DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

MINUTES

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REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 19, 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, July 19, 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*; 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 June 21, 2021 regular meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Welcome
Chairperson Van Lee welcomed everyone to the meeting, stating that this was his first meeting and he was excited to serve as chair of the Commission. He said that his experience working with the Commission's Task Force on Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging gave him confidence that the Commission can be a beacon on the hill that ensures that every DC resident is able to experience the transformative power of the arts and humanities.

Public Comment Period
There were no public comments received.

Director's Report
Executive Director Sereke-Brhan presented the Director's Report. Agency staff were now working in the office again for the majority of the week with optional limited (up to two days) scheduled telework. Review panels for grants and public art are now in full swing with the majority of FY22 grant applications having closed. Total number of grant applications received has increased from last year, which is a sign that outreach efforts are having an effect. As part of its ongoing MuralsDC partnership with the Department of Public Works, CAH sponsored the installment of a new mural by artist Candice Taylor to highlight the Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act, which seeks to prohibit race-based hair discrimination. The mural is located on the 2000 block of Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave. SE. Director Sereke-Brhan concluded the Director's Report by presenting an update on the implementation status of the recommendations from the Task Force on Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, noting that of the 43 recommendations, 6 had been completed, 11 were in process, and 2 were ongoing. Several Commissioners spoke to the need to ensure the agency has the capacity in terms of staff and other resources such as office technologies, to be able to fully implement the task force receommendations.

Finance Update
Treasurer Sattarnilasskorn asked Brian Allende, Resource Allocation Officer, to give the finance update. Officer Allende noted that of the agency's FY21 budget of $38.7 million, $8.3 million remained available, of which $5.2 million was in the grants budget for which the majority of funds was in the process of being obligated for enhancements to existing grants as means of providing relief support. Other pending obligations include several projects that are in in the contracting pipeline with OCP. For personnel, there are currently six vacant FTE positions, three of which are currently being recruited for.

Committee Reports
No committees reported.

New Business
Commissioner Floyd asked about the possibility for inter-agency collaborations that CAH could be involved with to address the recent rise in crime, with a particular focus on children and youth. Director Sereke-Brhan said that she wasn't aware that anything currently existed, but that it's a conversation worth starting with other agencies to explore the possibilities.

Adjournment
There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chair Van Lee adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.