



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Aaron L. Myers II, Executive Director

March 17, 2025

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The following is a summary of the agency's activities and operations.

### 1. Staff Updates:

We are currently awaiting approval from DCHR regarding our procurement analyst and hope to have an update soon. We would also like to take a moment to thank Tianyi Berinato (Yi) for her time with us as a grant manager. She brought positive energy and great team spirit, and we are excited about her next chapter. Additionally, the telework schedule will be updated on April 1st, with more updates to follow.

### 2. Grants

Regarding grants, several opportunities are currently open for applications, including the General Operating Support Grant Program (GOS), the East Arts Grant Program (EA), and the Projects, Events, or Festivals (PEF) grant. As of noon today, we have received 15 draft applications and 29 completed submissions. We encourage all applicants to submit their applications by the deadline of April 22nd at 10:00 PM. Our workshop schedule is available on our website and Eventbrite pages, with four workshops scheduled over the next two weeks. Grants Live Chats are held online every Friday from 2:00 to 3:00 PM, and the team is also offering in-person office hours on Wednesdays from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

### 3. Oversight Hearings:

We recently held our performance oversight hearing on March 6th, where much of the discussion focused on General Operating Support (GOS), our grant-making policies, and our role in driving economic development within the creative economy of the District. This year, grantees received their awards sooner than in previous cycles, and the awards reflected community feedback. Notably, our GOS awards represented a \$3.5 million investment in downtown alone. Given the competitive nature of the grant-making process at CAH, we encourage all grantees to tell their impact stories effectively. We also urge members of the public to sign up as panelists to ensure our review panels remain as robust and diverse as possible. Looking ahead, we are preparing for our budget oversight hearing on April 10th.

### 4. Vagabond Exhibition/Behind the Uniform:

In the arts, we would like to thank the Public Arts Team, Events, Communications, and the curators of *50 Years of HOPE and HA-HAs* for organizing an inspiring exhibition, which concluded on March 1st. Our next exhibition, *Behind the Uniform*, will open on April 10th at 5:00 PM. This Veterans-themed exhibition is something we are excited to showcase in our gallery. If you have any questions about the upcoming exhibition, please reach out to our Public Arts Manager, Karyn Miller, or our Curator, Dr. Michelle May-Curry.

### 5. Poetry Out Loud:

In other news, we are pleased to share an update from the Poetry Out Loud competition. Nyla Dinkins, a junior at Benjamin Banneker High School, secured first place again this year and will represent the District at the national finals on May 5–7. We wish her the best of luck. Our runner-up, Morgan Lloyd, a junior at St. Anselm’s Abbey School, is a two-time participant and the third member of his family to compete in regional finals. The competition featured eight contestants and welcomed approximately 65 guests at the Planet Word Museum on Saturday. The District ranked fourth in the nation in terms of student participation, having reached approximately 8,231 students across participating schools. A special thanks goes to Andrea Brown, along with our events and outreach teams, for making this event such a success.

**6. Strategic Plan:**

Finally, regarding our strategic plan, the CAH Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) met on March 4, 2025, to review the plan. A vendor technical evaluation report was subsequently sent to OCP on March 6, 2025. Upon further review, the TEC submitted questions to OCP last Friday for forwarding to the offerors. As a result, OCP will be canceling the current solicitation and issuing a revised one as soon as possible to clarify specifications and address the concerns raised during our consensus meeting.