

09.19.19 Minutes



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES
50th ANNIVERSARY

Full Commission Summary Meeting Minutes

09/19/2019 4:00pm – 6:00pm

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

Washington, DC 20003

Attending Commissioners: Kay Kendall, Chair, Alma Gates, MaryAnn Miller, Jose Uclés, Gretchen Wharton, Edmund Fleet, Chinedu Osuchukwu, Josef Palermo, Cicie Sattarnilasskorn, Derek Younger, Maria Rooney, Stacie Lee Banks, Rhona Wolfe Friedman

Not In Attendance: Commissioner(s) Miles Gray, Quanice Floyd, Kymber Menkiti

Attending CAH Staff Members: Executive Director Terrie Rouse-Rosario, Chief of Staff Kennisha Rainge, Lauren Glover (Public Art Manager), Patrick Realiza (Social Media Specialist), Jeffrey Scott (Communications/External Affairs), Brenda Walker (Special Assistant), Heran Sereke-Brhan (Senior Grants Officer), David Markey (Arts Education Manager), Melvin Witten (Legislative and Community Affairs), Benjamin Douglas (Grant Manager)

Public Members Present: Ohtarah Aundy, Peggy McGlone (Washington Post), Julianne Brienza, Michaela Cohoon Cohoon, Edgar Dobie, Ty'Ronn Spriggs, Nancy Daly, Sophia McCrocklin, Heather Cipu, Chase DeForest, David Galligan, Ben Droz, Chanel Adikuoo, Jordan Martol, Peter Nesbett, Aaron Maier, Caitlin Price, Linn Meyers, Sally Caujoni, Marta Perez, Monica Bose, Sarah Doneel, Sharmice Farjuhor, Paul Spires

Public Comment Section (3:30):

- Chair Kendall welcomed everyone and asked the Public members present to speak
- Ty'Ronn Spriggs (Mr. GPS)
 - Hosts showcases, fashion shows, music festivals, concerts, birthday parties, awards shows to artist showcases
 - Currently the official host of Model Mondays at GLO Lounge every Monday
 - Founder and co-host of the GPS show on Next Level Radio, which is stationed inside of Iverson Mall
 - Attends Art All Night, the North Capitol location, semi-annually Fashion Week D.C. participant
 - Hosted the GPS One Night Only Tour that took off in Montgomery, Alabama, and traveled to Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi
 - Wants to eventually host the Mayor's Arts Awards or the Larry Neal Writers' Awards
 - Wants to be considered for Chuck Brown Day, Labor Day Weekend Music Festival, or even 2020 Creates Art and Music Events
 - Wants to be serve as a liaison and bridge builder for the Commission of Arts when it comes to bringing in new talent, such as artists of all forms, other hosts, bands, brands, models, painters, and street talent
- Edgar Dobie (Executive Producer/President of Arena Stage)
 - One of the founding members of Arts Action D.C.
 - Arena Stage was instrumental in leading the work that the National Capital Arts group were doing around this last budget round
 - Happy to have done their parts in advocacy, they did manage to restore a dedicated funding source. They did manage to support legislation that would see a facilities fund put in place, \$4.3 million, which was really important to folks in our organizing group
 - Happy to see that there was a direct line of funding created for the Humanities D.C.
 - Happy to see that in terms of governance that the commission was and has been and will be established as an independent agency

09.19.19 Minutes



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES
50th ANNIVERSARY

- They also advocated and will continue to advocate for the total grant making dollars to increase, as we saw they have grown from fiscal year '19
- Happy that their advocacy eliminated any requests for budget enhancement grants or earmarks
- If they can help the Commissioners in an advisory way with the leadership or the executive director search they stand ready to advise
- Wants to make it clear that we want to advocate to make sure that all boats rise, that everyone is going to see and benefit from the significant investment that the District makes in the arts
- Ben Gross (Artist/Photographer)
 - Wants to just thank the Commissioners for their support of the arts community, the community here in D.C., and the artists, a number of whom have been grantees. He stands with them and supports them.
 - He would eventually like to apply for a grant as he is a photographer. He photographed Art Basel for many years, events that the mayor has done, and events in art that the D.C. Commission's been involved in.
 - If there's any opportunities, he would love to stay in touch about that in any way that I might be able to help as this transition occurs
 - He congratulated the agency on its Independence
- Chair Kendall thanked all of the public speakers for presenting.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 3:46 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 September 19, 2019 at 4:00pm, at 200 I St. SE, Room 4019, Washington DC 20003

Adoption of the September Agenda

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

Adoption of the July minutes

- Chair Kendall motioned to adopt the meeting minutes of the April Commission meeting.
- Commissioner Gates moved to adopt the minutes as presented, Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion.
 - *The motion carried; Unanimous.*

Chairperson's Report

- Chair Kendall asked which Commissioners were on the call.
 - Commissioner Friedman
 - Commissioner Miller
 - Commissioner Banks
- Chair Kendall asked all of the public members in the room to introduce themselves
- Chair Kendall stated:
 - The real business of this commission is giving grants. And it's something that she thinks they've been doing very, very well. She would like to remind everybody that out of 56 state jurisdictions, Washington, for the fifth year in a row, is number one per capita in annual allocations.
- Read an e-mail thanking Commission staff for their hard work that they do to get payments to grantees out of the door.



- She is proud of the staff as they jump through hoops to help the grantees each and every day.
- Reported on the search for the new executive director, they have hired POLIHIRE, which is a firm that's already been contracted by the city
 - 60 people who have applied for the job already, probably a fourth are real applications
 - The job is posted and they want to get the best candidates they can
- Expressed her appreciation to the current Executive Director, Terrie Rouse-Rosario
- They would be voting on grants for the bulk of the meeting
- The Commissioners would go into Executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss the transition to independence
- She has been assured that the transition will go smoothly and all jobs are secure, if there are any bumps in the road they will handle them
- Chair Kendall asked for the Executive Director report.

Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated:
 - Her report is in the binder for the Commissioners to read
 - The team has worked a lot recently to get the enhancement grants out to grantees while preparing for FY20
 - In 2017 the commission gave \$132,000 to the Kennedy Center, to the REACH, and they have presented the Commission with an award that is a part of the acoustic wall that was developed using this cement and rippling of the walls, to show their appreciation (the award was displayed).
- Commissioner Palermo asked why new/old business wasn't included on the agenda
- Chair Kendal stated that they voted on the agenda earlier in the meeting and can talk about things in the executive session
- Commissioner Palermo asked what is the state of the Art Bank
- Executive Director Rouse-Rosario stated that the stewardship of the art collection of the District of Columbia is done by the Commission on Arts and Humanities. That has not changed.
- Commissioner Palermo asked what role does the Office of Creative Affairs play in the stewardship of Art Bank
- Chair Kendall stated at this current time we have access any time we want it, but we have to ask for access. And we ask the Office of Creative Affairs
- Commissioner Palermo asked who would be covering the costs associated with the District of Columbia's art collection
- Chair Kendall stated that it's been in CAH's budget and she thinks that under the circumstances that's something that has to be negotiated and worked out. She is not sure that the circumstances just now are going to stay the way they are. She doesn't know what's going to happen next. The Office of Creative Affairs actually is in charge of the Art Bank, CAH has access to it. So, either it stays that way and we work out the details, or it doesn't stay that way and we work out the details, no one knows any answer right now.
- Commissioner Palermo asked pertaining to the Executive Director search if the search firm, Polihire would be attending the Board meetings to give an update on their process
- Chair Kendall stated they would be able to in the future and there will be public engagement
- Commissioner Palermo asked questions about the budget and personnel updates
- Chair Kendall stated that the Commissioners have oversight and vote on grants and they have never been asked to vote on matters other than grants
- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked about budgeting other money slated for the art collection towards the mission of the agency. That's something that she thinks is important to clarify moving forward if we do not actually have ownership of the collection
- Commissioner Younger stated that you can't take money out of a contract and put it into something else
- Chair Kendall stated because this is all so new with the new office created that she thinks Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn is asking questions that are very specific to something that can't be answered right now
- Chair Kendall called for Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn to give the finance report.

09.19.19 Minutes



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES
50th ANNIVERSARY

Finance Committee Report

- Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn discussed:
 - Art Bank funding votes
 - Chair Kendall stated that money got reallocated within that cohort and we didn't really have to vote on it
 - Lauren Glover stated those were Public art funds that were reallocated within the program to support the strong selection put forth
 - Brian Allende stated that he would be more than happy to provide the Committee with an update at the next Finance Committee meeting
 - Resuming Finance Committee meetings
 - Unallocated grant funds for FY19 and how they will be spent
 - Commissioner Palermo asked where is the money coming from in the budget for the Executive Director search and how much did it cost
 - Chair Kendall stated from the Contract line and it was around \$16k
 - Enhancement grant funds
 - Heran Serke-Brhan stated that they have almost all been executed and the agency doesn't expect to have much left over
 - Executive Director Rouse-Rosario commended the staff on their hard work getting 91 out of 93 enhancements to grants out the door so far
- Chair Kendall asked Commissioner Wharton to give the Grants Committee Report.

Grants Committee Report

- Commissioner Wharton stated that there are a lot of grants to vote on for FY20 and they would be doing each by cohort
- Heran Sereke-Brhan stated that CAH funded more in these grants programs this year than last
 - Last year 676 applications vs. this year 673 applications
 - Last year funding was recommended at 452 (66%) and this year the recommendations are 493(73%)
 - 20 cohorts, 30 panels, 130 panel peer viewers
- **Grant Votes:**
- **Arts/Humanities Education Projects (AHEP) In-school/Out of school cohorts:**
- **Recommending funding of - \$218,430.00**
 - **In-school/Out of school:**
 - Commissioner Wharton motioned to vote
 - Commissioner Ucles seconded the motion
 - Chair Kendall asked were there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye.
 - (Chorus of ayes)
 - Chair Kendall asked if any opposed?
 - No one opposed/abstained
 - Motion passed
- **Arts and Humanities Fellowship Program (AHFP) - Dance Design, Arts/Humanities, Media Arts, Teaching Artists, Theaters, and Visual Arts:**
- **Recommending funding of - \$1,556,750.00**
 - Commissioner Wharton motioned to vote
 - Commissioner Younger seconded the motion
 - Chair Kendall asked were there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye.
 - (Chorus of ayes)

09.19.19 Minutes



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES
50th ANNIVERSARY

- Chair Kendall asked if any opposed?
 - No one opposed/abstained
 - Motion passed
- **East of the River(EOR) : EOR 1- Resident Ward 7 & 8 organizations ; EOR2 –Organizations that conduct programs in Wards 7 & 8**
- **Recommending funding of - \$839,500.00**
 - Commissioner Wharton motioned to vote
 - Commissioner Ucles seconded the motion
 - Chair Kendall asked were there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye.
 - (Chorus of ayes)
 - Chair Kendall asked if any opposed?
 - No one opposed/abstained
 - Motion passed
- **Facilities and Buildings (FAB) – Provides support for Capital projects such a s planning, repair, renovations, or purchase of an arts and humanities facility. Requires a 1:1 match**
- **Recommending funding of - \$4,579,512.00**
 - Commissioner Wharton motioned to vote
 - Commissioner Ucles seconded the motion
 - Chair Kendall asked were there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye.
 - (Chorus of ayes)
 - Chair Kendall asked if any opposed?
 - No one opposed/abstained
 - Motion passed
- **District Arts and Humanities Initiative (DAHI) Field Trip Experiences(FTE) Grant- Kindergarten-5th grade and 6th-12th grade**
- **Recommending funding of - \$1,000,000.00**
 - Commissioner Wharton motioned to vote
 - Commissioner Palermo seconded the motion
 - Chair Kendall asked were there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye.
 - (Chorus of ayes)
 - Chair Kendall asked if any opposed?
 - No one opposed/abstained
 - Motion passed
- **Projects, Events or Festivals (PEF) for Individuals and Organizations**
- **Recommending funding of - \$763,195.00**
 - Commissioner Wharton motioned to vote
 - Commissioner Fleet seconded the motion
 - Chair Kendall asked were there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye.
 - (Chorus of ayes)
 - Chair Kendall asked if any opposed?
 - No one opposed/abstained
 - Motion passed
- **Sister Cities Grant (SCG) for Individuals and Organizations**
- **Recommending funding of- \$400,750.00**
 - Commissioner Wharton motioned to vote
 - Commissioner Rooney seconded the motion
 - Chair Kendall asked were there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye.
 - (Chorus of ayes)



- Chair Kendall asked if any opposed?
 - No one opposed/abstained
 - Motion passed
- Commissioner Wharton stated the staff worked so hard on this. They always work hard on this. But this is something that's really hard to do and they have to sit down, talk to each other, debate on the formulas, all sorts of things. So, it's really an open discussion, and we have a lot of good people doing it. So she really wants to thank them.
- Chair Kendall thanked the staff as well and asked for the Public Art report

Public Art Committee Report

- Commissioner Gates began the voting for the Public Art FY20 grants:
- **FY20 Art Exhibition Curatorial Grant Program (AEP)**
 - The Curatorial Grant Program provides support for the development and publication of visual art exhibitions by District resident curators through grant support in use of CAH exhibition space within its building lobby at 200 I Street.
- **Recommending funding of - \$50,000.00 (Two \$25,000 grants)**
 - Commissioner Gates motioned to vote
 - Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion
 - Chair Kendall asked were there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye.
 - (Chorus of ayes)
 - Chair Kendall asked if any opposed?
 - No one opposed/abstained
 - Motion passed
- **FY20 Civic Commissioned Projects (CCP)- Playable Art DC**
 - Playable Art DC is a creative play and place making project initiated in partnership with the D.C. Office of Planning and made possible through a grant from ArtPlace America. It is intended to create artworks that are bold, exciting, and playful, that will inspire imagination, build social skills, and be enjoyed by youth and adults.
 - Through a comprehensive neighborhood selection process the D.C. Office of Planning selected three communities for Playable Art DC installations: Anacostia Library, Greenway Neighborhood, and Kennedy Street.
- **Recommending funding of - \$20,250.00 for nine finalist honorariums (\$2,250/each)**
 - Commissioner Gates motioned to vote
 - Commissioner Ucles seconded the motion
 - Chair Kendall asked were there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye.
 - (Chorus of ayes)
 - Chair Kendall asked if any opposed?
 - No one opposed/abstained
 - Motion passed
- **FY20 Public Art Building Communities (PABC)**
- Public Art Building Communities Grant supports individual artists and organizations in their efforts to design, fabricate, and install new temporary or permanent works of public art that connect artists and their artwork with communities.
- **Recommending funding of - \$504,525.00**
 - Commissioner Gates motioned to vote
 - Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion
 - Chair Kendall asked were there any discussion? All those in favor, say aye.
 - (Chorus of ayes)
 - Chair Kendall asked if any opposed?
 - No one opposed/abstained

09.19.19 Minutes



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES
50th ANNIVERSARY

- Motion passed

- Chair Kendall asked David Markey and Commissioner Friedman for the Arts Education report.

Arts Education Committee Report

- David Markey discussed:
 - CAH's first Teaching Artists Institute that was held in late August
 - 9/21- Day of professional development for classroom educators and art specialists in schools. 90 classroom teachers are anticipated to attend.
- Commissioner Friedman stated that all of the Arts Education events should be sent to all of the Commissioners so that they may attend if they can.
- Chair Kendall asked for the Events report.

CAH Events Report

- Jeffrey Scott discussed:
 - Chuck Brown Day:
 - Held on Saturday, August 17th, at Chuck Brown Memorial Park. The day is always close to Chuck's birthday in remembrance of him.
 - Crank Crusaders, Bela' Dona, the Junk Yard Band, and the Chuck Brown Band all played.
 - Attendance was approximately 6,000 people.
 - Labor Day Weekend Festival
 - Held over Labor Day Weekend
 - Saturday's attendance was about 350
 - Sunday was about 575
 - Both nights were hosted by Tony Richards
 - Mix of rock-and-roll, jazz, funk, and punk
 - Final performance on Sunday night was a steel band, a steel drum band
 - Art All Night
 - Going on since 2011
 - CAH continues to provide funding to Art All Night through DSLBD for the Main Streets
 - The overall attendance count is at 94,000-plus overnight. That is for six of the eight locations reporting, so that number will go up
- Commissioner Ucles stated the new Office of Creative Affairs took the Mayor's Arts Awards, which he used to chair and from what he hears, it will be sometime in November and the Commissioners are going to be invited
- Chair Kendall thanked Jeffrey Scott and Commissioner Ucles

New and Unfinished Business

- Chair Kendall proposed that under the District's Open Meetings Act that for the purpose of discussing an interim director that they go into executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion or performance evaluations, et cetera, of employees
- Commissioner Ucles thanked the community and Executive Director Rouse-Rosario for the last few months and being involved. He also thanked Chair Kendall for her good labor and keeping all of the Commissioners informed throughout the process. He thanked the Commissioners and stated that he is very proud to be part of the entire art and theater community of Washington, D.C.
- Chair Kendall thanked Commissioner Ucles and called for a vote for Executive session:

09.19.19 Minutes



DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES
50th ANNIVERSARY

- Commissioner Gates: Yes
 - Commissioner Palermo: No. He thinks they should keep these meetings as accessible as possible
 - Commissioner Rooney: Yes
 - Commissioner Younger: Yes
 - Commissioner Ucles: Yes
 - Commissioner Francis: Yes
 - Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn: Yes
 - Chair Kendall stated that the Commissioners on the phone could not be a part of the Executive session and that they have met a quorum. The majority votes for Executive Session
 - Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 5:27 p.m.
-

Adjournment

- Full meeting was adjourned at adjourned at 5:27PM.
- The next Full Commission Meeting is T BD.

Minutes of the September regular meeting were read and approved at the October regular meeting on 10/31/2019.