



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

MINUTES

DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order at 4:00 pm, Thursday, September 24, 2020 in open session via the WebEx virtual meeting platform, with Kay Kendall, Chairperson, presiding.

Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kay Kendall, *Chairperson*; Stacie Lee Banks, *Vice-Chair*; Cora Masters Barry; Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Alma H. Gates; Natalie Hopkinson; MaryAnn Miller; Maria Hall Rooney; Cicie Sattarnilasskorn; José Alberto Uclés; Gretchen B. Wharton; Derek Younger

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kymber Menkiti

STAFF ATTENDEES:

Heran Sereke-Brhan, *Acting Director*; David Markey, *Deputy Director*; J. Carl Wilson, *General Counsel*; Lauren Dugas Glover, *Public Art Manager*; Brian Allende, *Resource Allocation Analyst*; Jeffrey Scott, *Chief of External Affairs*; Patrick Realiza, *Social Media Specialist*

Quorum

A quorum was 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 voice vote (unanimous).

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the June 15, 2020 special meeting, the June 18, 2020 regular meeting, the August 13, 2020 special meeting, and the September 3, 2020 special meeting were approved as a block by voice vote (unanimous).

Welcome & Public Comment

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Charles Hicks, Director of the DC Black History Celebration Committee for the public comment period. Director Hicks presented several ideas for CAH to consider as a partnership with the Celebration Committee to commemorate Black History Month 2021.

The Chair announced that the DC Council had passed emergency and temporary legislation earlier in the week which amended CAH's enabling statutes to allow a portion of the agency's grants budget to be used to award grants for the purposes of facility rent and mortgage payments.

Director's Report

Acting Director Sereke-Brhan gave the Director's Report, noting that the District was still in Phase Two of re-opening, and as such, the agency continued to operate from a fully telework posture. The Acting Director also noted that with the upcoming election, CAH staff and commissioners are covered under the Local Hatch Act and should refer to guidance provided by the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability regarding political activities.

Finance Report

Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn deferred.

Grants Committee Report

Commissioner Wharton gave the Grants Committee report, beginning with a presentation of the Committee's funding recommendations for the FY 2021 Arts and Humanities Education Project (AHEP) grants. AHEP supports in-school and out-of-school-time arts and humanities projects for children and youth in pre-school through high school settings. The grant also supports professional development opportunities for classroom educators. The project must target DC-based educators, instructional staff or teaching artists. Organizations may apply for project support of up to \$20,000. The 1:1 match requirement was removed for FY21. There was a significant increase in the number of applications received for the AHEP grant, from 26 applications in FY20 to 45 applications in FY21, with 15 of the 45 being new applicants to the AHEP grant.

Commissioner Wharton moved adoption of the following on behalf of the Committee:

RESOLVED, That the Commission agree to the Grants Committee's presented funding recommendation for the FY21 AHEP grant, which would award funding to the recommended 11 in-school and 14 out-of-school time projects for a combined total of \$396,817.

Roll call vote after discussion:

Ayes: Banks, Friedman, Gates, Hopkinson, Miller, Rooney, Sattarnilasskorn, Uclés, Wharton, Younger

Noes: none

ADOPTED, 10 – 0

Commissioner Wharton then presented the Committee's funding recommendation for the FY 2021 Arts and Humanities Fellowship (AHFP) grant. AHFP supports individual artists, teaching artists and humanities professionals who significantly contribute to the arts and humanities and substantially impact the lives of DC residents through excellence in the arts and humanities. There was a 17% increase in the number of applications received for the AHFP grant, from 397 applications in FY20 to 466 application in FY21, with 148 first-time applicants to CAH. The Committee's recommendation would fund 316 of out the 466 applicants across all eight wards, with over 50% of those recommended for funding being first-time applicants, and an increase of the average award amount.

Commissioner Wharton moved adoption of the following on behalf of the Committee:

RESOLVED, That the Commission agree to the Grants Committee's presented funding recommendation for the FY21 AHFP grant, which would award funding to the recommended 316 applicants combined total of \$2,124,250

Roll call vote after discussion:

Ayes: Banks, Friedman, Gates, Hopkinson, Miller, Rooney, Sattarnilasskorn, Uclés, Wharton, Younger

Noes: none

ADOPTED, 10 – 0

Public Art Committee Report

Commissioner Gates gave the Public Art Committee report, presenting the Committee's funding recommendations for the FY 2021 Public Art Building Communities (PABC) grant program. PABC supports individual artists and organizations in their effort to design, fabricate and install new temporary or permanent works of Public Art that connect artists (and their artwork) with communities. Public Art is defined as artwork in any media sited and installed on locations that is accessible to the public (without cost) and in an exterior (outdoor) location free of encumbrances. Six eligible applications were received and adjudicated by the review panel and ranked by highest score.

Commissioner Gates moved adoption of the following on behalf of the Committee:

RESOLVED, That the Commission agree to the Public Art Committee's presented funding recommendation for the FY21 PABC grant, which would award funding to the recommended two individuals and three organizations for a combined total of \$488,750.

Roll call vote after discussion:

Ayes: Banks, Floyd, Friedman, Gates, Hopkinson, Rooney, Sattarnilasskorn, Uclés, Wharton, Younger

Noes: none

NV: Miller

ADOPTED, 10 – 0

New Business

No new business was brought forward.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chair Kendall adjourned the meeting at 5:36 pm.

Minutes approved this 15th day of October, 2020.