



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

## MINUTES

### DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES REGULAR MEETING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022

#### Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order at 5:30 pm, Monday, February 28, 2022, 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*; Stacie Lee Banks; Cora Masters Barry; Maggie Fitzpatrick; Quanice, Floyd; Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Natalie Hopkinson; Kymber Menkiti; MaryAnn Miller; Maria Rooney; Cicie Sattarnilasskorn; Carla Sims; Hector Torres; José Alberto Uclés; Gretchen B. Wharton; Derek Younger

##### MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

##### STAFF ATTENDEES:

Heran Sereke-Brhan, *Executive Director*; David Markey, *Deputy Director*; 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*; Sarah Gordon, *Curator*; JR Russ, *Communications Specialist*

#### 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 January 24, 2022, regular meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

#### Welcome & Public Comment

Chairperson Van Lee welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair stated that Alma Gates had resigned from the Commission in late January after nearly ten years of service, and recognized her for the time and effort she put into her duties.

There were no public comments.

The Chair then called for the Director's Report.

## **Director's Report**

Executive Director Sereke-Brhan presented the Director's Report on recent agency activities. The Director began by introducing CAH's new Senior Grants Officer, Terrell Johnson. The Director noted that the agency's performance oversight hearing before the DC Council would be held Friday, March 4, at 10:30am. The Director reported that CAH had begun its 2022 online community engagement programming in January with Business of the Arts workshops and a CAH in the Community presentation. Under development is a new partnership with the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs (MOCA) that would explore new areas of programming and outreach through the various agencies under the MOCA cluster. The Director and Commissioner Stacie Lee Banks attended and provided remarks at the annual Black History Month kickoff event presented by the DC Black History Celebration Committee. CAH again partnered with the Committee to produce and distribute a guidebook of local free events celebrating Black History Month. On February 19, CAH and the historic Lincoln Theatre co-presented "Remembering Black Broadway at the Jewel of U Street." Briana Thomas, author of *Black Broadway in Washington DC*, gave an interview and discussion on the stage of the Lincoln Theatre. The evening also featured musical performances by the Bohemian Caverns Jazz Orchestra. The event comes during the 100th anniversary of Lincoln Theatre's opening. This year, CAH has expanded the Poetry Out Loud recitation competition supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and state arts agencies, into a two-day festival which includes the annual District finals of the competition, a poetry slam and a written poetry contest for District high school students. As part of its FY22 Arts Exhibition Grant, CAH has opened a new exhibition at its 200 I Street SE Gallery titled *Resilience and Uncertainty* and curated by Julio Valdez. The exhibition features six contemporary, intergenerational artists from Washington, DC and New York, NY, and how they are experiencing and responding to the turbulent and unsettled period of the past two years. The statue of Pierre L'Enfant, the French engineer who designed the basic plan for Washington, DC, was formally unveiled in its new home at the U.S. Capitol. CAH provided logistical support and managed the removal and transporting of the statue from its former placement in the Marion Barry Building at 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW and installation in the House of Representatives side of the Capitol building.

## **Finance Report**

Commissioner Kymber Menkiti, Finance Committee Chair, gave the Finance Report. Commissioner Menkiti noted that, per statute, CAH can allocate no more than 22% of its annual budget for administrative costs and no less than 78% for grants. Currently, the agency has allocated 20% for administrative and 80% for grants, or \$30.6 million. Of the 808 grant awards approved by the Commission, 76 remain outstanding. Commissioner Menkiti noted that an additional \$9 million would be available for grants, the result of cost savings, federal grant monies, and rollover funds from previous fiscal years.

## **Arts Education Committee Report**

Commissioner Hector Torres, Arts Education Committee Chair, gave an oral report for the Committee. Commissioner Torres remarked that he looked forward to working with the arts education staff in expanding programs. Commissioner Torres called on his fellow commissioners to disseminate information about CAH to their contacts and networks. Commissioner Torres concluded by stating he was interested in looking at ways to expand the cohorts, particularly for arts education grants.

## **Public Art Committee Report**

Commissioner Maggie Fitzpatrick, Public Art Committee Chair, introduced the Committee Report on the recommendations for the FY 2022 Juried Exhibition Grant program (JEG). Curator Sarah Gordon explained the grant program, review process, and the rationale determining which artists and artworks were being recommended for funding. The Committee recommended grant awards of \$787 to each of the 33 recommended artist applicants, a total of \$25,971, for the exhibition of the 51 recommended artworks. Commissioner Fitzpatrick moved the approval of the recommendation.

ROLL CALL VOTE

*AYES:* Banks, Fitzpatrick, Friedman, Menkiti, Miller, Rooney, Sattarnilasskorn, Sims, Torres, Uclés, Wharton, Younger

*NOES:* none

**MOTION PASSED, 12–0**

**Grants Committee Report**

Commissioner Gretchen Wharton, Grants Committee Chair, introduced the Committee Report on the recommended spending plan for addition funds in FY 2022. The Committee recommended approximately \$2 million in capacity building enhancements to current GOS grantees for a pilot collective impact initiative; \$2.3 million for enhancements as general operating support; \$1 million for a collective impact building initiative for a collective of organizations that identify as BIPOC; \$264 thousand as an enhancement to HumanitiesDC’s existing FY22 grant; \$500 thousand to \$1 million for relief and recovery grants to organizations not currently in receipt of an FY22 grant from CAH; \$1.5 to \$2 million for relief and recovery grants to individuals, both current grantees and non-grantees; for a combined total of \$9.1 million. Chair Van Lee moved to approve the Committee’s recommendation as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

*AYES:* Barry, Fitzpatrick, Floyd, Friedman, Hopkinson, Menkiti, Miller, Rooney, Sattarnilasskorn, Sims, Torres, Uclés, Wharton, Younger

*NOES:* none

**MOTION PASSED, 14–0**

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:04 pm.

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*Minutes approved this 21<sup>st</sup> Day of March, 2022.*