

01.22.15 Minutes



Full Commission Meeting Minutes

1/22/2015

3:30 pm to 6:00 pm

DCCAH Large Conference Room

Dial In: 1.877.919.3206- Pass Code: 1848681#

Attending Commissioners: Edmund C. Fleet, CHAIR; Susan Clampitt; Antoinette Ford; Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Alma Gates; Barbara Jones; James E. Laws; MaryAnn Miller; Jose Alberto Ucles; Gretchen Wharton

Attending Staff Members: Lionell Thomas, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; Lisa Richards Toney, DEPUTY DIRECTOR; Moshe Adams; Victoria Murray Baatin; Earica Busby; Brittany Dibble; Tonya Jordan; Jeffrey Scott; David Markey; Derek Younger

The Full Commission meeting of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order on January 22, 2015 at 4:13 pm at 200 I Street, SE, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20003.

Adoption of the Agenda

- Commissioner Susan Clampitt motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Adoption of the December 11th Minutes

- Commissioner MaryAnn Miller motioned to adopt the December 11th minutes. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Adoption of the December 22nd Minutes

- Commissioner MaryAnn Miller motioned to adopt the December 22nd minutes. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Chairperson's Report

- Chair Edmund C. Fleet reported that he and executive staff attended the annual Capitol Riverfront Bid luncheon. He continued by stating he was looking forward to the agency continuing to make an impact on the evolving neighborhood.
- Chair Fleet reported that the agency has been setting up meetings with the Mayor Muriel Bowser administration with regards to the agency's strategic planning process.

Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Lionell Thomas introduced Derek Younger, new Special Assistant for the agency, and member of the Mayor Muriel Bowser transition team.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that DMPED (The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development) will welcome Brian Kenner as the new Executive Director.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that the public art team has been working day and night to put artwork in to the new Executive and City Council offices.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that a congressional review process negated a \$1 million one-time federal payment from the agency's budget.
- Executive Director Thomas and Commissioner Antoinette Ford reported on the "Advancing Cultural Equity and Cultural Access" forum held at THEARC on January 14, 2015 in partnership with Americans for the Arts. He continued by stating the next phase of the discussion will occur on February 17, 2015 at the RISE Demonstration Center.

- Executive Director Thomas reported that CESAR (Comprehensive Environmental Survey of Arts Resources) will be released to the public in February 2015.
- Arts Education Manager David Markey reported on the progress of the “Celebration of the Creative Spark” initiative. He continued by stating that the agency is exploring a partnership with DCPS (District of Columbia Public Schools).
- Executive Director Thomas reported that the agency has distributed 98% of FY15 grant payments.
- Executive Director Thomas reported on the progress of *Art All Night* 2015. He continued by stating that the agency will extend an invitation to the Columbia Heights and Chinatown Main Streets to join the celebration.
- Legislative and Community Affairs Director Victoria Murray Baatin reported on the agency and the District of Columbia’s involvement in progressing the practice of creative aging.

Office of the Poet Laureate

- There was no report.

Creative Ideas

- Executive Director Thomas presented on INNOVATE DC, a series of one-time, nonmatching grants up to \$100,000 to District-based 501(C)(3) nonprofit organizations for projects that encourage and maintain the long-term impact of the arts and the Creative Economy in Washington, DC.
- Executive Director Thomas continued his presentation by offering agency suggestions for what types of projects, focuses, and themes may best be supported by the INNOVATE DC initiative.
- Commissioner Clappitt suggested the INNOVATE DC initiative support The Women’s Voices Theatre Festival to be held in the fall of 2015, a collaboration between 45 District theatres celebrating the female playwright and voice.
- Commissioner Friedman suggested the INNOVATE DC initiative support *Sila: The Breath of the World*, a new work by U.S. composer and Pulitzer Prize winner John Luther Adams, co-commissioned by Washington Performing Arts and Lincoln Center.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that INNOVATE DC grantees will be notified by April 15, 2015.
- Commissioner Miller asked if a tool has been developed to assess the criteria of the initiative against the applications as well as following its inception (to determine if the agency is interested in sponsoring the grant again in the future).
- Commissioner Miller suggested incorporating an effort specifically targeted at young women into Susan Clappitt’s suggestion to support The Women’s Voices Theatre Festival.
- Commissioner Clappitt suggested the agency review the language of the guidelines of the INNOVATE DC initiative, warning that the current guidelines pigeon-hole artists into singular identification categories and disciplines.
- Commissioner Clappitt suggested the agency explore using the INNOVATE DC initiative to encourage STEM to STEAM (incorporating the Arts into traditional Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics fields) partnerships and projects.
- Commissioner Clappitt moved to accept the INNOVATE DC concept and guidelines with the inclusion of further edits and the understanding that the revised guidelines be sent to commissioners for further feedback by January 23, 2015.

The motion passed. Unanimous.

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee
 - Commissioner Friedman reported on the congressional review process negotiation of a one-time \$1 million federal payment from the agency budget.

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- Commissioner Friedman reported that the agency has located \$734,000 from such budget items as none-used contractual services to cover projects and initiatives previously scheduled to be supported by the negated \$1 million federal payment.
- Public Art Committee
 - Commissioner Alma Gates reported that the agency is preparing to issue a call to artists in early February 2015 for submission of works to the Art Bank.
 - Commissioner Gates reported on a new software, cataloguing system that would permit the public to access and learn about the works in the Art Bank collection.
 - Commissioner Gates reported that the Public Art team executed contracts with the artists of eight of the on the progress of the approved Public Art Building Communities (PABC) projects approved by the Commission in December 2014. She continued by stating that the projects are expected to be completed this FY15.
 - Commissioner Gates reported on multiple upcoming dedications of public art works, including the Legacy Memorial Park and sculptures.
 - Commissioner Gates reported that the Public Art Committee needs additional members.
 - Commissioner Gates reported that the agency is exploring placing stations in the sidewalk outside of the Howard Theatre to serve as the Howard Theatre Walk of Fame, a commemoration of famous performers who appeared at the theatre.
 - Public Art Manager Tonya Jordan reported on the progress of the JBG underpass project, stating that more funds must be dedicated towards the underpass site due to its poor current condition. She continued by stating that the agency has been in constant contact with the Washington Metro Transportation Administration (WMATA) regarding servicing the site.
 - Public Art Manager Jordan reported on the progress of the agency's Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge grant application, noting that multiple local and federal partners are to possibly collaborate. She continued by stating that the agency is expecting a decision in late February 2015.
 - Commissioner Gates inquired as to whether Commissioners were permitted to testify on behalf of the agency at the upcoming March 11, 2015 Performance Oversight Hearing before the city council.
 - Executive Director Thomas reminded all present that it is proper protocol for the Executive Director and Chair to testify on behalf of the agency.

Panel Recommendations

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business.

New Business and Announcements

- There was no new business or announcements.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:26pm.