



DC COMMISSION ON ARTS & HUMANITIES

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**  
SUBMITTED BY HERAN SEREKE-BRHAN, PHD  
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The following is a summary of the agency's activities and operations:

**Staffing Updates**

Interviews have been held for the Senior Grants Officer position and a new Public Affairs Coordinator position, and details regarding the selected candidates for each are now being finalized with DCHR. We hope to have both onboarded in early January.

Additionally, openings for two Arts Program Coordinators in the Public Art Department and one Grants Management Specialist in the Grants Department are currently posted and accepting applications.

Finally, at the end of November we said farewell to a member of the Public Art Department, Alissa Maru, who has taken a position with George Mason University to help open and establish a new gallery in Arlington, focusing on social justice. Alissa was an outstanding and valued colleague during her two years at CAH, and we know she'll continue to do great things.

**National Assembly of State Arts Agencies – Anti-Bias Training**

From October to December 2021, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is offering professional development opportunities for three groups, Executive, General and Council/Board Member to reduce bias in public service missions. CAH Executive and Deputy Directors, Commissioners, and Staff have now all completed the training sessions. This fulfills a key recommendation by the Task Force on Equity, Inclusion and Belonging to conduct equity training for staff and commissioners.

**Community Engagement**

On Thursday, December 9, 2021, CAH hosted a closing reception for the *DC Art Now 2021* exhibition of Art Bank finalist artworks. The reception was also a celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 3,000 artworks of the Art Bank Collection. This was the first in-person event held in our gallery since the pandemic began, and we were honored to have over 100 attendees and the Secretary of the District of Columbia, Kimberly A. Basset, join us in celebration of DC's artists.

In January, CAH will launch a new season of our community engagement programs: Business of the Arts, Artist Showcase, and CAH in the Community. These sessions were offered on a weekly basis online last spring and were incredibly popular. For the upcoming season we will continue to offer online sessions and look to offer in-person or hybrid sessions as possible.

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