



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

MINUTES

**DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022**

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order at 5:38 pm, Monday, April 25, 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*; Maggie Fitzpatrick, *Public Art Committee Chair*; Kymber Menkiti, *Finance Committee Chair*; Hector Torres, *Secretary*; Gretchen Wharton, *Grants Committee Chair*; Quanice Floyd, *IDEA Committee Chair*; Stacie Lee Banks; Cora Masters Barry; Cicie Sattarnilasskorn; Natalie Hopkinson; Maria Rooney; Carla Sims; José Alberto Uclés; Derek Younger; MaryAnn Miller

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rhona Wolfe Friedman, *Governance Committee Chair*

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 March 21, 2022, regular meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Welcome

Chairperson Van Lee welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair introduced guest artist Alyssa Toussaint, an 11th grade student at DC International and first place winner in CAH's recent Words on Fire poetry festival, to read two of her original poems.

Director's Report

Executive Director Sereke-Brhan presented the Director's Report. The Director introduced two new staff in the public art department, Kerry Kennedy and Deirdre Darden, and noted the following agency highlights: the arts education department will host seven virtual programs between April 27 and May 17, 2022, on various topics exploring Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (I.D.E.A.) in Arts Learning and Arts Education settings; on March 29, 2022, CAH kicked off its sixth community engagement program and the first in the Artists Showcase series by commemorating World Theatre Day with a discussion on mentorship in the arts titled 'Modeling Mentorship in the Arts: A Case Study;' since January 2022, CAH has conducted five virtual community engagement programs on themes of copyright, trademarking and

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legal protections for artists and creators (in partnership with the Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts); partners and participants in CAH's *Create and Thrive!* arts program for older adults and a presentation on CAH's grants panel process with staff and former grantee discussants – about 300 participants in total attended the sessions; on April 14, 2022, CAH hosted a closing program for its FY22 Arts Exhibition Grant project *Resilience and Uncertainty* curated by Julio Valdez at its 200 I Street gallery; ED Sereke-Brhan, Senior Grants Officer Terrell Johnson and Grants Manager Kamanzi Kalisa participated in the 48th Annual DC History Conference, an interdisciplinary, community conference considering the past, present and future of the District which took place at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library from March 31 to April 2, 2022; on April 20, 2022, ED Sereke-Brhan, Senior Grants Officer Terrell Johnson and Grants Manager Kamanzi Kalisa attended a program at CAH grantee President Lincoln's Cottage titled 'Poetry in Dialogue' featuring two District poets and FY22 Arts and Humanities Fellows, Natalie Illum and Alexa Patrick – ED Sereke-Brhan offered welcome remarks; ED Sereke-Brhan is currently serving in the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA's) Dues Task Force tasked with reviewing NASAA's multi-year membership dues plan and develop recommendations for the 2022 dues structure; in August 2022, the third bi-annual gathering of the Mid-Atlantic Teaching Artists Virtual Retreat will bring together arts education professionals from across the region to strengthen and promote networks. Along with national counterparts in arts education, CAH's Arts Education staff members Alorie Clark and Camille Ashford are part of the steering committee tasked with leading and designing this year's program.

Finance Report

Finance Committee Chair Kymber Menkiti and Resource Allocation Officer Brian Allende gave the Finance Report. Officer Allende noted that the Chief Financial Officer has to date loaded the additional \$1.6 million of the \$6.6 million to be loaded, and the CFO has provided an update that they are in the process of loading the remaining \$5 million, which once completed, the grants department will be able to utilize for grant enhancements and any other relief and recovery actions taking place. Committee Chair Menkiti then announced a new process for dealing with additional funds that may be received mid-year. The process would involve each committee developing a prioritized list of things they would like to enhance or expand, so that if additional funds become available during the year, there is already an identified opportunity to utilize those funds. Officer Allende reminded grantees to submit their invoices to receive their grant funds, and to reach out to their grant manager if they have questions or need assistance.

Grants Committee Report

Commissioner Gretchen Wharton, Grants Committee Chair, introduced the Committee Report. Grants Manager Kevin Hasser reported on the FY22 Facilities and Buildings Relief grant, which received 125 applications. This was an increase from last year's FAB-R grant which received 87 applications, indicating there is still need for this kind of support in the community. Due to the increased number of applicants, the award was prorated, so grant recipients will be receiving about 75% of their request. Senior Grants Officer Terrell Johnson reported on the FY22 GOS capacity building pilot program, noting that out of a total of 44 organizations that showed up to be an administrative lead organization, there were 12 very strong applications, and out of those 12 there will be 9 groups identified. Officer Johnson then discussed the FY22 Relief and Recovery grants, noting that in effort to attract more new applicants, the requirement for organizations needing a full year of service to be eligible for the grant was removed. Secretary Torres asking if there was any mentorship component as part of these relief grants. IDEA Committee Chair Quanice Floyd noted that it was important to let the organizations tell us what it is they need, rather than making assumptions about what they need. Officer Johnson then reported on FY23 General Operating Support grants, noting that 161 applications were received, and 9 review panels were convened. In addition to review and scoring the applications, the panels also provided a number of suggestions on how CAH could clarify the grant application itself which in turn would lead to improved submissions.

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Public Art Committee Report

Maggie Fitzpatrick, Public Art Committee Chair, gave the Public Art Committee Report, noting the following highlights: Four artists are engaging with their assigned schools as part of the Color the Curb School Safety Program, and the artists along with DDOT will kickoff the project at the schools on May 5, 2022 with anticipated completion of the ground murals by the end of the school year in late June; the application deadline for the Mayor Marion Barry Legacy Mural Project has been extended to May 27, the recommended grantee will be presented to the Commission in September, with the selected design to be implemented and completed by the end of February 2023; the upcoming exhibition in the CAH lobby gallery, Fragile Beauty, will have its opening event on Thursday, May 12, 2022.

New Business

Chair Van Lee noted that Commissioner Torres had been elected Secretary at last month's meeting, in accordance with the new bylaws, and that also under the new bylaws Commissioner Menkiti will serve as Treasurer by virtue of being the Finance Committee Chair, and that at a recent meeting of the Executive Committee Maggie Fitzpatrick was elected to be Vice Chairperson of the Board. A number of Commissioners expressed their appreciation that an artist was included in the meeting's opening. Chair Van Lee noted that the plan is to have an artist present or perform at every monthly meeting going forward, and to pay them a stipend for their time. Commissioner Uclés noted that future artists might be reflective of any commemorations associated with that month, such as May being Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, June being LGBTQ Pride Month, and so forth.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:36 pm.