



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

**MINUTES**

**DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 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, August 16, 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; Hector Torres; José Alberto Uclés; Derek Younger; Kymber Menkiti; Carla Sims

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

MaryAnn Miller; Maria Rooney

**STAFF ATTENDEES:**

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 July 19, 2021, regular meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

**Public Comment Period**

Frazer Walton, Veronica Raglin, Dr. Judy Walton, and Carole West each spoke in opposition to a possible public art project at Kingman Park.

**Welcome**

Chair Van Lee welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief presentation on CAH's collective agenda going forward, with a focus on governance, the strategic plan, and the recommendations of the Task Force on Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.

### **Director's Report**

Chief of Staff Jeffrey Scott gave the Director's Report on behalf of the Executive Director. Chief Scott noted in the report the recent Mayor's Order requiring all District employees, interns, contractors, and grantees to be vaccinated against COVID-19. CAH, as an independent agency, is strongly encouraged but not required to follow the vaccination requirements. The Executive Director, as the statutorily designated personnel authority for CAH staff, is responsible for the application of HR policies at the agency level and will decide for how to approach a vaccination requirement for staff and contractors. The Commissioners were asked for their input regarding a vaccination requirement for grantees, given their role in developing and approving grants-related policy. After discussion, Chair Van Lee noted a general acceptance of the spirit of the policy as stated in the Mayor's Order and asked General Counsel Carl Wilson and Chief Scott to draft a CAH policy that would consider equity issues and be less punitive.

### **Finance Update**

Treasurer Cicie Sattarnilasskorn reported that the process of recruiting for new Finance Committee members was underway. Brian Allende, Resource Allocation Officer, then gave the finance update. Approximately 300 grants were still in processing, with 80 rent and relief awards, as well as 200 relief enhancements to existing organizational awards and relief awards to individual artists that had been previously approved at the April regular meeting. No grant funds are expected to be returned.

### **Grants Committee Report**

Grants Committee Chair Gretchen Wharton reported on the committee's funding recommendations for FY22 General Operating Support. Committee Chair Wharton stated that the FY22 Budget Support Act recently passed by Council eliminated the National Capital Arts Cohort from CAH's enabling legislation and mandated that 54% of CAH's grants budget be allocated for General Operating Support grants. Of the 139 grant applications received, 136 were eligible and paneled, along with 6 service organization applications. To be eligible, the organization's mission, as submitted on its most-recent IRS Form 990, must include the word(s) arts, humanities, and/or arts or humanities discipline. More than 51% of both the organization's previous year's cash expenses and programming/services must be devoted to the arts and humanities and/or arts education. Applicants were reviewed in 9 cohorts of similar budget sizes and recommended award amounts were tiered in relation to budget size and panel scores. The committee recommended funding all eligible applicants and that award amounts not be capped at a percentage of the organization's budget in order to allow increased funding to organizations with smaller budgets. Committee Chair Wharton moved the following resolution, which after discussion, was adopted as amended:

***Resolved, That the Commission agree to the proposed funding structure and award amounts, by cohort, for all 145 eligible applications to the Fiscal Year 2022 General Operating Support grants program for a combined total funding amount of \$16,455,000, as presented, with additional detail and data to be presented at the next meeting.***

Roll call vote:

*AYES: Banks, Barry, Fitzpatrick, Floyd, Friedman, Gates, Menkiti,, Sattarnilasskorn, Sims, Torres, Uclés, Wharton, Younger*

*NOES: none*

Adopted, unanimous.

### **New Business**

Commissioner Quanice Floyd asked if there was a policy or procedure in place for how to address the issues raised by the individuals during the public comment period. General Counsel Wilson suggested that senior staff be allowed some time to review the matter and information presented, and then report

back with recommendations. Chair Van Lee agreed and added that in addressing this particular situation, a policy needs to be in place going forward as well.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chair Van Lee adjourned the meeting at 7:01pm.