



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

**MINUTES**

**DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022**

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**Call to Order**

A special meeting of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order at 5:30 pm, Monday, August 22, 2022, in open session via the Cisco Webex virtual meeting platform, with Reggie Van Lee, Chairperson, presiding. The purpose of the special meeting was the consideration of a request from the Department of Small and Local Business Development for additional funding to support Art All Night 2022, and the discussion of and planning for opportunities for increased involvement and participation in Art All Night 2022 by Commissioners and Staff.

**Roll Call**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Reggie Van Lee, *Chairperson*; Stacie Lee Banks; Cora Masters Barry; Maggie Fitzpatrick; Quanice Floyd; Natalie Hopkinson; Maria Rooney; Carla Sims; Hector Torres; Gretchen B. Wharton

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

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**STAFF ATTENDEES:**

David Markey, *Deputy Director*; Jeffrey Scott, *Chief of Staff*; Brian Allende, *Resource Allocation Officer*

**Quorum**

A quorum was determined to be present.

**Land Acknowledgement**

The Chair read the land acknowledgment recognizing the ancestral homelands of the Nacotchtank and Piscataway Peoples.

**Orders of the Day**

The Chair proposed that if there were no objection, the two items of business on the agenda be taken up out of their published order. No objection was raised.

**Discussion of and planning for opportunities for increased involvement and participation in Art All Night 2022 by Commissioners and Staff.**

The Chair opened the discussion by stating a desire to have a physical presence of CAH at the different locations of the Art All Night festival, with Commissioners making a brief speech at festival sites in their home wards, along with manning tables with Staff, and a time commitment of a few hours, but not for the duration of the entire event. The Chair then asked for reactions from the Board.

Commissioner Banks expressed her support of the idea, stating that her flower shop had participated in Art All Night for the past five or six years, with over 600 attendees last year, making it a high visibility event.

Commissioner Torres asked if there was a schedule of activities available for the two-days of the festival to assist in planning for the time commitment. Deputy Director Markey stated he would be able to get the full schedule from DSLBD and share it.

Commissioner Barry stated that the Congress Heights Main Street had sent letters inviting Chairperson Van Lee and all Commissioners to participate in the Congress Heights Day Parade which leads into Art All Night but had not received

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responses yet. Deputy Director Markey said the Main Street could send communications through him to get to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Wharton expressed her support for having Commissioner's more physically involved, and that she was already slated to speak at Shaw Main Streets primary event venue, Banneker High School.

The Chair noted the support for being more involved and participatory in the Art All Night festival this year, and perhaps in future years, and said he would work with Deputy Director Markey to get Commissioners and Staff connected to particular opportunities as they evolve.

### **Consideration of a request from the Department of Small and Local Business Development for additional funding to support Art All Night 2022**

The Chair announced that Commissioner Wharton would be recusing herself from the consideration and vote on the request for additional Art All Night funding for DSLBD. The Chair noted that, going forward, CAH might consider ways in which to make funding more targeted to address the particular needs of specific Main Streets, such as permitting costs, venue spaces, event curation, etc.

Commissioner Torres inquired if it was possible to create a grant category specifically for the Main Streets events. Commissioner Wharton clarified that CAH's current funding of Art All Night was not done as a grant or directly to the Main Streets, but was an intra-governmental transfer of funds to DSLBD, which then distributed funding to the Main Streets. The Chair stated that in future years it might be possible to utilize a grants-based model as suggested by Commissioner Torres. Commissioner Wharton stated it would require further conversation to ensure that such an approach by CAH did not risk negating the potential for other support from within the government. Commissioner Wharton then recused herself and left the meeting at approximately 5:48 pm.

The Chair asked Deputy Director Markey to present DSLBD's request. Deputy Director Markey began by stating the MOU for the current year was \$200,000, an increase from last year's MOU of \$150,000. DSLBD has requested an additional \$85,000, the \$40,000 of which would be for marketing and PR costs associated with the entire festival, \$30,000 for street closures, \$10,000 for a festival videographer, and \$3,000 for festival t-shirts.

The Chair asked if the additional funding would provide an opportunity for co-branding. Chief of Staff Scott stated that the current branding is "Mayor Muriel Bowser Presents Art All Night" with the supporting agencies listed below. The Chair stated if CAH is paying for t-shirts, it would be worth seeing if DSLBD would be amenable to considering advantaged branding on the shirts for CAH. Commissioner Barry stated that if CAH is shifting from a sponsorship to a partnership, advantaged branding makes sense, but asked if CAH was there yet, noting that even as CAH increases its funding to the event, because the size of event has also increased, the participating groups may essentially be receiving the same amount of funding as before. Deputy Director Markey stated that was a good question, and that if the additional \$85,000 is approved, CAH could request additional detail from DSLBD as to where the funds are ultimately spent. Commissioner Torres remarked there is a difference in the perception of a grant giver versus a partnership, and that CAH's lion share of the funding for the festival should give the perception of a partnership, and that direct grants may give CAH a better ability to be recognized in the branding. Commissioner Floyd stated that she wanted to move away from a transactional mindset versus actual partnership, that a partnership should be transformational and not transactional, that oftentimes transactional relationships don't end well, and that she would love to be a part of future conversations around partnership versus transaction.

The Chair read the following proposed resolution:

#### *RESOLVED,*

1. That the Commission agree to the intra-District transfer of an additional \$85,000 to the Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) to support the 2022 Art All Night festival; and
2. That the addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission and DSLBD regarding this matter include an obligation for DSLBD to include expenditures of CAH funds in the final report for the event.

Commissioner Banks moved adoption of the resolution as read. The Chair then called the Yeas and the Nays:

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ROLL CALL VOTE

*AYES:* Banks, Barry, Fitzpatrick, Floyd, Hopkinson, Rooney, Sims, Torres,

*NOES:* none

*PRESENT:* none

By a vote of eight in the affirmative and none in the negative, the resolution was adopted as read.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chairperson Van Lee adjourned the meeting at 6:02 pm.

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