



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

MINUTES

**THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMISSION
ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES**

SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020

Call to Order

A special meeting of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order at 11:02 am, Monday, June 15, 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; Edmund C. Fleet; Quanice Floyd; Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Alma H. Gates; Natalie Hopkinson; Kymber Menkiti; MaryAnn Miller; Chinedu Felix Osuchukwu; Josef Palermo; Cicie Sattarnilasskorn; José Alberto Uclés; Gretchen B. Wharton; Derek Younger

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Cora Masters Barry; Maria Hall Rooney

STAFF ATTENDEES:

Heran Sereke-Brhan, Acting Director; Carl Wilson, General Council; David Markey, Interim Senior Grants Officer; 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.

Statutes for Discussion and Consideration

Commissioner Friedman, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Legislation, began a discussion on portions of the Commission's enabling statutes related to the agency's grantmaking authority and programs, specifically D.C. Official Code §§ 39-202 and 39-205, along with the Legislation Committee's suggestions for amendments to these statutes to propose to the Council of the District of Columbia.

The following items were considered seriatim:

A preamble/introductory text to accompany submission of the proposed amendments to the Council that will incorporate the following language:

“As an independent DC Government agency charged with the key responsibility of processing grants for the Arts and Humanities of the District of Columbia, our goals must be inclusive and always address the inequities, injustices and systematic problems that plague our country today. We believe any legislation that governs the Arts and Humanities of the District of Columbia must be fair and equitable in the delivery of funds, and support all artists and arts and humanities organizations.

Pre-selecting arts organizations to receive a percentage of funding apart from the competitive process is discriminatory and unfair. This type of legislation contributes to the systemic inequities that have plagued us far too long. In an attempt to level the playing field and repair the damage the NCAC legislation presents for artists and arts organizations of our city, we submit the following:”

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Banks, Fleet, Floyd, Gates, Hopkinson, Menkiti, Miller, Osuchukwu, Palermo, Sattarnilasskorn, Uclés, Wharton, Younger

Noes: Friedman

This text was adopted by a vote of 13 - 1.

A proposed amendment to D.C. Official Code § 39-205.(c-1)(2)(A) that incorporates the following:

“For the fiscal year 2021, from the 17% of the annual grants budget pertaining to FAB, any amount over \$3,000,000 shall be allocated by the Commission for various forms of necessary rent and mortgage relief. Any and all of these grant funds not fully or partially utilized in the current budget year cycle shall be returned to the Commission for use in the Commission’s Arts and Humanities Cohort. For the fiscal year 2021, Grantees within the National Capital Arts Cohort (NCAC) shall not be eligible to receive any grant funding from the Facilities and Buildings (FAB) grant program or any funding from the 17% of the annual grants budget allocated for FAB.”

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Banks, Fleet, Floyd, Friedman, Hopkinson, Miller, Osuchukwu, Palermo, Uclés, Wharton,

Noes: Gates

NV: Sattarnilasskorn

This text was adopted by a vote of 10 - 1

A proposed amendment to D.C. Official Code § 39-205.02 that incorporates the following:

“The Humanities Grant Program grant-managing entity shall not be eligible to receive any additional grant funding under the General Operating Support Program. Any and all of grant funds not fully or partially utilized in the current budget year cycle shall be returned to the Commission for use in the Commission's Arts and Humanities Cohort. These funds shall not be allowed to “roll-over” to the next fiscal year for Humanities DC.”

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Gates, Miller, Wharton, Kendall, Friedman

Noes: Floyd, Hopkinson, Palermo, Uclés

NV: Osuchukwu, Sattarnilasskorn

This text was adopted by a vote of 5 - 4

POINTS OF ORDER

Commissioner Palermo was called to order by Commissioners Miller, Wharton, and Uclés in response to the following remark made by Commissioner Palermo to Commissioner Friedman: “You’re assuming a whole hell of a lot of privilege from a lot of people on this board. I’m certainly not a wealthy white woman in Ward Two whose husband gives money to councilmembers, so I don’t have access to have conversations with those people.”

Commissioner Hopkinson stated that in several meetings she had been misidentified by other commissioners as Commissioner Floyd, and vice-versa, and that such a misidentification is offensive.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Commissioner Miller requested the CAH General Counsel research the available options to respond to behavior by another commissioner that is deemed inappropriate.

Adjournment

Noting the absence of a quorum, Chair Kendall adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm.

Minutes approved this 24th day of September 2020.