that the most recent forecast shows that revenues have actually gone up, which will be incorporated into the FY 2023 budget planning process.

### **Grants Committee Report**

Grants Committee Chair Gretchen Wharton presented the Committee’s funding recommendations for the FY22 Facilities and Buildings (FAB) grant program. The Committee recommended adoption of Recommendation B as presented in the report of 48 grant awards for an overall total funding amount of \$4,302,134. Commissioner Friedman moved to approve the recommendation of the Grants Committee.

ROLL CALL VOTE

*AYES:* Barry, Fitzpatrick, Friedman, Gates, Menkiti, Rooney, Sattarnilasskorn,  
Torres, Uclés, Wharton

*NOES:* none

**ADOPTED, unanimous**

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chair Van Lee adjourned the meeting at 6:06 pm.

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*Minutes approved this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 2021*