



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

MINUTES

DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES REGULAR MEETING MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order at 5:30 pm, Monday, June 21, 2021 in open session via the Cisco Webex virtual meeting platform, with Chairperson Kay Kendall presiding.

Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kay Kendall, *Chairperson*; Cicie Sattarnilasskorn, *Treasurer*; Alma H. Gates, *Public Art Chair*; Gretchen B. Wharton, *Grants Chair*; Cora Masters Barry; Maggie Fitzpatrick; Quanice Floyd; Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Natalie Hopkinson; MaryAnn Miller; Maria Rooney; Hector Torres; José Alberto Uclés; Derek Younger

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stacie Lee Banks; Kymber Menkiti; 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*

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 April 19, 2021 regular meeting and the April 26, 2021 special meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Comment Period

Comments were made by the following members of the public:

1. Paul Tetreault, Ford's Theatre, expressed appreciation to Chair Kendall for her years of service as chairperson.
2. Maureen Dwyer, Sitar Arts Center, expressed her appreciation for Chair Kendall and the Commission's support during the pandemic.
3. Jenny Bilfield, Washington Performing Arts, expressed support of incoming chairperson Reggie Van Lee.

4. C. Brian Williams, Step Afrika!, expressed appreciation to Chair Kendall and the Commission for ongoing support, and expressed support of incoming chairperson Reggie Van Lee.

Director's Report

Executive Director Sereke-Brhan gave the Director's Report, which had been circulated to all Commissioners in advance of the meeting. The Director noted that, per the guidance from EOM/OCA regarding the District's reopening, agency managers were now back in the office with the rest of the staff returning to the office in early July.

Finance Update

Treasurer Sattarnilasskorn asked Brian Allende, Resource Allocation Officer, to give the finance update. Officer Allende noted that the \$6.6M indicated under available funds will soon be encumbered for upcoming enhancements to existing grant awards. Officer Allende also noted that of 727 grants authorized to date, 701 had purchase orders established. Commissioner Gates noted a discrepancy in the figures between the original budget and the revised budget in the Grants Budget Summary; Officer Allende said it would be corrected.

Public Art Master Plan Update

Director Sereke-Brhan stated that although this would be the final presentation to the Board of the Public Art Master Plan Update and Strategic Plan, the consultant's contracts did not expire until June 30 to allow for any last-minute comments from the Board on either plan. Commissioner Gates requested that any Commissioner comments be shared with the full Board. Consultant Todd Bressi presented an overview of the revisions made to the earlier draft of the Public Art Master Plan Update in response to comments received from the public.

2021 – 2023 Strategic Plan

Chief of Staff Jeffrey Scott stated that the strategic plan fulfilled the National Endowment for the Arts requirement that state arts agencies have a state plan or state arts plan, and that, per the NEA's requirements, the development of the plan was driven by public feedback. Consultant David Galligan presented an overview of the revisions made to the earlier draft of the 2021 – 2023 Strategic Plan in response to comments received from the public and Commissioner feedback. Commissioner Friedman stated that she felt the plan needed to address accountability more strongly. Consultant Galligan stated that he would look to add language to that effect. Commissioner Fitzpatrick asked how, when dealing with systemic racism, can we prevent it from happening in the future, and how commissioners could share in that responsibility. Consultant Galligan responded that the Commission was already moving in that direction and making considerable strides. A recent article on CAH in the Washington Post was brought up. Commissioner Hopkinson stated that racism in a public body must be addressed forcefully.

New Business

Chair Kendall expressed her appreciation to the staff and commissioners for what they've accomplished over the last six years that she has been Chairperson, her term ending on June 30. A number of commissioners commended Chair Kendall for her service.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chair Kendall adjourned the meeting at 7:19 pm.