



## 04.25.19 Minutes

### Full Commission Meeting Minutes

04/25/2019 4:00pm – 5:00pm

200 I St. SE Suite 1400 (Large Conference Room)

Washington, DC 20003

**Attending Commissioners:** Kay Kendall, Chair, Haili Francis, Alma Gates, MaryAnn Miller, Jose Uclés, Gretchen Wharton, Maria Rooney, Stacie Lee Banks, Edmund Fleet, Quanice Floyd, Chinedu Osuchukwu, Josef Palermo, Cicie Sattarnilasskorn, Kymber Menkiti, Derek Younger

**Not In Attendance:** Commissioner(s) Miles Gray, Rhona Wolfe Friedman

**Attending CAH Staff Members:** Executive Director Terrie Rouse-Rosario, Deputy Director Michael Bigley, Kennisha Rainge (Chief of Internal Affairs), Lauren Glover (Public Art Manager), Patrick Realiza (Social Media Specialist), Brenda Walker (Communications Contractor), Heran Sereke-Brhan (Senior Grants Officer), Benjamin Douglas (Grants Manager), Carl Wilson (CAH General Counsel), Melvin Witten (Legislative and Community Affairs)

**Public Members Present:** Matt Cohen, Nabeeh Bilal, Iris Sherman, Claudia Koerbler, June Johnson, Caroline Plensan, Lorenzo Jones, T. Jennings

### Public Comment Section:

- Chair Kendall welcomed everyone and asked which Commissioners were on the call.
  - Commissioner Francis
  - Commissioner Floyd
- Chair Kendall introduced the two new Board members, Derek Younger, who is very familiar with the agency and Kymber Menkiti.
- Chair Kendall stated that this first period is devoted to people from the outside who want to come to speak to us about anything. The rules are they will have three minutes to talk. We do not respond to them, but we just listen. So, I think it's time to bring them in. There will be four people speaking so there will be good reason to keep to the three minutes. Kennisha Rainge stated that June Johnson was up first to present today.
- June Johnson stated:
  - “Hi, good afternoon. Thank you to the Board members of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities for allowing me to testify today, and especially the wonderful members of your staff, Kennisha and Patrick, for their assistance. My name is June Johnson. I'm a resident of the District of Columbia, Historic Anacostia, as well as a graduate of UDC Law and Howard University Seminary. And presently, I'm a creative resident at 202Creates, right across the way. Most importantly, I'm the founder and first creative director of True Bliss Television. You're like, what's that? Good. True Bliss Television is an online entertainment company that produces family-friendly stories of love, romance and inspiration for all ages. Imagine Hallmark Channel with people of color in the leading roles. It takes place in our beautiful city of D.C. Our stories are guaranteed to make you feel better. Would you like a sample? It would be really awkward if you didn't say that. These are my beautiful actors, and we're going to present just a few minutes of Destination Love, which takes place on a bus in the heart of Anacostia.”
  - Ms. Risto (Actor): “Ma, did you sneak off to have some clandestine affair with, with him? Oh, Lord, I need to sit down. I mean, really, a woman of your age meeting up with strange men in strange places. It's just unseemly.
  - June Johnson: “I applaud you, sis, you are strong like the wind, unpredictable like the sea, you are woman, you are meant to be.”
  - Ms. Risto: “So now we're on Def Poetry Bus? Wow, this is the very definition of absurdity. Well, now what?”



- Mr. Jones (Actor): “Ladies and gentlemen, good news, the tire is fixed. The bad news is we’re having engine trouble. The bad, bad news is we ran out of gas. I got a call for service, but it will be a little while before they get to us. I mean, again. Man, my evaluation is going to be so low again this year.”
- June Johnson: “This would have never happen in an Uber.”
- Mr. Jones: “I apologize for the inconvenience. And to make up for it, would anyone like to hear a unique yodeling rendition of the bluegrass favorite Amazing Grace?”
- June Johnson: “No.”
- Mr. Jones: “Well, fine then, I’ll just yodel to myself while I wait for maintenance. You need to respect the yodel community for the rich heritage that it brings to America.”
- Ms. Risto: “So this is what the fiery depths of hell are like, a bunch of misguided souls trapped in a hotbox that smells like spoiled pickles. This is the worst. Mom, this is where we get off and try and save what’s left of our day and forget that this even happened.”
- Ms. Plaza (Actor): “I haven’t been brave. I have been stuck in what others thought I should be at this age. I was so used to being a wife, a mother and a grandmother that I forgot to be me. I forgot what made me before life slid in so many directions. And then I just got plain scared. I mean, who was I if I wasn’t somebody’s wife, mother, and grandma? I’ve always tried to teach you, daughter, to be strong, and now I’m going to show you. I’m not available to be your surprise babysitter.”
- Ms. Risto: “Mom, what?”
- Ms. Plaza: “From here on out, you must check with me first. I am not your caterer or your party planner; I am your mom and I love you. I am a woman still in her prime and so, let me enjoy it. Some of this is my fault, though, because I let you take the driver’s seat in my life, because I was too fearful of what was going to happen next. Well, I’m done being afraid. Truth is, we take a thousand little risks every day and those risks should move us forward in life, not keep us standing still. Now, if you will excuse me, I have a date.”
- June Johnson stated:
  - “Thank you, this play is going to happen as a part of the DC Black Theater Festival, June 30, at THEARC on Mississippi Avenue, Southeast, at 3:00 p.m. Please come, but I want the beautiful cast to introduce themselves. I’m June Johnson, writer/director.”
- Kristin Risto introduced herself. She is a dancer and actress in the DMV area. She is also in a production of Under(world) with TBD Immersive at Dupont Underground.
- Carolyn Plaza introduced herself. She is a local actor in the DMV area. She has something coming up in June with the DC Black Theater Festival. It’s a play called Clean Sheets. It is the 30th of June at THEARC at 3:00.
- Lorenzo Jones introduced himself as an actor in the DMV. He has additional productions in the Black Theater Festival. Malcolm and Martin: a Conversation Between Friends, a stage reading. Land of Promiscuity, which is a play. And Evicted, which is also another stage reading.
- Chair Kendall thanked them for their presentation and asked the next Public member to present.
- Iris Sherman stated:
  - “Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Iris Sherman, and I want to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to be here today. So, I kind of have a little story and I thought it would be worth telling. So, I am a serial entrepreneur in the D.C./Maryland area. I’ve done six startups, four exits. I won lots of awards as being an entrepreneur, including in 2015, I was Woman Entrepreneur of the Year and became a national finalist. And my story in the entrepreneurial world kind of took a turn in late 2015. I happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time and I drove through a community and there was a shooting going on and I got shot. And it kind of changed my life. And I’ve always painted my whole life. I actually, even when I was getting my graduate degree, in Boston, down the street was Mass College of Art, and I took classes in art, because I love to paint. And my healing actually was because of my art. I went from surgery to surgery to surgery, with lots of in-between time, for a whole-year period, and I really didn’t want to take a lot of drugs. And so, I went back to my art to heal me. And since then, my current tech startup, it’s actually going through an exit, which will be another exit on my belt, and I’ve been very involved in art, I’ve been painting now, I’ve actually sold some of my art. I actually made a little teeny brochure, so you can see

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some of my art, because it represents the area that I've come to love, the D.C. area. I've been in the area for ten years now. And I've been very involved in growing the entrepreneur ecosystem in the DMV. Starting accelerators, being mentors for lots of entrepreneurs, men and women, but mostly, I kind of have an affinity to women entrepreneurs, because they have a harder role. And I, thanks to Patrick, had access to some of the vision of which the group is moving forward with. And I would love to find a way to get involved and help artists. Since I know the business world, I know how to raise money, I know the challenges it takes to be a businessperson, including raising capital and whatnot. And I would love to transition those skill sets to help artists, because I do know what it's like to be an artist now and to even raise money to sell your property on the web and beyond. And lastly, what we don't all realize is that art is transforming and it's even taking on a tech side, and I have a tech background as well. And I see that, between augmented reality, virtual reality and other digital platforms, art is changing. And one of the things that I would love to see happen to truly show our area's beauty is to be able to embellish that art as well. And I believe that we can tap into some of the new big tech companies that are coming into the area, such as Amazon, Google's coming, they've already taken a slice of the real estate, as well as, from being in my own tech background, I know other companies, from both the west and the east, are coming in. We need to be able utilize their spaces with our art, as well as capture some of their finances. So, thank you. So, that's really kind of my story.”

- Chair Kendall said thank you and asked Claudia Koerbler to present her public comments.
- Claudia Koerbler stated:
  - “Hello, good afternoon. Thank you so much for welcoming me to this Board meeting and for having me today. I think I should quickly introduce myself, who I am and what I do. My name is Claudia Koerbler I'm an Austrian-born global citizen, and I came to Washington, D.C. nine and a half years ago to actually serve the Cultural Attache of the Embassy of Austria. So I was not aware the first group that there actually are such fantastic yodelers in Washington, D.C. as well, because I grew up with yodeling in my high school. So just a quick thing about myself, what do I do, what am I really passionate about? I have, since my tenure at the Austrian Embassy, moved on to work for the World Bank Group in international development, also with a quick stint for the United Nations. But in my daytime job, I focus on the eradication of extreme poverty in transition countries. What does that mean? Educating U.S. government and governments of developing countries around how they can be a driving force to upstream the poverty line of \$1.90 a day, what they can do within their communities to be able to really push and drive that social impact and change forward. You might think how does that correlate and coincide with the DC Arts and Humanities Commission? So besides my daytime job at the World Bank Group, I run a business called Global Storytelling for Global Development, an online platform with about 5,000 Millennial and Gen Z participants, where I educate the audience around the eradication of extreme poverty, how they can learn to be a social-impacting driving force of change to eradicate poverty within their communities in the United States, but also in developing countries, and my home country of Austria as well. So, for that, and because I'm a little bit crazy and a little bit of a crazy entrepreneurial woman, as probably many of you in here as well, I've decided to create a knowledge management flagship product. What is that? I raised some of my own funds, I put some of my own savings into traveling to Kenya last year in August to shoot a documentary called Nashukuru, which means I am grateful in Swahili, Storytelling in the Faces of Poverty. It is a 45-minute documentary where I am the host of Nashukuru. Think about female global citizen, Anthony Bourdain, travels to Kenya, spends time with the Maasai tribe, in the Maasai Mara, educating and talking about issues, unfortunately, such as female genital mutilation, women empowerment, and poverty. But also talking with women who are HIV-infected in the slums, in Swahili, around what some of the women illiteracy looks like and how we can combat that. I also partnered up with UNHCR, where I went to a refugee camp up in Kakuma, where in particular, speak to youth around what poverty looks like and what we -- and it's really funny, when I say westerners, it's not a term that I created for myself, but it's something that Kenyans actually do call people from the West, people from Europe and from the United States as well -- kind of giving a bit of an insight in asking the question around what can we really do to help them to eradicate and fight extreme poverty? So the reason why I'm here is because I do have a D.C. and a United States tie-in as well. The documentary actually just premiered on March 26 at the Embassy of Austria, with about 270 participants from the World Bank Group, the United Nations, Embassy Diplomatic Corps, but also from D.C. Government, think tanks



and local NGOs. And I would love to have the opportunity to engage and talk further with you, with some of the work around Millennial empowerment and the understanding of eradication of extreme poverty would be. And I would love to plug myself in and give some of the Millennials and Gen Z the opportunity to not only view this documentary and see it, but we also open up, through panel discussions and other workshop, the conversation around what poverty also in D.C. looks like and what are some of the measures I have learned in Kenya and how can we translate them to D.C. as well? So, that's just a quick about Claudia, about the filmmaker, so to speak, and about Nashukuru, and if there are any questions, I am here afterwards to answer any questions you may have. And I want to thank you sincerely again for the opportunity to talk to you today. Thank you.”

- Chair Kendall stated that all of the public commenters had an opportunity to speak and that there was about five minutes before the Board meeting actually starts. She thanked the commenters again.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 3:54 p.m. and resumed at 4:00 p.m.)

The Full Commission meeting of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities (CAH) was called to order on April 25, 2019 at 4:00pm, at 200 I St. SE, Room 4019, Washington DC 20003

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### Chairperson’s Report

- Chair Kendall stated:
  - “I want to call the meeting to order. Thank you, all, for being here. In case anyone came in late, I want to be sure and introduce our two new Commissioners, Kymber Menkiti and Derek Younger. Would you all just want to take a second and tell us about yourselves? Derek can go first.”
- Commissioner Younger stated:
  - “Okay. well, I’m not new at the Commission, but really, back at the Commission, because I was appointed here in 2014 and have worked for the Commission, as well as three other agencies in D.C. government. And now, I’m at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts and glad to be back here with people who are doing great things in the arts and humanities.”
- Chair Kendall stated that it’s really nice to see a familiar face. Welcome. Kymber?
- Commissioner Menkiti stated:
  - “I’m Kymber Menkiti. I live in Ward 4 with my husband and our three boys. And we own a business, that’s located in Ward 5: the Menkiti Group. So, it’s a residential and commercial real estate development firm. And so I kind of bring a different angle to the Commission and excited to have the opportunity to work with all of you and bring the passion and interest that I have in the arts community to this Board.”
- Chair Kendall stated:
  - “Great. Well, it’s nice to have a fresh face. I just have one more quick update thing. When I was in Santa Fe, they have an art installation there called Meow Wolf. It started there, and it’s sort of, I think, moving to Las Vegas, and there’s going to be one here in D.C. eventually, in Fort Totten. But it’s just really something I’m just giving you a sort of heads-up to look out for it. It’s a lot of fun, it’s called Meow Wolf. You walk into a space, a very large space. And in the case in Santa Fe, they’ve recreated a house, like a Victorian house. You walk up on the porch, you walk inside the living room, and you can see signs that there was a family living there, but they’ve disappeared and you don’t know what happened. And so, you want to find out and you open doors and even, the one that really got me was when you opened the refrigerator door and it was a tunnel and you walk through the tunnel. But you open a closet door, it’s another tunnel. Everywhere you look, you’re walking through tunnels and you’re going through very psychedelic arts experiences. And it employed so many artists to create these inside-the-tunnel experiences, even inside-the-house experiences. And it’s extremely popular, with all ages. It was really fun. So, I just thought I’d share it with you, since it was so unique and different and you might be hearing about it.
  - “So it’s been a while since we’ve met and a lot’s been going on. I know that, at long last, the Cultural Plan was released. I think that unpacking that and figuring out how we’re going to work to make it a reality is still the next



step, but that's something that we've been waiting for. And I know a lot you all have gone to see things at the theater, there's a lot going on. But rather than taking the time today to go around, like we do sometimes, I thought I would skip that part, because we have a lot to vote on and I don't want us to run out of time. So, I'm just going to turn it over to you to the Executive Director

- Commissioner Miller stated that the agenda and meeting minutes need to be adopted first.
- Chair Kendall stated thanks for the reminder, so we will first adopt the agenda.
- **Chair Kendall motioned to adopt the agenda as presented.**
  - Commissioner Miller moved to adopt the agenda presented.
  - The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wharton.
    - *The motion carried; Unanimous*
- **Adoption of the February minutes**
  - Chair Kendall motioned to adopt the meeting minutes of the February Commission meeting.
  - Commissioner Gates moved to adopt the minutes as presented, Commissioner Ucles seconded the motion.
    - *The motion carried; Unanimous.*
- Chair Kendall asked for the Executive Director report.

#### Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated:
  - “Okay. Good afternoon, everyone. And I'm going to stand up because it's a little easier for me, being only five foot two. So my report is going to be somewhat brief today, so we can get through the business at hand. And we have a lot to talk about. But first of all, I want to talk about, those of who made it to the Cultural Plan presentation, it was quite impressive. The Mayor came and made us all feel very good for all the work that has been done and we thanked our colleagues at the Planning Department, as well as all of us who participated, because getting through something like a Cultural Plan in three years is quite a feat. So, it was quite an event and it generated a lot of conversation that I'm sure all of you hear wherever you go in the world. And we will be implementing the portions of it that survived the budget process. But for us, it is a transformation of our organization. We will be doing more than we've ever done. We will have alliances and collaboration with agencies that we only had small relationships before, but now, bigger components of it. And if the budget is adopted, by some miracle, it will be the largest budget for the arts that the District of Columbia has ever had, because if you add in the multiplier effect for the revolving funds, it's over \$40 million. So, this is a testament to our Mayor, vision to see that we can create a budget that has, not just 15 grant programs, but two revolving funds, which are other tools and other things to make more opportunities for every aspect of the creative economy, from the working artists, through your established organizations, because all of them have different types of needs. So, it is quite a feat and I'm hoping that we'll be able to actualize most of it over a period of time, and, oh, by the way, it doesn't happen tomorrow. We'll be talking about this for the next two years, trying to get this truly launched. So the public art dedications are starting. Lauren and team are out there preparing for these programs, and there happens to be one -- I believe it's tomorrow evening at 5:00. And most of the Commissioners have been invited in many ways to participate, if it's in your ward. So these are exciting moments to have these things happen, and Lauren and her team has worked very hard and we're kind of pleased to see all of this happening. So, I'm pleased about that. We will be celebrating, meaning the Commission on Arts and Humanities, 20 years of providing grants to East of the River, and these are the East of the River grants. And there is a presentation on May 9, in the early evening, I believe. So, there will be invitations going out to that. Of course, this is an event we're hoping that the immediate community is engaged in and you will all be asked to participate if at all possible. And you may notice that you're getting more and more invitations to go do things on behalf of the Commission, because I think that's an important role that people know that you're out there and you're helping us understand and helping other people understand what we're doing. So, look for more of them as time goes on. We have been, on the staff side, we've been meeting with various community organizations, museums, cultural events, festivals -- there are more of them, because this is part of our engagement. We hear a lot about, oh,



you need to talk to us. So, we are talking to people and it is a formal process. So, I'm going to ask you, if someone comes up to you in the grocery store and says to you, oh, we want to meet with the Commission, they can call my office. And we're going to ask them for an agenda, for a 45-minute meeting, who's coming to the meeting, what they want to talk about, have them come in and talk to us about what they're doing. It doesn't mean that we're handing them out money; it means that we're listening to what's going on. And what's great about that is you hear a lot of exciting things going on out there in the cultural world. So, and not only just here, but other places. So just kind of keep that in mind. Some people get inundated, like our dear Chair. So, please, just push people our way, and we'll make sure that we can manage that on your behalf, and we don't you to feel inundated in any way. So that's our job here and we'll make that. Welcome again to the new Commissioners and look for lots and lots of emails from us, so keep that in mind. One good announcement, we will be -- the Commission on Arts and Humanities is the co-host for the Americans for the Arts conference in June of 2020. I'm looking at Michael, because Michael's really doing all the work. And this is quite an accomplishment, quite an honor for us, to be hosting our colleagues from around the country here next year. So, we're pleased. There's a committee that's still being built and my co-chair will be Mardell Moffett from the Cafritz Foundation. So, we're excited. And this is a lot of work and I've been on host committees before, for a variety of things, so we're hoping that we'll all be able to represent the City of Washington in its finest. So, I'm very excited about that. Just as a reminder, Melvin is here somewhere, guess what? Your confidential filing documents are due on May 15. If you have not gotten an email, you will be getting an email reminding you that as a Commissioner, you need to file these. So, Kennisha is able to provide you with that information, Melvin's here to provide you any support. So, I know everyone is real excited about putting those documents in, but we're here to help you make sure that that happens. Also, same is true with conflict of interest forms, and she happens to have some here. So, we'll pass those along as well. And my final point, so we can get to this, is that we have started a Commission on Arts and Humanities Newsletter. You saw our first tester last week and we're continuing to kind of tweak that document. So you'll be getting news from us. Some of it's going to be upbeat news; some of it's just kind of giving you some sense of what's going on. But it's also a way for us to -- oh, there he is, yay."

- Commissioner Osuchukwu entered the room
- Chair Kendall stated to Commissioner Osuchukwu that everyone was so glad to see him.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that Commissioner Osuchukwu made it in and that he is a trooper, my goodness.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated:
  - "If anybody has any news that you want to share with the other Commissioners or with the rest of us, please just send us something and we'll drop it in, in the newsletter. We just wanted to begin our internal newsletter providing updates for Commissioners and staff. We will also be updating our website, and as we go through that process over the next six months or so, we should be in a position to also have another vehicle for sharing information. So, Chair Kendall, that's all my report today."
- Chair Kendall stated thank you and asked if anyone had any questions for our Executive Director Rouse-Rosario.
- Commissioner Miller said that she just had one comment I wanted to know if people whose ward isn't in the ward the public art dedications are in could still get information about it.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario said sure.
- Commissioner Sattamilasskorn asked when you talk about information that you're going to put online, does that include like budget or finance stuff that was asked for previously?
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that if it includes anything, it'll be like charts or summary things, which, we have, for example, our annual report will be coming out in a week or so. It's going to the press shortly. So, we will put that up.
- That's similar to the type of information you find on Mayor Bowser's general website. And hopefully, just to continue with that, help dispel some mythologies that people have about our budget and that sort of thing. This type of information has always been available, now it will just be readable because it will be in charts.
- Commissioner Palermo asked about the Cultural Plan. As you stated, it came out the night before it was to be presented to the Council at the budget hearing, is there a reason why the Commission is listed as a coauthor, but the Commissioners had not been briefed or otherwise engaged in the development of the Cultural Plan?



- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that the staff helped develop the plan and participated in it. I think there were some Commissioners that came to some of the meetings, yes.
- Community meetings as well,
- Chair Kendall stated that there were a lot of open meetings that Commissioners attended that was before Commissioner Palermo's time as a Board member.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that he was certainly wasn't invited to any of those meetings, so that's why he was asking to clarify.
- Commissioner Ucles stated that he would clarify. It goes way back to the previous Director. It was mentioned at the meetings and things were sent. And this is almost, like you said, almost two or three years ago and there were other Commissioners present.
- Michael Bigley stated that there's also a public comment period for the draft. So, everyone should have received that and had the opportunity to comment, even afterwards.
- Commissioner Palermo stated: Okay. He wants to also ask a question about information that you were mentioning making available on the website in the form of things like charts. He noticed that the current organizational chart is missing some staff. For example, Kennisha isn't listed as the Chief of Internal Affairs, but has been listed on minutes for these meetings going back several months as the Chief of Internal Affairs. Is there a reason why there are staff missing on the chart?
- Kennisha Rainge stated:
  - "I'm sure you're probably not familiar with a lot of the inter-government workings but I am a detailed employee sent from EOM to work at CAH. I am still a part of EOM, so what happens in a lot of organizations, sometimes people are detailed over. So, I am still officially on the CAH roster, but still a part of EOM which is why I am not on the CAH organization chart. I'm not paid by the Commission on Arts and Humanities. But that is not uncommon because many agencies, they detail different employees over for a certain period of time for different reasons.
- Commissioner Palermo asked Kennisha Rainge how long is she intended to be at the Commission.
- Kennisha Rainge stated that she works for the Mayor so as long as intended.
- Commissioner Palermo asked if that also goes for other staff that have been detailed to us that are not listed on the organizational chart? Like Brenda Walker from OCTFME, Jocelyn Castro, who is new to the legal legislative team? Does that apply to Lisa Purcell, the Director of Operations for CAH?
- Kennisha Rainge stated that all of the employees mentioned are Contractors to the agency and Contractors are not listed on organizational charts.
- Commissioner Palermo asked if the same went for Sheila Cuthrell and Zelphia Odom.
- Kennisha Rainge stated that they are HR and they work with Deputy Mayor Kenner in DMPED who have been assigned to CAH to oversee HR processes. They are not a part of our agency roster, but a part of DMPED's.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated to Commissioner Palermo that she wanted to give a little insight here. Since we are an agency, a lot of times, agencies help other agencies or agencies provide support in various ways. So, what you're seeing is a reflection of the fact that our agency went from a small organization to a larger organization. And what we're building on now is trying to deal with the capacity to do what we have to do with the staff we have. So, our Deputy Mayor, bless his heart, detailed people to us to help us deal with the capacity. You will continue to see our org chart change, because it's being ironed out to display what's most effective for how we get the business done of our agency. So, you'll see more. And eventually, maybe months and months from now, once we get through all of that, there will be another org chart that's a little bit more settled in this process. So, that's what's going on.
- Kennisha Rainge stated that it's always posted there on the site and it always will be.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that in the proposed FY2020 budget, there's a request for an increase in full-time employees to the agency. How does that sync with the amount of detailee's that we currently have with others?
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that some of that, we'll sort out. But the issue we're trying to get to is capacity, ability to do what we do to the best that we can do it. And that's what we're working towards and that's why you see there an increase for additional staff.
- Commissioner Palermo asked if the additional staff are in addition to the detailee's.



- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that we will sort out where they go, here and there. But right now, we have detailed people managing things and that might sort out into other things. So, we don't know yet.
- Commissioner Palermo stated so, just to be clear, we're asking for 11 full-time employees that we don't know where we're going to assign them.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that no, she didn't say that. We're sorting through how people are going to be organized and to meet the capacity issues that we have going forward.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that these needs aren't being met by the additional detailees that we currently brought into the agency so we need additional staff. Okay, great. So, the current governing legislation for the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, found that Title 39 Chapter 2 of the DC Code states that this Board is responsible for appointing Agency Director and not the Mayor. So, are you aware that, in effect, your installation is actually against the law?
- Chair Kendall stated to Commissioner Palermo for decades, the Mayor has appointed someone. It's unfair to target our new ED with this information. It's been the custom and the legislation is out of sync with the reality that of how things are really done.
- Commissioner Palermo stated so, it's a question to precede another question, which is a follow-up asking about is this part of the reason why there is an introduction of new legislation to maybe get the law in line with what the practice is?
- Chair Kendall stated that right now, there is no other new legislation on the table.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that why don't we let our attorney explain better
- Carl Wilson stated that we discussed it with the Mayor's Office long before we ever actually pushed it forward to the Council.
- From our perspective, what's going on in our establishment statutes really is that the language, from our perspective and other's perspective now, is ambiguous. It could be read in two different ways reasonably. One, that it's actually the Mayor who is responsible for directing this agency, responsible for deciding the arts and humanities related approach and vision that the District wants.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that's not what the legislation currently says, though.
- Carl Wilson stated the legislation as it stands, could be read to say that the Commission is responsible for the day-to-day operations, including managing the Executive Director. The way it is intended to read is the opposite. The purpose of the legislation that was introduced last summer is supposed to state clearly that the delegation from the Mayor to our Executive Director and the Mayor, then, will direct the day-to-day operations of this agency, through her delegate, which is our Executive Director.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked could Carl Wilson clarify who is meant be "we" because it's not ambiguous to some people, what the legislation says.
- Carl Wilson stated that it's ambiguous to a lot of people who read it. It's not clear in the language to him that the Commissioners, the 18-member body of this Board, is responsible for directing the day-to-day operations of this agency.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that wasn't his question, his question wasn't about managing the day-to-day operations of the Director; it's about selecting the Director. She thinks the legislation says it.
- Commissioner Miller stated that it's always at the Mayor's prerogative, it's always been.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated okay but it being the Mayor's prerogative is very different than what the legislation states now which is what we're trying to clarify.
- Chair Kendall stated to Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn that this agenda's getting hijacked at the moment. This would go under new business, and she think it's something very interesting. Ever since new legislation was presented, it didn't go anywhere, it didn't move forward and it died.
- Commissioner Palermo why at the meeting on March 4, in which you passed around a handout that said legislation modifications are pending, it's done and awaiting transmittal.
- Chair Kendall stated to Commissioner Palermo that she didn't know and to let her finish her statement. He is interrupting her, and she doesn't appreciate it. Listen, we have a very important agenda; I want to make sure we get through it before people have to leave. We have to vote on things today.
- Commissioner Palermo stated okay, well we have questions for agency staff leadership that go unanswered and this is our one opportunity to ask. We have tried and you've not allowed it.



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- Chair Kendall stated that we will make time for it. She’s going to allow it, but would like to keep to the agenda and get the business done first.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that we're asking questions related to the agenda, which is following the Executive Director’s report.
- Chair Kendal said no.
- Carl Wilson asked if he could say one more thing
- Chair Kendall stated that she wasn’t going to take this.
- Carl Wilson stated just quickly. To argue that the changes that we suggest in this bill are somehow improper or even illegal is to, in effect; argue that the Mayor does not have the right to direct the day-to-day operations of this Commission, including choosing the person who will be her designee. I mean, in essence, if you argue that we shouldn't clear this language up, you in essence are arguing that the 18-member Board is not in line with the Mayor.
- Commissioner Palermo stated but that's not what I'm saying, I'm saying let's follow the legislation.
- Chair Kendall stated to Carl Wilson that she was going to have to ask him to be quiet. She wants to move on to the next business on the agenda. And, Josef, we will get back to this if you want to talk to it, but we must get this done today.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that he just wants these questions answered.
- Chair Kendall stated, no, you'll have to wait. You'll have to wait.
- Commissioner Palermo asked if his questions are going to be answered.
- Chair Kendall stated that he can ask them again after we have our votes.
- Commissioner Palermo asked if Executive Director Rouse-Rosario would be available to answer the questions
- Chair Kendall stated that she'll be here, she's not going to leave after we vote.
- Commissioner Palermo asked if there was going to make space for dialogue and questions.
- Chair Kendall stated yes in new business, not now, we have to vote first. She put it at the top of the agenda on purpose, so that we could get the votes done. She knows some people sometimes have to leave and we can't wait to find out that we don't have the people here for the votes
- Chair Kendall called on Commissioner Gates for the Public Art Committee.

### Public Art Committee Report

- Commissioner Gates stated:
  - “The Public Art Committee has a new administrative policy which provides a mechanism to grantees that experience extraordinary and unforeseen costs associated with currently awarded public art projects with additional funding to ensure completion of the original fabrication and installation of the project. Provisions are as follows. Unforeseen issues with the building or structure where the artwork would be installed, such as structural damage, water, fire damage, that occurred after the grant award; hazardous materials discovered during the installation process, such as lead paint, asbestos, mold, fungus, electrical issues, land/soil issues, vandalism, or the site or public art project in force majeure events. Ineligible situations include defraying the cost of increased salaries, wage or staff benefits relating to organizational grantees or contractors retained for the fabrication and/or installation process; permits; and management of budgeted and granted funds. Written requests are made to staff and must include a summary of the proposed work and justification for need of supplemental grant funds along with supporting documentation. The maximum award is \$15,000, and cannot exceed the maximum published grant award. The maximum published grant award is \$50,000, but for this particular project going forward, it could be anything. So, we have had a situation arise and we are asking for support. The recommendation is for supplemental grant support of \$10,000 funding to support the installation of the Motion in Bloom sculpture by Scott McKenzie on the Metro Village Affordable Housing Complex, located at 7053 Spring Place Northwest. The rationale behind this request: the building owner provided incorrect building schematics for the artist to create the appropriate armatures and brackets to support the 1200-pound sculpture. The artist had to redesign and remake elements of the sculpture's armature and brackets. These extensive changes resulted in the depletion of grant funds to cover the extensive



rigging, scaffolding and installation costs. The building owner repaired the water-damaged wall and is sharing the costs of the installation with the artist. So, in your books, I believe you have a photo of Motion in Bloom, the actual sculpture, and a picture of the building upon which it will be mounted. The grant award to Scott McKenzie was for \$38,500. The maximum PABC published grant award could be \$50,000. We're asking that an award of \$10,000 be granted, which would bring his total up to \$48,500."

▪ **Commissioner Gates asked for a motion to approve this action item.**

- Commissioner Banks moved the motion
- Commissioner Ucles seconded the motion
- Chair Kendall asked all those in favor, say aye
  - (Chorus of aye.)
- Chair Kendall asked does anyone oppose
  - No one opposed
- Commissioner Gates stated thank you. We have a little bit of a show-and-tell today. The Duke Ellington Mural, the conservation and reinstall of the mural on the True Reformer Building, located at 1200 U Street Northwest, was completed on April 20. The curatorial grant for the 200 I Street Galleries Homegrown Exhibition, the dates are April 19 through May 24. And this is the opening of the exhibit.
- Lauren Glover stated that the postcards are going around, as well as the exhibit handbook that was distributed at the opening and will also be distributed at the artist talk, which is coming up.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that the lady pictured in the wheelchair is EJ Montgomery, who is the distinguished artist, who actually is in a nursing home, so she was able to come.
- Lauren Glover stated that there were many interesting people there. So she'll let Alma continue and can provide more context for the opening and the exhibit, if needed.
- Commissioner Gates stated:
  - "PABC, Public Art Building Communities, public art installation dedication of WRAPture by Monica Jahan Bose. The dedication of the temporary public art project occurred on April 4, as part of three exhibitions of this temporary PABC grant that involves wrapping two buildings in Anacostia with painted saris. WRAPture combines the Anacostia community in Washington, D.C., and Kathakali Village in Bangladesh to fabricate, assemble, and drape saris across five buildings in historic Anacostia. Birthed from the ongoing six-year-old project, Storytelling with Saris, these massive colorful cotton fabric saris will be covered with customized woodblock printmaking, hand-painted images and writings about climate change and action by the residents of two communities. The final wrapping will occur May 4."
- Lauren Glover stated that the final wrapping is May 9 and the artist worked with the community to come up with the concepts and the ideas. She made the blocks. And so, people were talking about things that resonate with them. The whole theme is about the Anacostia. So, the shad fish is coming back, so there are images of the shad fish and crab and the Big Chair is in there. I couldn't capture everything, but -- and she's wearing one, this is Monica here, she's wearing one of the saris that was left over that was created. This all was going on the same night of the Cultural Plan release, so we walked around the corner to the Anacostia Theater, after.
- Commissioner Banks stated that she saw it that night and was excited to see it.
- Lauren Glover stated:
  - "The next one is on May 9. There was supposed to be one done during the Anacostia River Fest, but it was rained out twice. The only other thing that's not on this list is, we have a dedication tomorrow. And this is for Flowers for Mr. Cole, by Duilio Passariello. And it's at the Joseph H. Cole Park, at 1264 North Street Northeast. And these lampposts, there are 15 of them that have been enhanced all around the park. I just happened to drive by on Sunday and the artist was there and I overheard him talking to a community member and representative. And he just walked away and just said, boy, they really are working to make our parks pretty. So, I mean, he didn't know who I was, I was just a lady coming up in her Easter Sunday suit, and that's what came out of his mouth. So, it's being well received in the community. At night, it will have a glow to it, it will not disturb the visibility in the park, and he



worked very closely with DDOT and DPR to make sure that it still would provide the appropriate lighting for folks walking around at dusk.”

- Commissioner Gates stated:
  - “Okay and the final project is the WMATA Commission Digital Collection Showcase project. Selected pieces from the Art Bank Collection in selected WMATA Metro stations. I think this is really, really exciting, because the audience is just so large and it's from everywhere. So, WMATA has activated a temporary complimentary collection showcase opportunity within 12 Metro stations, with mezzanines that allow CAH and other District and regional arts entities to showcase selected images from their respective collections on large format digital display kiosks. The collection showcase will activate in the stations on a rolling basis, with images displayed for 30 days, until all 12 platforms have been activated. The selected images from the Art Bank Collection represent all wards and reflect the ethnic, gender, race, and cultural diversity of the collection. These digital signs themselves are intended for paid advertising by WMATA. So, this temporary collection showcase project will rotate off as advertising space is sold. The current activation is at Farragut North and will run through May 9.”
- Lauren Glover stated:
  - “And as there is a schedule that is fluctuating, as WMATA is testing the sites. So, we don't want to publish a schedule, because it keeps changing. But as we get notification of the next activation, we will make sure to circulate it, so people can go by and see the collection. But this is just a sampling of what's at Farragut North right now. Maybe somebody has anybody seen it, by chance? You're probably not paying attention, but it's the whole idea to bring some life to the Mezzanine areas.”
- Commissioner Gates stated that's the end of the report.
- Chair Kendall stated that was a great report, thank you very much.
- Chair Kendall asked for the grants committee report.

### Grants and Panels Committee Report

- Commissioner Wharton stated:
  - “The grants report is not as colorful but it does require your attention, though, because we're looking at numbers, we're looking at a lot of things. If anybody wants to stretch really quickly, okay. The first thing I want to and some of this may be repetitive, but we have new people here. So, I'm going to start with, those of you who may not understand all of this, we're going to go over several awards this time. The first one we're going to talk about is the UPSTART Award, and then, we're going to jump into LiftOff, and then, General Operating Support Grants. And that's the one that's a little heavy that we're really going to be passing out notebooks for you to look at. But we're not going to pass them out right now. And then, the Grants one, okay?”
- Chair Kendall stated excuse me to Commissioner Wharton, there is a new visitor in the room, hello, please introduce yourself.
- Nabeeh Bilal stated, hi, he was just attending to observe He presented in January and is with Creative JunkFood. They did a video presentation, and re working on a mural right now off of, as part of the Commission, off of Minnesota Avenue.
- Chair Kendall asked if he works with Candice.
- Nabeeh Bilal stated yes, working with Candice Taylor, yes. Still working on that, and people are actually coming up to them and thanking us for helping to add color to the neighborhood. So he just wanted to attend and just know what's going on and stuff. That's all I'm here for.
- Chair Kendall asked Commissioner Wharton to continue with her report.
- Commissioner Wharton stated:
  - “Okay. Everyone, turn please to **Tab 3**. We're going to start off talking about UPSTART. As many of you know, UPSTART is for organizations that we really want to give a good up start to. And because of that, we hired Carlyn Madden. Carlyn was a former grant manager here, she's very, very good, she's very thorough, and she has presented to us each time, recommendations that we have adopted, because they're generally right on. So, if you have that first page, that's dated April 15, in front of you, she talks about her transmission to us with the recommendation. She



actually did present to the Grants Committee and we approved her recommendations, which you see here. Basically, the FY19 was awarded, but not received by the applicant. So, her suggestion is that we enhance that recommendation. And as you can see, the first one was \$55,000. The second one was \$65,000. The reason I'm not saying the name is because, remember this is like Vegas, everything stays here until it's actually public. So, I'm going to go down numbers, I'm going to go down, as I speak, but I'm not going to call names. The third one is enhanced by \$75,000. The next one, \$50,000. The next one, \$50,000. The next, \$60,000, \$75,000, and \$70,000.

- So, basically, she's **recommending an additional \$100,000 to be applied to these various programs**, at the amounts that you see listed. And so, what we would need from you is a recommendation and a vote that we approve Carlyn's recommendations. One of the things that we did talk about in the meeting was, okay, so, we've awarded things to UPSTART before, what were the results of it? And I was very, very pleased at what has happened and how she had actually managed everything to the satisfaction and to the benchmarks that we had recommended in the beginning. So, I'm asking for a **vote to accept Carlyn's recommendations for the UPSTART Program.**"
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked if she can I ask a budget question, first. Do we have money in the budget to give the extra? Also, is there discussion before we vote? Can we do that?
- Chair Kendall stated yes, once it's been on the table and seconded, yes.
  - Commissioner Miller moved to put the motion on the table.
  - Commissioner Ucles seconded the motion.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated so, if we look at the current budget, it looks like there's an overage or an available balance of \$240,000, is that where this \$100,000 is coming from? So you're asking for an extra \$100,000?
- Michael Bigley stated yes, we have an available balance of grant funds that have not been allocated.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked and so this would come from the funds listed on the page?
- Michael Bigley stated yes, they would pulled from that
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that all of the budget approvals here, she already knows that the money is in place. They've made their presentation to her and she's indicated that she thought this was acceptable. So she just wants to share that.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn said of course
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that you're asking the question as if the staff did something wrong so I just want you to understand, I approved all of this.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that she would also like to clarify that seems to be a response often from staff, and she has absolute confidence in the staff, like, the quality and caliber of people who work here is unquestioned. We are just asking questions.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated to Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn that she can ask whatever question she likes. She just wanted to clarify, and she should have said in advance that every grant that has been brought to this table has been vetted and approved by her.
- Chair Kendall stated that the Grants Committee couldn't put this forward if there wasn't money for it.
- Commissioner Wharton stated okay. And not just this one, but all the grants we're going to talk about today have been approved, in terms of money being allocated for them.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that she understands and just for the record, this is not in any way to suggest she doesn't trust staff, but she feels like it would be remiss in her duties as Treasurer if I did not at least ask for clarification.
- Chair Kendall stated that she thinks that's appropriate. This is an enhancement; we want to make sure we have the money to cover it.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated thank you.
- Commissioner Palermo asked Commissioner Wharton does she know how she arrived at these numbers? Because it looks like everyone started off with \$50,000, but then, some folks are going to be getting, like, \$25,000 more.
- Commissioner Wharton stated okay. Did you get a chance to read maybe I should have given everybody a chance to read her notes. Okay.



- Chair Kendall stated for everyone to read her notes that explain. It's all right there. After meeting extensively with each organization and seeing their needs specifically, she made these recommendations.
- Commissioner Wharton stated it's where she talks about having made an organizational assessment.
- Kennisha Rainge stated to quickly note, one thing she mentioned is, as she meets the organizations, she realizes that some organizations aren't able to spend a certain amount, their capacity. And so, that's a part of her assessment. So, that's why you'll see fluctuating, because it may be, an organization might have gotten \$20,000 or \$30,000 more they may not be able to spend it.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that this was part of her assessment. So everybody take a second to read the notes before her recommendation.
  - **Chair Kendall asked if everyone was comfortable with voting. All those in favor, say aye.**
    - (Chorus of aye.)
    - **Chair Kendall asked if there were any in opposition? Any abstain? Okay, it passes.**
      - No one opposed/abstained
- Commissioner Wharton stated okay, LiftOff, now you're getting the big fat binder, make some room. We're going to go to **Tab 1 of the new binder.** Everyone read the page that's in front of the actual budget rollout, because it does contain the explanation. It's the FY19 grant funding recommendation for LiftOff. Does everybody have that?
- Chair Kendall stated that when we talk about this, folks, don't use the names of the organizations.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that we're going to use rank numbers if you have questions.
- Commissioner Wharton asked was anyone not finished? Since we are talking about ranking numbers with names there, we do need to have people excuse themselves if there's a conflict of interest here. One thing about this particular one, from what she understands, from the grants manager, who has put a lot of work into this particular one, I mean, a lot of work. We, as LiftOff, need to make sure that we're doing as much as we can to help the organizations that are out there. And so, many of them have suffered because they aren't able to even actively apply for a grant. So, the grants manager, this time, has actually gone over to the areas, held workshops, worked with people that have questions. And we actually have some people on here that are awardees that have never been awardees before and have never actual been able to submit applications. So, my hat's off to the team on this one.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that she had a question. Did we suspend the rules about not getting an award if you didn't have a previous grant?
- Michael Bigley stated that's only for general operating grants.
- Commissioner Wharton said that that's the next batch.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated so, for LiftOff, a lot of the new ones that are in this report are new to LiftOff, not necessarily to the Commission's grants?
- Commissioner Wharton stated correct.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked if their new to LiftOff? And quite a few of them are also east of the river awardees this year?
- Commissioner Wharton stated that it's excellent, because we've had low numbers there before.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that the problem with the new grants have to do with the fact that the staff was doing advocacy in each ward about the grants, and we're seeing people responding to at least try to be a grantee. So, that really has a lot to do with our own effort.
- Heran Sereke-Brhan stated and the person who ranked first actually has been applying for many years to CAH grants and this is the first time that they've received it and they've come out on top. And it's all really due to Khalid's work with that grants workshops who sat down with them and actually worked with them in terms of how to complete a grant application.
- Chair Kendall stated that she thinks we all appreciate the work done for making this a possibility to these organizations.
- Commissioner Wharton asked were there any questions.
  - **Chair Kendall stated all those in favor of appointing the recommended grant levels?**
    - (Chorus of aye.)
    - Chair Kendall asked is anybody opposed.



○ **Chair Kendall stated, okay. So we have anyone opposed? Okay, great. So we passed LiftOff.**

- No one opposed/abstained

- Commissioner Wharton stated:
  - “Turn to the **General Operating Support one**. Now remember we have different cohorts in this one, so we're only going to we're going to go cohort by cohort, as some of you may have some conflict with one and not the other. While you're looking at the General Operating Support, basically it's a backbone. So many organizations have told us over the years, okay, grants, you give us grants for this particular project, you give us grants for that particular project, what we really need are general operating expenses, because that's where we have an inability to get money and that's what makes us work. So, I was very pleased when the Commission decided to have the GOS grants. And I think most of our recipients and those who want to be recipients are pleased that we have this category of grants now. Are there any we're looking at the first cohort, which is page there's no number on here, yes, it's the \$0 200,000, do we have any conflicts of interest?”
- Chair Kendall stated that she doesn't think so. She was so confused looking at this, it's such a similar list to the LiftOff, but it's nice to see, yes.
- Michael Bigley stated:
  - “And just to clarify, the LiftOff we just voted on was for Fiscal Year 19, it's our last Fiscal Year 19 grant. This is General Operating Fiscal Year 2020. So, all of these that we vote on today, they'll get a letter of intent to fund. It won't be complete until the Mayor's budget is approved and we will announce that October 1. But they'll get at least a letter saying we intend to fund you, this is the intended amount, subject to change, and it allows them to plan a little bit better for their fiscal year.”
- Commissioner Palermo stated So, that means we have about \$421,000 on hold from the FY2020 budget, essentially?
- Commissioner Wharton stated yes, designated for this.
- Heran Sereke-Brhan stated that it might be more helpful to pull out this one sheet of paper, because that's what we'll refer to as we go through the index and the various cohorts.

• **Chair Kendall stated, okay. She's going to recommend a vote for these organizations to get General Operating Support.**

- Commissioner Miller moved the motion.
- Commissioner Ucles seconded the motion
- Chair Kendall asked were there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye.
- (Chorus of aye.)

○ **Chair Kendall asked if any opposed? Okay. So those are passed.**

- No one opposed/abstained

- Commissioner Wharton stated okay, we're now moving to **Tab 3**. And we'll go back to our page, only this one now applies to \$200,000 400,000. And I need each of you, please, to look down the list of organizational names, to see if you need to recuse yourself.
- Chair Kendall asked Commissioner Wharton if she wants to talk about the 17 through 21, what that represents. She doesn't know if you talked about the soft landing.
- Commissioner Floyd stated:
  - “I know you can't put the names up on the screen, but is it possible to just put the document on it? Because I'm trying to like look at you all and then, going back and forth between the document and you. Can you post it up here?”
- Kennisha Rainge said yes.
- Chair Kendall stated let's take a second. Well, while they're looking to see about that, I just wanted to make sure everyone understood there's a dark line across the bottom of the page. And so what we're voting on is everything in bold on the right.
- But the ones on the left, the cutoff was 65, and so everything below 65 is getting money because we are trying to create what we call a soft landing.
- Commissioner Wharton stated which is defined at the bottom of the sheet here.



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- Chair Kendall stated yes. Just because it's hard to read and think and turn the pages, what we're trying to do is even out the amount of money that people receive from us, so that they don't get a lot one year and have a big drop the next.
- Commissioner Floyd said that's perfect, she can now see the screen, thank you.
- Chair Kendall stated:
  - “So, wait, let me just finish about the soft landing. So, this is our attempt to give a certain proportionality to people who drop below the cutoff and we put certain parameters around it, it can be just a certain percentage of the budget and it can only be up to a certain amount, whichever is the most.”
- Commissioner Wharton stated versus making it a zero.
- Chair Kendall stated, yes and so, the ones that are below even the soft landing, I think they just scored lower.
- Heran Sereke-Brhan stated that they were actually out of compliance. Their scores were fairly high, but they were out of compliance.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked:
  - “I have a question as far as first time applicants. Was the rationale for the formula just because they were first time applicants? Meaning that, like, why weren't they funded the way other organizations were funded?”
- Commissioner Wharton asked what she meant by rationale?
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated:
  - “So if you look at the criteria, the first one says first time applicants received the lower of the formula or X number, and it's consistent throughout. So I'm sure there was a rationale behind it; I was just curious what that was. Is it because they're first time and there's no approved performance?”
- Heran Sereke-Brhan stated that there's nothing to compare the numbers to. So the others had comparison to their 19 award or the lower of their three year average
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated okay.
- Michael Bigley stated:
  - “There's an attempt to try to keep funding somewhat in line, so that there's no huge fluctuations year after year, because that was a big concern of the community, when we first started doing this new General Operating Program. Because they wanted multiyear support, we can't provide multiyear support, but this is our way of trying to adjust so that year one, they get \$50,000, year two, they might be ranked really low, so they might be penalized, but we're trying not to penalize them as much to affect their organization. So, for a new organization, it's no baseline.”
- Commissioner Wharton stated there's not history there. And as you see, as we go by cohort, the number changes.
- Heran Sereke-Brhan stated:
  - “And actually, if I may, Benjamin is in the room, he put the most time into these formulas, which are, like, bonkers, they're crazy. So, I really would like to acknowledge his work to just get these numbers to work for the General Operating Support.”
- Commissioner Wharton stated, yes, we have gone over every percentage, every bell curve, every curve that wasn't a bell curve, to get to this.
- **Chair Kendall asked are there any more questions before you vote on these? Okay. Everyone in favor?**
  - (Chorus of ayes.)
  - **Chair Kendall asked is anyone opposed. Okay, on to the next. Motion passed**
    - No one opposed/abstained
- Commissioner Wharton stated that we're on to the fourth, **Tab 4**. And Tab 4 is the \$400,000 to \$1 million. Please look at the names and let us know if you need to be recused from this.
  - Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn recused herself.
- Commissioner Wharton asked did anyone else need to recuse themselves.
  - None
- **Chair Kendall asked for a motion to vote on this cohort**
  - Stacie Banks made a motion to vote
  - Commissioner Miller seconded the motion



- Chair Kendall is there any discussion on this one? Okay. All those in favor?
    - (Chorus of aye.)
  - Chair Kendall: Opposed. Okay, thank you. Motion Passed.
    - No one opposed/abstained
- Commissioner Wharton stated that we're on to **Tab 5**. And Tab 5 is the \$1 2 million cohort. Please look at the names to see if you need to recuse yourself. No recusals?
- **Chair Kendall asked for a motion to vote on this cohort**
  - Commissioner Palermo stated so moved.
  - Commissioner Ucles seconded the motion.
  - Chair Kendall asked if there are any discussions. All those in favor, say aye.
    - (Chorus of aye.)
  - **Chair Kendall asked all those opposed? Okay. Motion passed**
    - No one opposed/abstained
- Commissioner Wharton asked everyone to turn to **Tab 6**, which is the \$2 million plus. Please review the names to make sure you don't need to recuse yourself.
  - Commissioner Wharton recused herself.
  - Chair Kendall recused herself
  - Commissioner Younger recused himself
  - Commissioner Menkiti recused herself
  - Commissioner Banks recused herself
- **Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn made a motion to vote on this cohort to approve the cohort, \$2 million plus?**
  - Commissioner Miller stated so moved.
  - Commissioner Floyd seconded the motion
  - Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked all those in favor.
    - (Chorus of ayes.)
  - **Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked were any opposed? Any abstain? Okay. Motion passed**
    - No one opposed/abstained
- Commissioner Wharton stated to turn to **Tab 7**
- Commissioner Wharton stated to please review these, Kay has to recuse herself, Stacie's still here.
  - Chair Kendall recused herself
- **Commissioner Banks asked if there is a motion to accept this slate.**
  - Commissioner Ucles stated so moved
  - Commissioner Miller seconded the motion
  - Commissioner Banks stated okay. All in favor of accepting this slate?
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that this doesn't have an explanation for those who didn't make the raw score, I was just curious, is it because I don't have a problem in supporting them, I'm just wondering.
- Benjamin Douglas stated Sure, what was your question again.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated her question was, so, in all the other ones, there was rationale for funding people who didn't meet the raw score, but not in this one, and I'm just curious.
- Benjamin Douglas stated so, this one's tricky, because you have to go by the award budget and refer back to that cohort. But the general rule is, returning grantees below the cutoff receive 60 percent of last year's funding or not more than a \$40,000 decrease or 25 percent of their budget.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn said okay.
- **Commissioner Banks asked okay, so can we vote? All in favor?**
  - (Chorus of ayes.)
  - **Commissioner Banks asked if any opposed? Any abstentions? Okay. Motion passed**
    - No one opposed/abstained



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- Commissioner Wharton stated that we're going to collect these binders now, from everybody.
- Chair Kendall stated thank you so much for that. We got through it and I think we're all thrilled about that category Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn described. So, next, Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn, finance report.

### Finance Committee Report

- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated:
  - “Okay. I just have a question, since we didn't get a chance to meet on this in the committee, just for reviewing it. So, of the available balance, it looks like \$100,000 is going for UPSTART and the \$640 something for the LiftOff?”
- Michael Bigley stated:
  - “Not sure where you are getting \$640, actually, no, the number for LiftOff that we just voted on was \$305,000. So, it's budgeted at \$300,000, so we're just going over budget by \$5,000 in that budget category. But because of the available balance, that gives us that just states \$135,000 out of this available balance.”
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked the question was what the remaining balance is.
- Michael Bigley stated so it's that, \$135,000 left to spend
- Chair Kendall stated that FY '19 is what we should look at
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated right, she's not asking about '20 yet
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked what is the plan for the spending of the funds left?
- Michael Bigley stated:
  - “Typically, what happens is, we get through this meeting and then, we start thinking about scenarios and we present those to the Grants Committee. I know there are some things that Lauren and I have already talked about in the Public Art side that she'll have to work with the Public Art Committee. And so, we'll all have to come together to put that plan forward. It's not a lot of money for this time of year. In years past, we've had much higher sums, sometimes in the millions. So, we're doing really, really well. Yes, so, it doesn't go a long way, you have to be strategic about how we're going to spend this money.”
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that the Chinatown Arch Program, she thought that was Public Art, it looks like it's in Budget Enhancement Grants now.
- Michael Bigley stated:
  - “It's there, because it was put into the Budget Support Act, when Council gave us that money. It's not a Budget Enhancement Grant, in the grand scheme of things. So, it's a separate line item that we're going to be spending.”
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked if it is possible to put a note there, just so it's clear
- Michael Bigley said yes, we could put a note there, this also hasn't been updated
- Kennisha Rainge stated:
  - “And be mindful that this doesn't reflect complete up to date reporting. This is updated as of March because we're missing a Finance team member. This is what Erika gave us before she departed. We just wanted to make sure you guys had something to look at, because not much has change.”
- Chair Kendall stated that she thought the Chinatown Arch was in contracts
- Lauren Glover stated:
  - “They're two different things. This money was supposed to have come to us before, and it didn't, but we already allocated grant monies for it. This money has come and is going to prove particularly helpful because the technical aspect of doing that repair is this amount of money. I mean, there's a whole scaffolding thing that has to go around the arch and other things, technical things that have to happen in order for the artist to go in.”
- Chair Kendall stated so, did we basically let people understand that this needed a bigger budget on this project?
- Lauren Glover stated:
  - “No, this was, it is my understanding, it's something that had been discussed last year, last fiscal year, and it just never got put in the budget. But then, it got put in the budget this year, it's coming in handy, because there would be no way for us to pay for this. So there's the artistic piece of it, we have that money to go, we know how much that is. That money was preserved last fiscal year in the PAYGO situation. We now have learned how much it's going to



cost to build the apparatus around the structure to repair it, as well as all of the contract management, traffic control planning, and permitting that's going to be involved in it, is this amount. So, it's coming in handy.”

- Commissioner Miller asked is it \$200,000?
- Lauren Glover stated yes
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated:
  - “This is a classic example of interagency activity that goes on. We have to work with the Department of General Services, Department of Transportation, and any interim groups, in that we exchange money to them for their services or we amend their contracts. So that's what goes on; that's why it takes so much time. So doing a public art piece in 12 months is virtually impossible. It's more like 18 to 24 months. So that's what Lauren is negotiating in real time because this takes on a life of its own. So we've got quite a bit done, but we still have more to do.”
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked so Line 10, where National Building Museum rescinded their grant, is it because they received a budget enhancement grant?
- Kennisha Rainge stated yes.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that we did the Chinatown Arch, aside from what we're talking about here, there were even greater expenses, because they had to bring in the artisans from China, because there was no one here.
- Lauren Glover stated:
  - “So, yes, so that's the pot of money that we have secured with the grant for the architect, to do the restoration. This money is literally for the technical aspect of it was ten years ago when it was done. And it's basically recreating an arch around the arch. And that is just very expensive. It's all that scaffolding and there's a whole lot of technical permitting things that have to go into it. And so, we are partnering with DGS, because we can't contract scaffolding, but they can. Okay? And we're working with DDOT, because they can coordinate with WMATA on traffic relocation. And they have technical people who can read the traffic control plan.
- Chair Kendall asked Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn if she had any other questions on the budget.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that under the Budget Enhancement wasn't Studio Theater on that?
- Michael Bigley said that was last year
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated on Page 1, under Section 110, dedicated taxes, is the subsidies and transfers the that's Grants?
- Michael Bigley stated yes, that's part of grants. And then, you'll also see Grants in the local fund, under subsidies and transfers there, the \$2.8 million.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked so it's titled Subsidies and Transfers, not Grants?
- Michael Bigley said correct, that's just the finance term for it.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated all right. So, the \$2.2 million in all the other contracts are outside of this Grants budget?
- Michael Bigley stated that is Personnel, it's in there.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated yes, no, I see personnel, I don't have any questions about personnel or supplies, I mean like contractual services other.
- Michael Bigley stated yes. Anything that doesn't have the category, where you see the four numbers, anything that's not 0050 is the Grants lines, so there are a couple of those throughout the budget, because they're divided up different ways. Everything else would be either Personnel or Contracts.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn That doesn't relate to Grants?
- Michael Bigley stated that they're separate, they're Contracts. Contracts are not grants.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn no, no, no, that's not what I'm asking. I'm asking you if the contracts are in service of the grants.
- Michael Bigley stated that there would be if you're talking about like in service of, like database, our contract to the database is in service of the grants, but it's not a grant to the database, it's a contract.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked what about a contract to someone in support of one of our budget, our Grants budget items?

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- Michael Bigley stated not that I can, I guess I don't follow what that would be, no. Grants are grants, contracts are contracts. And we have sponsorships, we have Lincoln Theater is in there. Our art handling is a big, big portion of that, art handling, framing, all of that, public art, installation, that all goes there.
- Chair Kendall stated also Chuck Brown Day, that's in contracts.
- Michael Bigley stated right, all of our special events.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated so, I guess my question is, we do have grants that we are not that are not transparent to us, are they part of, I guess, what we do in service here?
- Michael Bigley stated that they're not grants.
- Michael Bigley stated that they're contracts.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that maybe I'm not saying this clearly
- Michael Bigley stated that you're not.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated, okay. We have a budget and so, are you saying everything that's in the budget that we can see are the only things that the money is used for for these grants? Or do you have contracts like, every contract is separate from grants?
- Michael Bigley stated correct.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked but not necessarily the work that they do?
- Chair Kendall stated no, the work that they do is separate. Everything that has 0050 is reflected on the second page. If you took all the 0050 out of the first page, that would add up to what you see on the second page. And everything that's left over on the first page is either staff salary or a contract. For instance, the contract to a framer who frames art and fixtures. Or a contract that helps somebody go hang the pictures in different agencies. Or somebody who plays music at the Mayor's Arts Awards. Something very specific that's not to do with grants at all.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated but is considered a contract?
- Chair Kendall stated If you're confused, I'm happy to explain later.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated:
  - "I'm not confused. I mean, it goes back to the question I've asked at every Finance meeting, which is, that's not transparent. That's not obvious, when you look at the budget. And I think that there's been community concern about aspects of the budget that are not fully transparent. And this is not in criticism of the staff or what they're doing or anything, it's just, to be financially and fiduciary, sort of, to have oversight."
- Chair Kendall stated I know, but we don't have fiduciary oversight of this. I mean, we have fiduciary oversight of the grants part, that's the only part.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that that's an opinion, that's not actually true
- Chair Kendall stated that's not an opinion. No, that's reality.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that is not true in her opinion.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that the reality is that the legislation says that the Commission shall be empowered to contract with governmental departments and agencies, private organizations, consultants, and residents of the District of Columbia. Contracts are literally in the legislation. We are the Commission, Kay.
- Chair Kendall stated we are the Commissioners.
- Kennisha Rainge stated that the staff, everybody, this agency is the Commission. And so, this is just a clarification, clear up the confusion, but we are here day to day, doing the work. We're interacting with agencies and the community.
- Commissioner Palermo stated so, Terrie Rouse-Rosario, who hasn't even been legally appointed, is the Commission?
- Kennisha Rainge stated that she has been legally appointed. She is a part of our staff, she has been legally appointed. But we're, I know we're in the middle of our Finance report, let's get back to that.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated:
  - "I mean, I think that's not the question, and the question is, and I don't believe you were at the meeting, but I asked the AFO very specifically if information relating the budget, not just the Grants budget, any part of the budget is open and available, not just to Commissioners, but the public, and he said, yes. They do not regulate what aspect of the budget is shared"



- Kennisha Rainge stated this is what they have provided for us that we have shared with you.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that transparent, this doesn't tell you what \$2.2 million in Contracts for non-personnel services in dedicated taxes is for.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that this is their version given to us. I think what you're trying to find out is how the agency is ran.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated:
  - "I'm not trying to find out how you specifically run the agency; I'm trying to find out what is being spent. This is not me asking you, I've asked three Executive Directors now, after having clarified with Agency Financial Officers, about, as the Treasurer and the person who has been tasked to have So, okay, so let's just, we work for the Mayor. I'm a tax paying member of D.C., I represent the public, I have a vested interest in the arts community. You're saying, I can't ask these questions?"
- Kennisha Rainge stated that you are more than welcome to ask any question that you desire
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked and you are choosing not to answer them, right? In a public forum, in a private Finance meeting? So, you're saying, if someone asked you specifically, like, this would be the answer you would give them? If Council or the Mayor's Office were like, hey, can you clarify what this \$2 million is, what would you say?
- Kennisha Rainge stated that that's what Michael was just doing, clarifying that for you. From copy machines to database systems to we have events that we do throughout the year, these are things that we use contracts for. Any agency uses contracts, this is what we do all over government to secure the necessary things needed for the agency to run smoothly.
- Chair Kendall stated:
  - "I want to just say something, because I know this is the subject that's being talking about, by you, and asking these questions. I talked to several people who've worked here for a long time, who some of them aren't even here anymore, and they said that for us to ask the staff to provide more detail on how much they spend on toner, copy machines, and paper, and little contracts, and to provide all that information is really an arduous task, a lot of work, and something that we don't have any authority over or reason to see. I mean, if we really want to see it, we can FOIA the information, we can online and do some research. But at this meeting, our authority is to look at the Grants budget. And it takes a while to prepare that for us."
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated so, all due respect, Kay, I want to respond, because we've had this conversation multiple times, and I think it's really important to clarify the difference between authority and transparency. I'm not asking for authority over the budget.
- Chair Kendall stated well, you're asking for something we have no authority over.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated
  - "If I may finish, please? I'm not asking how much people make, because that's also public record or how much is spent on toner. But we have often approved budget items that moved from the Grants budget into Contracts budget and whenever we've asked for more clarification, the response generally is, well, we have no authority over Contracts. So, I would like to know again, I might be the only one here that's interested, but if you want if anybody on the Commission is supposed to be interested, I think it should be the Treasurer, like, wondering where is this money going? And the answer is always like, as if I have some sort of personal animus, I do not, I don't know you from Adam. It's not that I don't trust you, but we've all worked in the arts, budget transparency is a thing. The community has spoken and has expressed concerns."
- Chair Kendall stated that if she wants more transparency, this kind of transparency, it should start at a Finance Committee meeting.
- Commissioner Palermo stated which we're not having.
- Chair Kendall stated that as the Treasurer, you can call for one.
- Commissioner Miller asked:
  - "Has the community contacted anyone else? You keep talking about the community but I wonder, I haven't heard from my community, I don't know how many other Commissioners have, so is it just your community?"
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated no, there was a four hour budget oversight meeting, which I watched the entire hearing.

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- Commissioner Miller asked and they asked to the level of detail that you are requesting?
- Commissioner Palermo stated eight people, specifically he counted eight people, called for budget transparency in their testimony.
- Commissioner Miller stated but to this level of detail?
- Commissioner Palermo stated that the Council Chairman himself followed up and asked for more transparency
- Commissioner Miller stated that to ask at this level of detail? I mean, I understand, I've been through many budget hearings and I've been at many agencies and we have broad categories, but never to the level that I think I hear you asking for, Cicie. That is almost, I hate to say it, but almost minutiae.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that she's the Treasurer.
- Commissioner Miller stated that in every agency, you have to spend, I'm serious, it's not a joke, because we're spending a lot of time on it. Every agency spends money on toner, every agency spends money on all
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated no one's asking about toner. I would really like to just separate
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated:
  - "I guess, let me just add this. One of the we have to go through about three different departments before we spend a dime around here, because everything we do goes through a rigorous process of checks and balances, because we're not a nonprofit entity, we are part of government. So every dime is accounted for. I mean, every half cent is accounted for. So when I ran a nonprofit organization, we sat with our Board members and we went through how much money we spent on toner. But this is government, where there are three or four other agencies that ask for checks and balances on every dime. So I understand your impulse to want to know what we're doing, and I applaud you for your reason for asking it, but it really just doesn't apply to a government agency."
  - Commissioner Palermo stated that he thinks that's totally not correct. I think a government agency should be transparent especially one that says that the D.C. value is transparency in the government. And I think that the fact that there are millions of dollars in contracts that nobody knows who those contracts are awarded to, what they're being awarded for, that's an issue that speaks to a level of non-transparency.
- Kennisha Rainge stated:
  - "We are being transparent. So any contract has like we're saying, you don't know who things are going to be awarded to, so let's use something as an example. As in, I don't know, like an art handler, just for example. We have something we call, an agency called the Office of Contracting and Procurement. It has to be vetted, they have to pick you have to put it out for a certain amount of time. So what the Director is trying to say is that there are certain checks and balances; we're not just picking different contractors on our own, so, oh, this person can get it. That is not even our job as an agency, or any government agency, other than the Office of Contracting and Procurement. Then they go through the Chief Financial Office as well, where AFOs work at different agencies, they're assigned to different agencies. And so, what I think Director is trying to say and the other Commissioners that have chimed in, what we're all simply trying to relate is that there are checks and balances. And I know you're speaking about different contracts and all of that, and what we're saying, I know you're saying it's not about toner, but we're saying that down to that it's things as simple as that. And I know you mentioned before that there have been Grants that have been turned to Contracts, I'm positive those were all voted on and those are explained in total transparency to you all, because nothing can move from Grants, because you guys do have the power to vote on all things Grants. So, nothing can ever move from a grant to a contract without voting "
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that she would disagree that they were explained, but I will give you that we did vote on them.
- Kennisha Rainge stated well, why would you vote if you felt they weren't explained?
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that her other question is what she is hearing is that, if she wants more information, she basically has to FOIA it, because I'm not going to get it here
- Kennisha Rainge stated that you are getting it.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated:



- “I’m curious, because I’ve been an arts professional for over 40 years, and I think what has troubled me about this discourse that I hear about and I’ve read about in the paper, is that the Commissioners who are usually the people who are the supporters of the staff and the agency, at this particular time, don’t seem to be those people. And what I’m concerned about is how we got to this level of not believing in the agency? Or believing that the agency is doing something wrong?”
- Commissioner Palermo stated:
  - “It’s because you make statements like this, which I quote, from a staff meeting on April 8, here in this office, you said, we have a history of Treasurers who think they deserve to have this information, which we can provide, but we do not have to. You also said if this legislation doesn’t get passed, we are still going to be implementing these policies of the Mayor.”
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that she stands by that
- Commissioner Palermo stated:
  - “Moreover, you also said, if you interact with our lovely advisory board members, it just so happens that a lot of those people with interesting opinions are rolling off. The implication as being Darrin Glymph and others who are probably not going to be reappointed, because they have asked questions. If there’s anything that has changed, it’s how the Mayor’s Office, through Steve Walker, and how agency staff leaders of this Commission, have increasingly put more blocks between the Commissioners and information. There is no kind of suspicion. It’s really, what we’re hearing is you telling us, we don’t have to give you that information. So, then, if there’s nothing untoward happening, then why can’t you give us any information to answer these questions?”
  - Kennisha Rainge stated:
    - “The information is right here in front of you. And we always do our due diligence, to provide you with this. And I will say it again, the only reason we don’t have an updated Grant chart is because we didn’t want to take a stab at that, because we don’t have that Finance person on staff. So, we do our due diligence, as staff members of the Commission, to provide you with what is provided to us from the OCFO Office that have been approved, to say, these numbers are valid, that reflect the budget. You ask specific questions, we can tell you. As far as what Michael has said, what I have said, as far as what is reflected here, that you can see, and we hope that that is enough information for you to be able to come to whatever conclusions that you’re trying to arrive at.”
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that perhaps you coming here and talking to us about things would help.
- Commissioner Palermo stated you don’t respond to us. We follow this arbitrary communications protocol that has been handed down to us and when we’ve asked questions following this arbitrary communications protocol, we don’t get responses or if we do, it’s three weeks after, in email, hours before we’re supposed to be in this meeting.
- Commissioner Rooney stated yes, that’s very true; I just want to support Josef in saying that that statement is incredibly true and incredibly frustrating to all of us. It feels like a giant waste of our time.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that this is the protocol that we have been instructed to follow, but that there is no follow-up on the other end.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that he has raised in new business, many times, if we are supposed to be abiding by this protocol, why hasn’t it ever been formally established, as to a reasonable expectation of time for us to receive a response?
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated, good question, and we will try to address all of those things. We’ve been in conversation with the Chair and the Vice Chair on government structure.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that it has been months.
- Chair Kendall stated:
  - “Here’s one step, I hope some of you’ve noticed that we’ve agreed that, for instance, if you have a question, anybody, you can write Kennisha, you don’t have to go to me first, you can go to Kennisha, write her, copy me, just to get me out of the way. So that, let’s say you have a question you wanted right away and I was out of town or was someplace convening a panel or something where I couldn’t respond to you, you can just skip me. I’m giving you permission to skip me.”



- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated I would just, if I may, I would like to address your question about the tone or the tenor of our interactions
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that in 40 years, she have never sat in a room where Commissioners sat and attacked staff.
- Commissioner Palermo stated who's attacking? We're asking questions
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked who is attacking staff.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that the tone, this is tone. Its one thing to come and ask me questions; it's another thing to attack. So I think that that's something that we need to work on as a group.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated:
  - “Ma'am, we're not attacking you, if you feel that way. I think the tenor started when we started to ask questions and we were not given answers and the reaction we got was you shouldn't ask these questions, because you should trust the staff. Well, nothing sort of enables trust than transparency. And you just started, so this is not about you, this is a practice that has been going on for a number of months, years for those who have been here longer. So, I sense the well was somewhat poisoned for you before you came on or as you came on, and to that, I would just say, that's really unfortunate, because nothing I've ever said or done with respect to my work as a Commissioner has been personal. And I think I've said on numerous occasions that I think the staff is doing an amazing job. So, I do somewhat take offense to this notion that we have come in here with some kind of personal agenda or some kind of rallying cry to diminish the staff, because that has not ever been our motivation.”
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated:
  - “I'm glad to hear that. I did read the minutes, so I have in reading through the minutes, noticed there was a tone that was less collegial. So it would be wonderful if the next meetings that we have could focus on collegialness. We have talked about trying to change the communication, because that's something I don't think is working very well, and we need to do that. But it will require that that tone is not so caustic. And that is really what is disturbing me, not only as an arts professional, but on the health of my organization, that if I have people coming into the meetings or if I get emails that are attacking me, my interest in responding to them are not great.”
- Commissioner Younger stated that as the Treasurer, you can validate everything that's in 0050 as a grant.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that she cannot.
- Commissioner Younger stated that total value does not equal the total for Grants in 0050?
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated, I mean.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated yes, you can.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated well, to clarify, I think that Page 1, the numbers are I mean, that those are agency sort of numbering. So, we get there's two pages to the Grant. So, I can verify what's on Page 2, I cannot verify anything that's on Page 1, other than grants.
- Commissioner Younger stated so you can correlate grants?
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated yes
- Commissioner Younger stated to that number?
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated yes
- Commissioner Younger stated so, what's in Contractual Services that you can't validate is your issue?
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated no.
- Chair Kendal stated but it's being validated several different ways
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated again, that is, I think, irrelevant to her question, but yes
- Commissioner Younger stated that he just wanted to be clear on what it is that we were discussing
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated and as far as this issue of what we can and cannot be privy to, it is a matter of opinion, because the AFO clarified that it is not actually something that cannot be disclosed
- Commissioner Miller stated that her understanding has always been that the Commissioners reviewed the grants
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that she understands if Commissioner Miller doesn't care but she does. He's asking about the budget.



- Commissioner Miller stated:
  - “No, no, no, it's not a matter of her not caring. It's a matter of what our responsibility is. And I'll resent you characterizing it that way, because I've been on this Commission a long time.
- Commissioner Miller stated:
  - “And I care a lot about it the Commission. But let me just tell you something, our responsibility is with respect to grants, okay? I am not on this Commission to stand over somebody and look and see how much they spend for this contract and that contract and any other contract. That's not our role”
- Commissioner Palermo stated and maybe that's a problem
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that's your thought, I think it matters
- Commissioner Miller stated to Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn that she thinks she's going beyond what our role is.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that this information is not available within the Committee either
- Kennisha Rainge stated that that is not true, in the Finance Committee meetings, it is the same charts and information available.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated exactly, but the same chart that's not in depth. Like, I want.
- Chair Kendall stated, Cicie, Cicie, listen, I understand
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated:
  - “Oh my gosh, nobody does. I don't think you do. I think we've had this conversation before in Finance meetings.”
- Chair Kendall stated she does understand you want to see in detail, you want to see a list, just like we have on the Grants list you want to see
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that this is not just about her
- Chair Kendall stated okay, it's not just about you, but I'm talking to you and you brought the question up. You would like to see something that says Contracts and then lists all the contracts that we actually have? Let me just say, you can ask for that and we can continue this discussion in Finance Committee. It might be really interesting and we might get that information, but it is not what we're responsible for. And that's why we have the grants.
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated and where does it say that we are not responsible for that.
- Chair Kendall stated I can't say specifically right now.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that it says we should be empowered to contract.
- Kennisha Rainge stated that the agency is empowered to contract services, not the Board of Commissioners.
- Carl Wilson stated may I please, I want to just add, just say, I'll make this quick. It's plain and simple. We had a conversation and we were advised that there is no other Board Commission in D.C. that manages contracts.
- Commissioner Palermo stated that we're not asking to manage them they just want to see the information
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated:
  - “I would like to clarify once again, I am not asking to manage, to have authority over anything. I am simply asking for the information to see it. That is it. And I will reiterate that the Agency Financial Officer came and met with the Finance Committee and I asked him very expressly if this was information that we were privy to, if we asked for it, if we were able to get it, and he said, yes. What he also said is that it is agency it is the staff prerogative whether or not they want to share it. So, I think we should at least be clear that if the information is not being shared, regardless to the full Commission, to the Finance Committee, or to the Treasurer, simply because she's really nosy and wants to know, because she likes that stuff, someone is deliberately deciding not to share that information.”
- Commissioner Rooney asked if she could just say one thing. Cicie, would you, if there was a report that could be generated, would you like to get that, or would that be a possibility?
- Kennisha Rainge stated so, what's she's referring to for our Agency Fiscal Officer, who is not here to speak up for himself as well, but just like every year, there is a big budget released. Say for example, this year, there is a big budget that is, what, all of 30 pages, that is extremely detailed that is public information. And it has everything. Same thing for this budget, it's all available online. There is nothing that we do that is not available.
- Commissioner Rooney stated okay, great.





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- Kennisha Rainge stated that I can send you the link from last year, I can find it and I can send you the same way that the link has been available for a proposed budget that's coming up for the next fiscal year, that was the same process for last year. So, nothing has changed, the only thing that changes throughout the year is that a certain contract was awarded through OCP or something like that. But that's a process that only the OCP agency oversees.
- Chair Kendall stated:
  - “And you're right, I think the staff has chosen not to, because it was maybe, I don't want to put words in someone's mouth, but perhaps deemed beside the point, because it was a lot of work for something that wasn't pertinent to what our responsibilities were. But I think that if we have a Finance Committee meeting and you want to say, I really want to see that, there are links available and we should look at it.”
- Kennisha Rainge stated that she would provide you with the links.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that the link is open to the public, it's been there, it's out there.
- Commissioner Gates stated that she also thinks our bylaws help address this very issue. And perhaps they should be reviewed.
- Chair Kendall stated:
  - “Okay. I have to admit, I haven't read them myself in a while. Does anything else anybody else want to say anything about the finance? We have only one other committee report, that's Events, and then we have new business, if there's anything else anybody thinks of something to say.”
- Chair Kendall asked for Commissioner Miller to give the Events report.

### Events Committee Report

- Commissioner Miller stated:
  - “Briefly, yes. We have the East of the River and 20th Anniversary Celebration that we talked about earlier, it will be at the new Busboys and Poets, which is supposed to be a really great place, and you all have that information, it's May 9. And SummerSet, we'll have big changes this year. We've always had it on the Mall two days a week, and we got cancelled often because of heat, rain. So we've finally been able to work with a Congresswoman, Eleanor Holmes Norton, to change the format. And we will have two different locations and we will have a noon celebration, but we will also have some evening events. And our auditions will be the 29th and the 30th, so anyone who knows anyone who may want to perform, please get that information out and they can attend, it's at WMATA, at their headquarters, next week, I guess.”
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated and we have three new partners, do you want to talk about those?
- Commissioner Miller stated:
  - “We have National Park Service. We have Wolf Trap, which is new. The Southwest Business Improvement District. And, well, we've had the National Park Service and WMATA.”
- Chair Kendall stated that yes, I think it's exciting that we're bringing it into one week and look at those dates, because some of you may want to go, especially in the evening and hear the music and see if it's a success.
- Commissioner Miller stated that the Naval Memorial is really a great location.
- Chair Kendall moved on the Arts Education report.

### Arts Education Committee Report

- Chair Kendall stated:
  - “Neither Rhona is here, nor David, for the Arts Education Committee report. But I think a lot of it is just updates on programs that have been in the binder before. Please take that report and read it. But I will point out, Poetry Out Loud is going to be April 30. Oh, is it, no, May 1.”
- Kennisha Rainge stated It's the finals.
- Chair Kendall stated May 1, at Lisner, So, it will be in our bulletin that would be good.
- Chair Kendall stated okay and moved to New and Unfinished business.

### New and Unfinished Business



- Chair Kendall asked is there any new business or old business? Josef, did you have anything else you wanted to ask?
- Commissioner Palermo stated:
  - “Yes. I mean, again, for the umpteenth time, communication within this agency and getting information to Commissioners has been really deteriorating since, I think, Arthur left. And I think that a lot of this schism happened in the wake of Arthur's departure. And we were told that it would be for a short time assessment, under Angie, but it seems like this very arbitrary communications protocol that was foisted upon us has been rather limiting and has been really unproductive. And Cicie made a request about the budget to all of the Commissioners that you indicated that you were passing on. And we didn't hear back until today about that. And so, I think that there are discrepancies in the flow of communication and I think that's what's led to where we are today, with frustrations on all sides of the table. And that's what really needs to be addressed.”
- Chair Kendall stated:
  - “I will say, I think the first thing I talked to Terrie about was our frustration with the protocol. It was very frustrating, especially after we've operated in a very freeway, just talk to anybody any time. The problem is that sometimes those conversations were confused and created confusion. And so, they were trying to address something that was broken and maybe it got overcorrected. I think that we're working on it. I mean, I'm told we're working on it.”
- Kennisha Rainge stated:
  - “And one way that Kay said earlier is, because we realize, like, sometimes Kay might be out of town, so she might not see something from me to send to you all or I might not see something from her that you guys might have sent for me, because she might be on a plane or something. So, one way to alleviate that that Kay mentioned earlier is for you all to be able to directly reach out to me. And also, we have a new version of our newsletter. There are different things, different events that are going on, different shows that the Director might be a part of, or just different things about our agency. And that's why we have a new newsletter format that we're sending out every Friday, that has more detailed information about the different things or just updates in general of where we are with, say we're in a heavy grant period, where we are with those. Just updates to keep you guys informed until the actual Board meeting happens. And so, no one is saying that we don't realize that the communication gap needed to be fixed, but these are steps that we are taking right now to fix those communications gaps.”
- Commissioner Palermo stated but she said earlier, you're not on CAH staff. So, why are we communicating with you?
- Kennisha Rainge stated:
  - “But I am detailed here now, I have a job to do and will continue to do it at CAH.”
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that she works for me and reports to me.
- Kennisha Rainge stated:
  - “Yes and I'm detailed. So as I said earlier when someone is detailed to an agency, you work there. I am here and report here every day.
- Commissioner Wharton stated it just means we, the Commission, don't pick up your salary, but you work for the Commission.
- Kennisha Rainge stated:
  - “Right, that's what that means. But other than that, Director Rouse-Rosario is who I report to every day, she is my boss along with the Mayor, and Deputy Mayor Kenner. I work here.”
- Chair Kendall stated:
  - “And this is, let me just say too, I didn't understand this either at first, all the I mean, I wasn't shown the organizational chart. Now, it's all explained, that it's just not the way it goes, you just put certain people here that are paid elsewhere and that's it.”
- Commissioner Wharton stated that many of you don't remember, but Commissioner Younger was the same way, he was detailed by the Mayor's Office and he worked here all the time, but the Commission didn't pay him, so it was a similar type thing.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that one of the things that she just wants to add, what she hopes will become better is a sense of collegialness. and what is more disturbing to me than anything else is when I have other's reporting or extending



comments about internal meetings outside of the staff. That's the distrust level. And that's the type of thing we have to fix.

- Commissioner Palermo stated we are not all on the same team, with the Commission.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated:
  - “We are, but internally, our ability to have the staff understand what's going on and to live through change, because over the next 18 months, to say there's going to be change is an understatement. And a lot of people aren't going to like the change or they're going to like it or they'll have new work or it'll just be different. So, I encourage all of you, for everybody's sanity, to understand there is change. And if you're talking to staff members and they're giving you information, you need to be mindful of the fact that you shouldn't be doing that. Their job is to coordinate with you and to give you what you need, but passing on secrets, passing on their version of something.”
- Commissioner Palermo stated that there should be no secrets.
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated:
  - “That just lends itself to discord. And discord comes from us building trust, not seeking conflict. So that's just my sense of wellbeing. I spend a lot of time talking to Kay about we want to build comradery, we want to share the information, make it better. And we're going to make it better; that's going to happen.”
- Commissioner Younger stated
- “And from what I have observed, in my first meeting her on the Commission, I've asked for you to explain what it is that you needed. I understand that now and I think we can work towards getting what it is that you want. If you have a misunderstanding about a person who is working here in this agency, whether they work here or they're detailed here or they're on staff, we have that clarified. And I think you made it very clear that communication, and it was agreed to, did break down. As a new Commissioner on this Board, I want to see that get better. Only better. And I think we all can work towards that, especially if we're very clear about what it is that we want, that we're looking for, and why. Sometimes, if you don't clarify what it is that you're asking, it gets misconstrued.”
- Kennisha Rainge stated, yes, absolutely.
- Commissioner Menkiti stated:
  - “And I think for the person just the opportunity to come directly and to, if you have an issue, to direct it. It did feel a little gotcha today and I don't think that that's the spirit I would want. Certainly, what I would expect walking in is if I had a concern or I heard something, I think we should this communication channel and breaking that down, so that you could pick up the phone and say, Director, I heard this happened in the staff meeting, could you clarify it for me?”
- Commissioner Palermo stated so what you don't have context to is that we have basically, what you've been hearing today are questions that have been asked repeatedly that have gone unanswered repeatedly.
- Commissioner Menkiti stated what I was hearing was a different path of communication, it sounds like a better path is being created to be able to reach out to Kennisha, having a direct line and Kay be able to be cc'd, that may create an opportunity to have that .”
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn stated that:
  - “I would just like to request that any request made is not seen as some sort of personal animus and I feel like that has been the case for some months. And I just, again, want to clarify that I represent a ward, I'm an arts person, not in the business as long as you have, but my interest is not self-motivated. And it's very frustrating whenever I ask a question that it is met with a little bit of disdain at how dare I even ask these questions? And if I'm to expect the best intentions from you, I would like the same.”
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated:
  - “You got it, that won't be a problem; we have to resolve conflict to not have problems. We met with our lovely colleagues from ArtsActionDC and we agreed to meet with them quarterly. Mostly because we understood that they simply did not have an understanding of what was going on, we were able to clarify did I think that they walked away happy? I don't know about that. But this is the information and we need to do more of that, because if we don't resolve the conflict, things will continue to move backwards and it will not get us through this period of change. And so, I welcome everybody to come and chat with me, if you want to chat with me. I do wish for it to be cordial. If I'm not if you come at me not cordial, I suspect that might come back to you that way. We need to talk about to



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figure it out and not be angry.”

- Chair Kendall stated, all right. Is there any more discussion that anyone wants to have?
- Commissioner Floyd stated:
  - “So, I mean, what I’m hearing here is slightly disappointing, because I know that we’re all here for the betterment of the arts community. So, to me, the conversations that we’re having sound a little like passion, and so I’m hearing a lot of mislabeling, I’m hearing a lot of kind of like low blows and low shots, and that’s not what we’re here for. And I just want everybody to know that we are in this together and we are here for the community and we want to make sure that we’re representing the community when we have these conversations and when we’re going over grants and when we’re doing what we’re supposed to be doing. So, I think it’s unfortunate that people are taking this a little bit more emotionally than is needed. And so, I just want everybody to know that we’re all here for the community, we’re all on the same team.”
- Chair Kendall stated that:
  - “Well, I think that I underscore that. And so, I think two takeaways immediately, I think, is one, and by the way, is that we would like to have a little bit more transparency or complete transparency into Contracts. For information, whether it’s our responsibility or not, there’s an interest in just feeling like there’s nothing that’s not transparent. And that there’s definitely an interest in having better communication system. This is something you’ve expressed, Josef, it’s certainly, I’ve expressed, not today at this meeting, but constantly to Terrie since she came. And I think Terrie has heard me and trying to make some changes, we’ll see how they unfold. And if they’re not, we can always do more. There are probably some sub things, but those are the two main things that I feel are takeaways that we should address and look at.”
- Chair Kendall said and, Derek, I think, excuse me, I think you’re going to be on the Finance Committee.
- (Laughter.)
- Commissioner Palermo asked so, just to finally clarify, and perhaps put this to bed, is there any new legislation that’s coming down the pipe?
- Kennisha Rainge stated that nothing has been introduced to Council.
- Commissioner Palermo asked so there is a draft that has not been introduced to Council.
- Kennisha Rainge stated nothing has been re-introduced to Council.
- Commissioner Palermo stated okay. But referencing what was said on March 4.
- Kennisha Rainge stated,
  - “We cannot speak for whatever was relayed to you outside of this meeting, but nothing has been re-introduced to Council.”
- Commissioner Palermo stated, got it.
- Kennisha Rainge said thank you.
- Chair Kendall moved we adjourn. The meeting is adjourned. Thank you all.
- (Whereupon, the above entitled matter went off the record at 5:54 p.m.)

Chair Kendall thanked everyone. Now the meeting is adjourned at 5:54pm.

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### Adjournment

- Full meeting was adjourned at adjourned at 5:54 PM.
- The next Full Commission Meeting will be in May 23, 2019.