



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

MINUTES

DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES REGULAR MEETING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order at 4:01 pm, Monday, November 15, 2021, in open session via the Cisco Webex virtual meeting platform, with Chairperson Reggie Van Lee presiding. The meeting was livestreamed to the Commission's YouTube channel for public viewing.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Natalie Hopkinson; MaryAnn Miller; Carla Sims; Derek Younger

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*; Khalid Randolph, *Grants Manager*; Sarah Gordon, *Curator*

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 October 18, 2021, regular meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Welcome

Chair Van Lee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Comment

Eboni-Rose Thompson, Ward 7 Representative, DC State Board of Education expressed her desire to use public art to improve pedestrian safety, citing a similar program in Houston.

Director's Report

Executive Director Sereke-Brhan presented the Director's Report on recent agency activities. Of the 724 grants awarded to-date, 340 have been received and executed and are moving forward in the requisition and payment process. CAH staff and commissioners are actively involved in the anti-bias training

presented by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, in fulfillment of a key recommendation from the Task Force on Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. CAH will again be a research partner for Americans for the Arts on the sixth iteration of the Arts and Economic Prosperity Study (AEP6). CAH, at the request of Council, is working to establish and activate the Cultural Plan Steering Committee to implement the Plan's recommendations. CAH is also in the process of contracting a firm to conduct an economic and social impact study on the effects of COVID-19 on the District's arts and cultural sector.

Finance Update

Brian Allende, Resource Allocation Officer, stated that the agency was still in the process of closing out FY 2021. Approximately \$4.6 million in unspent funds from the FY21 budget would be transferred into the agency's fund balance for later use. The unspent funds are the result of several factors such as savings from position vacancies, contracts starting later than anticipated, and returned grants.

Grants Committee Report

Grants Committee Chair Gretchen Wharton and Grants Manager Khalid Randolph presented the Committee's funding recommendations for the FY22 LiftOff (LFT) grant program. The Committee recommended adoption of the following:

Resolved, That the Commission agree to the proposed funding scenario (B)(ii) as presented for the FY 2022 LiftOff grant, awarding grants to 14 organizations for a combined total funding of \$283,185. Commissioner Wharton moved to adopt the recommendation of the Grants Committee as read.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Banks, Fitzpatrick, Floyd, Friedman, Gates, Menkiti, Rooney, Torres, Uclés, Wharton

NOES: none

PASSED, 10-0

Public Art Committee Report

Public Art Committee Chair Maggie Fitzpatrick and Curator Sarah Gordon presented the Committee's funding recommendations for the FY22 Art Bank program. The Committee recommended adoption of the following:

Resolved, That the Commission agree to the recommendations of 75 works of art for the FY 2022 Art Bank Program as presented for a total amount of \$228,391. Commissioner Fitzpatrick moved to adopt the recommendation of the Public Art Committee as read.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Banks, Fitzpatrick, Floyd, Friedman, Gates, Menkiti, Rooney, Sattarnilasskorn, Torres, Uclés, Wharton

NOES: none

PASSED, 11-0

Curator Gordon noted that 29 of the selected artists for FY22 were new to Art Bank.

New Business

There was no new business.

Ethics Act Training

Asia Stewart-Mitchell, Supervisory Attorney, Board of Ethics and Government Accountability, presented an ethics training for the Board of Commissioners.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chair Van Lee adjourned the meeting at 5:44 pm.

Minutes approved this 20th day of December 2021.