

# 10.18.18 Minutes

## Full Commission Meeting Minutes

10/18/2018 4:00pm – 6:00pm

200 I Street SE, Fourth Floor, RM 4019

Washington, DC 20003

**Attending Commissioners:** Kay Kendall, Chair; Josef Palermo, Cicie Sattarnilasskorn, MaryAnn Miller, Jose Ucles, Gretchen Wharton, Stacie Lee Banks, Darrin Glymph, Alma Gates, Haili Francis, , Quance Floyd, Maria Rooney, Edmund Fleet

**Not In Attendance:** Commissioner(s) Rhona Friedman, Chinedu Osuchukwu, and Miles Gray

**Attending CAH Staff Members:** Interim Executive Director Angie Gates, Deputy Director Michael Bigley, Karima Woods (Interim Chief of Staff), Kennisha Rainge (Interim External Affairs Director), Carl Wilson (General Counsel), Ebony Brown (Events Manager), Lauren Glover (Public Art Manager), Patrick Realiza (Social Media Specialist), Jeffrey Scott (Chief of External Affairs), David Markey (Arts Education Coordinator)

The Full Commission meeting of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities (CAH) was called to order on October 18, 2018 at 4:00pm, at 200 I St. SE, Suite 1400 Washington DC, 20003

---

### Public Comment Section at 3:45pm:

- Chair Kendall stated that there was a public commenter scheduled to present before the board for the public comment portion. She asked to bring him in.
- Mark Chalfant, Artistic Executive Director of the Washington Improv Theater- Ward 1 (20 year old Arts Improv Theater) entered into the Board room and passed out a copy of his remarks to everyone in the room as he stated the time was limited.
- Mark Chalfant stated as follows:
  - He wanted to come and raise some concerns of things that had been on his mind and a lot of other artists within the community. He stated that he is not attending the meeting today to propose answers but he wants to provide counsel or discuss ideas as to how we can better move forward as an arts community.
  - He stated that he felt as though the Mayor's office did not do an earnest search for the new CAH Executive Director. It seems to be a placeholder search to allow time to pass until something else transpires.
  - He stated a lot of people felt that the Mayor's Arts Awards nominations went into a black box. No one understood how that process was working and how those decisions were being made.
  - He stated that there was legislation drafted that would alter the terms defining the Commission and it seems that it is attempting to curtail the role that the Commissioners are to play, specifically any oversight roles for the Commissioners. He says that that is concerning to the community because the idea that there are citizens who are involved in the process and keeping their eyes on things making certain everything is well run is really important to the arts community and it is what makes them trust the process. It helps them to make certain that the process is not just about trying to obtain political influence or political connections.
  - He also stated that in the legislation there is language that states the purview of the arts to potentially include cosmetology, culinary, and graphic arts. A lot of the arts community feels as if those are trades that are done in the commercial community. The idea that there would be a visual artist up for funding that would have to be in competition with someone who owns a restaurant feels imbalanced.
  - He stated the budget enhancement grants that happened seemed different as in the past when Council would issue budget enhancement grants they would also include additional financing to support them. That did not happen this year. The Commission has had to reorganize the money to serve the community needs because of this. He stated that this was very troubling because most arts organizations do not have the resources to hire lobbyists to go visit CM Jack Evans' office to get a budget enhancement grant. This violates the idea of competitive grant-making and does not support the idea of transparency as no one knew until the budget was released that any of those conversations

had happened. Mark Chalfant stated that CM Jack Evans should have held an open forum and stated to everyone that this was the time to speak about the budget enhancement grants wanted. That would have felt fairer than all of the organizations being surprised by the budget enhancement grants after the budget was passed.

- He stated that the community is still waiting for the Office of Planning to release the Cultural Plan that has been two years in the making. The community worries that the plan will not be strong enough to support the Facilities and Buildings program. Until the plan is seen, he feels that no progress is being made.
- He stated the internal panel process at the Commission is a blessing and a curse. The blessing is that it involves citizens. The curse is that makes it susceptible to certain weaknesses as this year's Facilities and Building's panel was reduced down to three people by the time the process was done. The panelist's comments that he received seem to be from someone who did not understand his organization at all, and that is concerning. The process can be improved but he doesn't have the answers.
- Chair Kendall thanked Mark and stated that the Commissioners and staff would not be addressing these issues at the meeting but would get back to him with answers at a more appropriate time. She stated that he very succinctly put on the table everything that all of the Commissioners had been thinking about.
- Mark Chalfant said thank you for allowing him to speak and left the meeting.

---

## Adoption of the October Agenda

- Chair Kendall called the meeting to order at 4:00pm
- Chair Kendall motioned to adopt the agenda as presented.
- Chair Kendall moved to adopt the agenda presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wharton.
  - *The motion carried; Unanimous.*

---

## Adoption of the September minutes

- Chair Kendall motioned to adopt the meeting minutes of the September Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gates.
  - *The motion carried; Unanimous.*

---

## Chairperson's Report

- Chair Kendall stated that before the meeting began she wanted to welcome Maria Rooney back to the Board meetings as she has been away for a few months.
- Commissioner Ucles welcomed Commissioner Rooney back as well as the other Commissioners in the room.
- Chair Kendall stated that we could discuss the topics of the earlier conversation of the Board meeting at a later time.
- Chair Kendall asked for the Executive Director's report.

---

## Executive Director's Report

- Interim Executive Director Gates said hello to everyone and that September (202 Creates month) is over and the Commission has really started diving into the FY19. The fiscal year for the government is from October 1-September 30 so we have had to do a lot of deliverables. The focus has been on budget items and getting certain operations in order.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that CAH committed to doing a finance workshop which took place on October 9<sup>th</sup> where a few Commissioners attended. It was very informative as the CAH AFO (Agency Finance Officer's) attended and answered questions so it was really good for them to be able to put a face to the names as well. She hopes that it was also beneficial to the Commissioners that attended.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that she wanted to discuss the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for CAH. The Commission started highlighting the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Mayor's Arts Awards and will be doing a lot more great things to highlight the year. The official date is November 29, 2018 as CAH was founded in 1968.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that CAH just had a staff meeting earlier that day and one of the things discussed was that each department would be required to come up with their contribution to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

# 10.18.18 Minutes



- CAH is looking to do a year-round celebration to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary including 50<sup>th</sup> activations across all 8 Wards.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that one thing that CAH has begun in celebration for the 50<sup>th</sup> is to create a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary video that was debuted at the Mayor's Arts Awards on September 25, 2018.
  - The video was played for the Commissioners to see again at the Board meeting
- The video will air on DCN and DKN and it will be placed on the website
- CAH is gathering podcasts that Jeffrey Scott has been working on to. There are 41 podcasts currently and the Executive Team will be reviewing and listening to air on DC Radio and will take snippets of the podcasts on social media.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that she always looks for ways to align CAH with a national platform. It is good to see CAH aligned with The National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) along with Netflix and other national entities. It's a great opportunity to showcase our residents locally and nationally and it is an opportunity that you rarely see.
  - Interim Executive Director Gates stated to Commissioner Ucles that he mentioned at a prior meeting that he wanted to know if CAH would be getting branding and marketing opportunities as OCTFME does and that this is a great opportunity showcasing that CAH will be moving forward.
  - Commissioner Ucles said that this was great and thank you.
  - Interim Executive Director Gates passed around the ad for the Commissioners to see the partnership with the National Museum of African American History and Culture for their first annual film festival that will be taking place beginning on October 24-27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Chair Kendall asked what did CAH do to get this branding opportunity.
  - Interim Executive Director Gates stated that we did a partnership with the NMAAHC for their inaugural film festival.
  - Chair Kendall stated that she sees the logo on the ad and knows that there was some talk earlier in the year about a new logo.
  - Interim Executive Director Gates stated that there is a new 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo, one gold and one red. Chair Kendall could see the logos on the pages of the binders and the screen. To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> the gold logo will be used at the majority of the time but for the NMAAHC ad the other partnering entities logos were red so it would have looked odd to place CAH's gold logo next to theirs, in lieu the red CAH logo was used for branding. For standard practices there is also a black logo ready to be used as well when needed.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that she would have to leave the meeting soon to go to the Mayor's Bill signing for the new agency of Night Life bill. The bill signing would be taking place at The Park on 14<sup>th</sup> and I. It is a pivotal moment for the District government and she is looking forward to supporting. There are a lot of things that take place in the night life culture and with her coming from a background with the Warner Theatre a lot of her work took place in the evenings.
- Chair Kendall asked if the new Night Life agency would be working with OCTFME.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that the goal is to support the agency as she would like to see as many DC creatives as possible highlighted on the Nightlife platforms. OCTFME will most likely interact when there is an after-work event taking place at a night establishment but at the same time with the night-life community there is a lot of activity when you look at noise and working with the different ANC's, liquor licensing, etc... Because of that, there will be a lot of different agencies on the board to assist in the various areas necessary. New Orleans and New York have night life agencies so here in Washington we have so much to offer from a cultural standpoint but we have a prominent night scene that should be highlighted as well.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that Las Vegas also has a night life agency.
- Chair Kendall asked if anyone had any questions for Interim Executive Director Gates to ask quickly before she leaves.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that if the Commissioners had any other 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary ideas to please share.
- Chair Kendall stated that there has been a few ideas floating around, one is that DC being called the city of trees would be to have artist paint different trees around the city in all 8 wards. There have been metal trees that have been painted and she would share that photos of them at a later date.
- Kennisha Rainge stated that the public art on parking meters was an idea that has been shared as well.

## 10.18.18 Minutes

- Commissioner Ucles stated that he did want to ask something. The gentleman that spoke at the beginning of the Board meeting brought up some points he wanted to discuss.
- Chair Kendall asked that Commissioner Ucles not bring up anything at the moment as Interim Executive Director Gates stated that she had to leave.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that he attends a lot of events and people have been talking. He had not heard anything official from Interim Executive Director Gates or the Mayor's Office about the plans for CAH to become a Department and that there is a possibility of merging with OCTFME.
- Chair Kendall stated that the new legislation does not state anything about the agencies merging.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that this is the rumor he has heard. He is only talking about rumors but he would like for Interim Executive Director Gates to let the Commissioners know what the process will be because people are concerned about the role of the Commissioners being a little less.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that she doesn't do rumors and she is assessing everything to do with the agency to make sure everything is running as effectively as possible. She is doing a deep-dive of everything and at the end of the day we will move forward to best help the creative community. She has assessed things like staffing as she mentioned before she did a one on one with every employee which took her approximately two and a half months. She also has even assessed how Board meetings are run and she is still assessing. At the end of the day we are going to move forward in a manner that is best for the creative community and that is what's most important. It's not about Commissioners, it's not about staff, it's not about the Executive Director either; it's about the people that we are serving and those are the residents of the District of Columbia. With government one thing is very different than the private sector, everyone has an opportunity to speak and their voices will be heard. She just finished a hearing for a franchise agreement for Comcast and RCN that was historic. With hearings you have an open forum to speak and when there aren't hearings there is always an open door policy. Rumors are not necessary when you have an open door policy when you can just sit and talk. She is assessing everything from standard operating procedures and finances; we have a due diligence to continue to communicate and do what's in the best interest of the people.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that he appreciates Interim Executive Director Gates response and he has seen Chairman Phil Mendelson write to the Mayor about this and he was surprised when he was ambushed about this in the community. He would like the Commissioners to be kept in the loop about the legislation as he was only able to respond to the constituents by telling them to reach out to the Commission and ask about it.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that there are always processes in place and we will be doing everything to better assess what is needed for the residents that also includes legislation needed.
- Commissioner Miller stated that Arena Stage and the Phillips Arena always acknowledge the Commission. She has been to be events and we never get acknowledged. We can get the message out to those whom we do events with to include us in marketing for the 50<sup>th</sup> year of CAH.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that it comes down to marketing, branding, and simple directives. CAH is responsible for holding people accountable. There are people who are very appreciative but it is important for us to take a proactive approach and organizations we support also taking a proactive approach.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn appreciates that we give voice to the community members. She stated that there was a member of the community present earlier at the meeting and Interim Executive Director Gates was not present. Her statement is not referencing that but she wants to know would members of the CAH staff be able to make Interim Executive Director Gates aware of the comments from the public member who attended.
- Interim Executive Director Gates stated that the way Kennisha Rainge takes notes she will be able to see the comments. Kennisha Rainge's last Board meeting minutes were 16 pages long and she read all of the minutes as she always reads everything. She will be reviewing the minutes to get a full run down.
- Interim Executive Director Gates said goodbye to everyone.
- Chair Kendall requested finance committee report.
- Commissioner Glymph stated that he was on the call for the records.

### Finance Committee Report

- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked everyone to turn to tab 2 in the binder.

## 10.18.18 Minutes

- The first two pages in tab 2 are charts that highlight the closeout of 2018. All of the grant funds were sent out and FY18 has been closed out.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that the meeting with the AFO's was an interesting meeting as they were able to discuss the closeout of FY18 and beginning of FY19 with them.
- Chair Kendall asked what the \$20,000 that looked to be available pertained to.
- Michael Bigley stated that it was for Public Art.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that the \$20,000 was a part of the Murals DC project with DPW that was a part of the original budget of \$100,000. Even though \$100,000 was approved, only \$80,000 was executed. The \$20,000 has been returned to DPW.
- Lauren Glover stated that what happened was that DPW hired a contractor to do their portion of the project and the \$20,000 represents that payment for DPW's contractor for Murals DC.
- Chair Kendall stated that it's just nice to see a zero sometimes.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked everyone to look at the FY19 spreadsheets provided and stated that there were no real numbers to discuss other than the grant fund displayed for the awardees.
- Michael Bigley stated that these funds were decided when the Commissioners voted at the last Board meeting on the allocations. Some of the projects listed on the spreadsheet are obviously also Public Art as well.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that the meeting with the AFO's was interesting as they went over the financial processes and they answered the questions that she had about the budget. Any information that the Commissioners request is available but regarding specific agency information there is no rule as to what can be included in the reports. The reporting that CAH currently gives to the Commissioners is very helpful especially when funding from grants gets moved. Once upon a time there was a page 3 that had a running list of the things that got moved so that the Commissioners would be reminded. She stated that Earica Busby was open to doing that reporting again in providing more notes to give them more background.
- Chair Kendall stated that it's also important to note that one thing she learned was that anytime there were any expenditures over \$10,000 are subject to the contract process and there are a lot of eyes on the funds throughout the various processes outside of the grants funds.
- Chair Kendall stated that the bottom line of FY18 is \$29million and the bottom line of FY19 is \$31million in which both cases the contracts and personnel portions of the budget are around \$5million. So the internal budget has not grown, the extra \$2million is on the grants side not the other parts of the budget where the Commissioner's don't have oversight. She thinks to have \$31million and have \$5million of that to be in house is quite a good portion. She stated that our budget doesn't go up and there is a grab for money inside, it's going to grants so that is important to keep in mind.
- Chair Kendall asked were there anymore questions on finance
- Chair Kendall asked that we move on to grants and panels with Commissioner Wharton.

### Grants and Panels Committee Report

- Chair Kendall stated to Commissioner Glymph that because he was not in the meeting in person that she would turn it over to Gretchen.
- Commissioner Wharton asked everyone to turn to tab 3 for FY19 Award Updates
  - In FY19, CAH awarded the \$13,307,302\* in grants to 600 awardees across nine grant programs. Awardees were notified on October 1, 2019.
  - Details: FY19 General Operating Support \$7,7057,558 + FY19 all other grants \$6,249,744
  - In FY18, CAH awarded \$12,770,729\* in grants (not including Budget Enhancement Grants) to 610 awardees across nine grant programs.
  - Details: FY18 General Operating Support \$6,808,330 + Fall and Spring Grants:\$5,962,399
- Commissioner Wharton stated that these figures do not include the Budget Enhancement Grant program nor public art awardee numbers and award amounts.
- Commissioner Wharton asked that everyone look at the FY19 grants Non-compliance Policy as it's important because they have had a few organizations in the past who weren't compliant and what CAH didn't have was a legal statement in the application that spoke to the non-compliance terms. She stated Carl Wilson got it together to include in the applications that covers everything necessary moving forward. It now includes specific legal terms and language that better reflects and

clarifies CAH's policy on non-compliance. This includes reasons for being determined non-compliant, the effect of being determined non-complaint, and the process for determining and remedying non-compliance (please see FY19 Grant Agreement: Grantee Non-Compliance).

- Commissioner Wharton explained that the grants Committee has been looking into the definition of "arts and humanities" organizations that will determine how an organization is classified as arts and/or humanities by how much time they spend on arts and humanities activities.
  - The grants committee proposes a policy for determining "arts and humanities" organizations for discussion. Suggestions for determination are: organization's mission statement; the organizations National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities (NTEE) code; and, for those that do not have an NTEE code, 51% of organization's budget or programming hours being devoted to the arts and humanities. This policy is proposed as a tool to provide clarity to CAH's definition of such organizations and to expand access and eligibility to historically under-resourced communities.
  - Commissioner Wharton stated that this was just for reading and no vote was necessary for this portion.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that for the FY19 Budget Enhancement Grants that they are now open and will close on October 19, 2018. The panel will be on Tuesday, November 27, 2018. The grants committee will present funding recommendations for the full commission in December 2018 at the Board meeting.
- Michael Bigley stated that for the Budget Enhancement Grant applications, there were currently 36 applications drafting so we will have to wait and see as they are appearing to be very competitive.
- Chair Kendall asked were there specific categories were there were more applications than others.
- Michael Bigley stated that there were not specific categories right now.
- Chair Kendall stated that some people had called her about the Budget Enhancement grant and she just stated that they must compete.
- Michael Bigley agreed and said that CAH cannot determine who should compete, it's up to if they fit the criteria in the end.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked who was convening the Budget Enhancement Grant panel.
- Chair Kendall stated that she would be convening the panel.
- Chair Kendall asked for the Public Art report

#### Public Art Committee Report

- Commissioner Miller stated that she would have to get off of the call within the next ten minutes so she hopes she will have time to participate in the Public Art vote.
  - Chair Kendall stated that we are getting to the voting for Public Art and we do have a quorum but to just hang on as it was about to be discussed.
- Commissioner Gates stated that the recommendation being put forth is for 110 works of fine art representing 64 applicants totaling \$407,611 (details in grants binder) is an increased request in support and recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities.
  - A total of 132 applicants – representing 128 artists and 4 District galleries – and 708 different works of art were reviewed by 2 panels. Each panel reviewed 66 applications and paired down the list to 151 works as finalist selections.
  - The 151 finalist works are on display in the CAH Gallery and she hopes that the Commissioners will stop and take a look in the gallery at the selections if they haven't already. The panelists reviewed the finalists and made a final recommendation.
  - The 64 applicants representing:
    - 73% District;
    - 16% Maryland, and
    - 11% Virginia
- Commissioner Gates stated
  - Commissioner Gates motioned to put on the table to spend \$407,611 to purchase the works of art selected for Art Bank.
    - Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn seconded the motion

- Chair Kendall carried the vote
    - *The motion carried: Unanimous*
- Commissioner Gates stated for FY18 Murals DC :
  - Six (6) new murals were painted on 6 walls across the District as part of the District's anti-graffiti initiative in partnership with the Department of Public Works.
  - She asked Lauren Glover to display the power point of the murals and all of the Designed to Recycle garbage trucks for the Commissioners to see the final versions.
  - Chair Kendall and Commissioner Ucles said that the murals were terrific.
  - Commissioner Ucles stated that he was glad that Art Enable was included as they are very inspirational to see those with disabilities creating.
- Lauren Glover stated that Art Enable has gallery space on the first floor and in the basement of their building. If anyone is looking for gallery space in the neighborhood they are available.
- Commissioner Gates stated that the Commission owns many works of art. Some are old and not chosen and they sit and just occupy space. At the suggestion of many and with the help of Zoma Wallace and Commissioner Francis have put together an accessing and de-accessioning task force for the art bank. The Accessioning and De-accessioning Task Force of the Public Art Committee is a working group of experts in curation and registrar processes has been tasked with reviewing existing Art Bank accessioning guidelines and making recommendations for de-accessioning guidelines for the public art collection.
- Commissioner Gates asked Commissioner Francis if she had any updates.
- Commissioner Francis stated that the next working group meeting would take place in November and they are in the beginning stages so no significant updates at this point. One of the per-discussions that has occurred was about pieces that have been in the art bank for a while and what was the protocol for their de-accessioning. This requires a set of standards to be created for those type of pieces and even as the Commission accesses new works the standards would apply here as well. The standards would clarify the parameters for accessing and de-accessioning art works. The goal is to make the guidelines clear so that when the call to artist goes out they know what type of works would be appropriate for an office space.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked who is a member of the task force
  - Commissioner Francis stated that several members of the community in the areas of collections management as well as representatives from various art organizations are a part of the task force.
  - Commissioner Gates stated that Susan Clampitt is a part of the task force as well.
- Lauren Glover stated that with the Art Bank, it is an extensive collection to maintain. There are pieces that we have that the up-keep where the maintenance can be more than what the piece is worth and CAH does not have a set of guidelines to say when a piece has ran its course.
- Commissioner Palermo asked if we could have an update regularly moving forward
- Commissioner Francis stated that once the next meeting occurs, there will be more updates to come.
- Commissioner Ucles asked could the pieces be auctioned off to the community or could be something be done with it to help certain pieces live on versus just getting rid of the pieces.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that some pieces aren't in a good condition to be auctioned off.
- Chair Kendall stated that she wouldn't want to have an auction of things that aren't in great condition but she appreciates the sentiment.
- Carl Wilson stated that our laws don't have any explicit language that states that we are able sell original pieces of the art so that is not something we would look to do as CAH would have to run a process like that through the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. The Commission can sell prints of the art work it owns and those proceeds go into the Arts and Humanities Heritage fund.
- Commissioner Wharton asked what happens
- Commissioner Palermo asked Commissioner Francis if she is looking for anyone else to join the working group.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that he has one recommendation as well.
- Commissioner Palermo and Ucles asked Commissioner Francis if she needed names for other people to join the task force.
- Commissioner Francis stated that would be great as its good to have great people to draw from.
- Chair Kendall asked the Commissioners to submit their recommendations of people to be a part of the task force to her and she would get them to Commissioner Francis.

# 10.18.18 Minutes



- Commissioner Gates stated that the price of each piece was listed on the back of the handouts and now that they were voted on they were able to view them.
- Chair Kendall asked for the Events Committee Report

## Events Committee Report

- Commissioner Ucles stated that CAH just had its Mayor's Arts Awards and the public stated that it was a lot of great energy in the room.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that he loved that there was finally a film displayed about the Commission.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that he was surprised when the public member came to speak to the Commissioners earlier and stated that the Mayor's Arts Awards was in a black box as even though he does not travel in rumors it was interesting because all they had to do was go on the website, the process was there. The nomination process started at the beginning of the year and the special honorees are suggested by the Commissioners and the Mayor makes the final decision for those. There is no secret or backroom where things are being done.
- David Markey stated that there was a panel for the nominations as well.
- Commissioner Ucles stated the mix was nice even though some people thought it would be an easy win it was nice to have some new faces. He had never heard of Maude and Chloe but the audience went wild for her. The public obviously was pleased
- Commissioner Ucles commends CAH staff wants Kennisha Rainge to tell Interim Executive Director Gates to make sure she thanks the OCTFME team as well. Everyone came together and it was amazing. The reception was great as well, it was such a joy with the dancers, music, and there could have been more food, but it was great.
- Commissioner Palermo thanked Commissioner Ucles for his work on the Mayor's Arts Awards and also for thanking the Commissioners on the stage as it wasn't clear if the Commissioners would be acknowledged.
- Chair Kendall asked for the Arts Education report and asked David Markey to do the report out in Commissioner Friedman's absence.

## Arts Education Committee Report

- David Markey stated that Celebrate the Creative Spark! is entering into its fifth year. Celebrate the Creative Spark! is a series of student workshops designed to meet CAH's goal of developing the creative capacity of children and youth in DC. CAH solicits applications from arts organizations and individual teaching artists through a competitive contract process. Applicants submit a three-lesson residency targeting a specific age/grade grouping in their discipline. CAH then pairs successful applicants with DCPS and DCPCS classrooms across all eight wards to engage students in process-driven arts activities to build their creative skills. The program is scheduled for implementation between February 11, 2019 and April 12, 2019.
  - There have been different residencies across the city to help people engage in the process.
  - This year, it was just approved by Interim Executive Director Gates to increase the budget for this program to have 50 residencies across the city. It's a simple tweak but CAH is looking forward to it.
  - Something that has been done differently with the access and inclusion workshops is working directly with young people who have a need and working directly with organizational leadership to understand how to be proactive and welcoming of people with all abilities for both programs and the physical buildings in which people go to.
- David Markey stated that there was a little money left over so he engaged with a facilitator to do a deeper dive with two organizations that expressed interest in full staff trainings and helping them to develop a short and long term plan to assist them with their access and inclusion :
  - The Atlas Performing Arts Center
  - Washington Improv Theatre
- David Markey stated for National Arts in Education Week: Professional Development Institute (PDI) CAH, in collaboration with DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative (DCAHEC) delivered a day-long professional development institute (PDI) for classroom educators and arts specialists from DCPS and DCPCS on Saturday, September 15, 2018 at Columbia Heights Education Campus (CHEC). 85 teachers engaged in experiential and theoretical workshops with nineteen teaching artists from nine DC-based arts and humanities organizations.



- David Markey the NEA's Poetry Out Loud (POL) program is up and running! Schools have until October 19, 2018 to return their registration forms. Four teaching artists are signed up to work with schools to help students take their poems from "page to stage" in preparation for the District finals in mid-March 2019. CAH anticipates working with 12-14 high schools this year. While the date for the District final has not been confirmed, the hope is to return to the sound stage of the Office of Cable Television, Film, Music, and Entertainment for a fourth year of the competition.
- Access and Inclusion Workshops
- Commissioner Gates stated that the artists for Art Bank awardees haven't been notified so everyone should keep the names to themselves for now as all of the pieces were not selected.
- Chair Kendall was thankful for the clarification.
- Lauren Glover stated that the letters would go out to the artists within the month.
- Chair Kendall says to keep the votes today confidential as they will not be made public until October 1<sup>st</sup>.

## New and Unfinished Business

- Chair Kendall asked that if there was any new and unfinished business
- Commissioner Ucles stated that he is from Ward 5 and he found out through the news and has yet to hear anything from the Commission. He wants to ask Kennisha Rainge about an issue with a neighbor of his, Marta Perez, who did an exhibit at the Reeves Center. He states he believes there was a decision for Marta Perez's exhibit to be taken down like the one he remembers from 3 years prior that was also made by CAH to take an exhibit down in Ward 8. He wants to know who made the final decision because of people seeing the dolls as being lynched.
- Kennisha Rainge stated that the decision had not been made to remove the dolls and it is still under review.
- Carl Wilson stated that the exhibit is still up.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that the way the news painted it made it seem like the opposite. He wants to help Marta Perez from his Ward as he just found out about this issue today. He wants to know is there an option to do a different display rather than take the exhibit down. The dolls were originally supposed to be on the floor but due to there being issues with leakage in the Reeves Center the dolls would have gotten damaged so Marta Perez came up with a new design that would still display her exhibit. He stated that maybe tables could be brought in to display the exhibit because it carries an important message about women who have been a part of domestic violence.
- Carl Wilson stated that CAH presented options to the artist. CAH is in a tough spot because CAH has been balancing the artist's sensitivities with community members concerns and complaints about an exhibit that was visible to the children at the daycare because it's positioned in a way that was not originally proposed. CAH has been trying to find a solution.
- Kennisha Rainge stated that it is still under review by the Commission.
- Commissioner Palermo mentioned that Mt. Pleasant Main Street is leading a grass roots effort to get the community involved in preserving the Best Worlds Market and community spaces around the Ward to provide affordable groceries in neighborhoods. Punk in the Produce on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that he wished that the Interim Executive Director was at more of the meeting as she has spoken to assessing protocol and processes and he is hoping to discuss more business as a Commission. He wants to really speak to a reasonable amount of time that Commissioners can expect to hear back about certain questions asked.
  - Commissioners have asked questions and not heard back answers yet. He understands that Interim Executive Director Gates is very busy but he wants to address that communication process moving forward.
  - Chair Kendall asked was he referring to when a question is asked and it goes through her to Kennisha Rainge and then to Interim Executive Director Gates and he may not hear back as soon as he would like or at all.
  - Chair Kendall apologized for a glitch in her emails as she knows some may have been delayed.
  - Kennisha Rainge asked what questions specifically were Commissioner Palermo referring to that were not answered.
    - Commissioner Palermo wanted to know why the Commissioner names were removed from Commission marketing correspondence to the public and he hadn't heard an answer since June as to why.
    - Kennisha Rainge stated that the answer was given to Chair Kendall months ago.
    - Chair Kendall stated that she doesn't remember the response.
    - Kennisha Rainge stated that she will find the email and follow back up with Chair Kendall.

# 10.18.18 Minutes



- Commissioner Palermo asked for the response to a Ward 1 constituent who is requesting a response.
- Chair Kendall stated that CAH gave a response and she followed up with the constituent.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that the response was delayed and he and the rest of the Commissioners would appreciate a timeline for responses to these type of matters.
- Chair Kendall wants to address the proposed legislation for changes
  - The legislation hasn't been activated by Council. It would require a markup and hearing and none of those dates have been set. There is some thought that this will not happen right away so if anything does happen it won't be tomorrow.
  - If there is a hearing of course we will all be in attendance
  - There are pieces that are high-time to happen and some of the pieces of the legislation are not:
    - The term limits being shortened to two terms (6 years). She has noted that other organizations don't have term limits so why should CAH.
    - The Mayor will hire the Executive Director, this has been a practice for many years and it's time to make that change in legislation to reflect that.
    - Commissioner Palermo asked would the Commissioners be briefed on the legislation.
    - Chair Kendall says that the legislation speaks for itself, she is not in control of the legislation but knows that several members of the community have some real reactions to the legislation. Whomever they are most likely talking and preparing to react in a hearing.
    - Commissioner Ucles stated that the part of the legislation about the Commissioners meeting quarterly does not behoove the community. He takes great pride to report on his Ward consistently.
    - Chair Kendall stated that nationwide no other arts agency meets as often as we do, the legislation proposed is not out of practice with the national scope of things.
    - Commissioner Gates wanted to add that on two panels there was a Virginia and Maryland participants. They don't do the level of work that CAH Commission does. We are unique and she believes that it's good that we do this.
    - Chair Kendall stated that nationwide there are panels and the panels determine the grant process.
    - Commissioner Gates asked if those panels do the same level of work as CAH does.
    - Chair Kendall stated that she does not know.
    - Chair Kendall mentioned that we in the past had an outside source to assist with panel review of the finances of the organizations.
    - Michael Bigley stated that it was done two times but there were no plans to continue to do it again this year. It was no value added as it wasn't information useful in the panel process and they couldn't figure out a way to make it work.
    - Chair Kendall asked if it was worth talking about again.
    - Michael Bigley stated that it was a waste of money because the information provided by the firm didn't have much merit on the decision making on the panel. He can continue looking into it.
    - Commissioner Palermo stated that as we heard during the Public Comment period that there is high concern on the Budget Enhancement Grants. He has personally heard from members of the community about this. He wants to express his disappointment in the DC Council that they didn't provide CAH additional funds needed to provide grants. Now the money to support arts organizations has to come from a general pool. He has faith that staff will proceed wisely with the budget enhancement grant process but he would strongly advise the DC Council to move differently than this in the future and do what they have done in the past when they have provided additional funding to CAH to support these budget enhancement grants.
      - Commissioner Ucles seconded Commissioner Palermo's statement.
      - Chair Kendall third Commissioner Palermo's statement.
- Commissioner Ucles showed the articles that were posted about the Mayor's Arts Awards to the Commissioners.
- Chair Kendall stated that the Executive Director Search is legitimate and to encourages anyone who is interested to apply.

## 10.18.18 Minutes

- Chair Kendall thanked everyone for all of the information discussed today ended the meeting at 5:23pm
- 

### **Adjournment**

- Full meeting was adjourned at adjourned at 5:23 PM.
- There will not be a full Commission meeting in November. The next meeting will take place on December 13, 2018.

DRAFT