

# 2.25.16 Minutes



## Full Commission Meeting Minutes

2/25/2016

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

DCCAH Large Conference Room

**Attending Commissioners:** Kay Kendall, CHAIR; Kim Alphonso; Stacie Lee Banks; Antoinette Ford; Alma Gates; Barbara Jones; James E. Laws, Jr.; MaryAnn Miller; Elvi Moore; Maria Hall Rooney; José Alberto Uclés; Gretchen Wharton; C. Brian Williams

**Attending Staff Members:** Arthur Espinoza, Jr., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; Victoria Murray Baatin; Tonya Jordan; David Markey; Steven Mazzola; Patrick Rezalia; Jeffrey Scott; Regan Spurlock; Derek Younger

The Full Commission meeting of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order on February 25, 2016 at 4:00 pm at 200 I Street, SE, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20003.

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### Adoption of the Agenda

- Commissioner Alma Gates motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded.  
*The motion carried. Unanimous*

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### Adoption of the February 24<sup>th</sup> Minutes

- Commissioner MaryAnn Miller motioned to adopt the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded.  
*The motion carried. Unanimous*

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### Update on HumanitiesDC

- Chair Kay Kendall expressed her commitment to the Humanities in the District of Columbia.
- Commissioner Antoinette Ford introduced HumanitiesDC Executive Director Joy Ford Austin and Board Chair Bob Bremmer.
- Joy Ford Austin presented on the 35 year old history and current work of HumanitesDC as a non-profit organization that is an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- Chair Kendall and HumanitiesDC Executive Director Joy Ford Austin expressed their mutual appreciation for the partnership between DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and HumanitiesDC.
- Joy Ford Austin expressed her belief that humanities can change lives as one of the strongest ways to grow empathy.
- Joy Ford Austin described how the funds and resources from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities have been utilized at HumanitiesDC.
- Board Chair Bob Bremmer explained the HumanitiesDC focus on neighborhood humanities.
- Board Chair Bob Bremmer noted plans to make changes to grant evaluation process within the next 12 months.

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### Chairperson's Report

- Chair Kendall reported that the next Full Commission meeting would focus on Bylaws.
- Chair Kendall noted her continued work on drafting a set of guidelines for the Commissioners that would be closely to align with Bylaws.
- Chair Kendall thanked those Commissioners that were Chairing committees.
- Chair Kendall mentioned the Annual meeting would take place in June.
- Chair Kay Kendall noted Ward 1 Commissioner representative vacancy, meaning 17 out of 18 Commission positions are filled.

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### Executive Director's Report

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- Director Arthur Espinoza, Jr. thanked Chair Kendall for inviting HumanitiesDC to address the Commissioners.
- Director Espinoza noted that the deeper examination of the humanities stemmed from strategic plan.
- Director Espinoza reiterated his commitment to the Vision2016 document that had previously been presented.
- Director Espinoza reported on a successful Performance Oversight Hearing on Thursday, February 18, 2016 before the Committee of Finance and Revenue Chaired by Councilmember Jack Evans.
- Director Espinoza noted preparation for the Budget Oversight Hearing scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2016.
- Director Espinoza explained that many of the priorities for the upcoming Fiscal Year are set by the Agency in consultation the established priorities of the cluster falling under the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development.
- Director Espinoza reported his examination of the Agency budget and his scrutiny of the value and necessity of current programs noting that some funds could be allocated elsewhere.
- Director Espinoza describes need for heightened scrutiny on how funds are being spent and to do so in a most responsible strategic way in regards to how impactful programs are by how much traffic they create.
- Director Espinoza noted that there was a vacancy rate of 27% within the Agency and that he continues to work with DCHR and service contractor agencies to fill vacant positions.
- Director Espinoza noted that the Agency continues to work on the development of a signature event.
- Director Espinoza reported that the Agency, in cooperation with the Marion Barry Commission, is working to commission a bronze in honor of the late Marion Barry and that a March 6, 2017 completion date has been set to coincide with his birthday anniversary.
- Director Espinoza went on to note that a call to artists for the creation of the statue would be disseminated soon.
- Director Espinoza reported on the Agency's print and online publication of Black History Month activities taking place around the City.
- Director Espinoza spoke about recent site visit with Young Playwright's Theatre and shared participant's positive program involvement testimony.
- Director Espinoza mentioned partnering with fellow agency, Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs for events in May.

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### Committee Reports

- Finance
  - Commissioner Elvi Moore reported that the Finance Committee met on Tuesday, February 19, 2016.
  - Director Espinoza distributed an FY16 budget report noting that it identified the four sources of revenue for the Agency. He went on to specifically explain the usage parameters of O-type funding.
  - Director Espinoza stressed the importance of transparency and accountability with use of Agency funds and the desire to eliminate frivolous expenses.
  - Commissioner Brian Williams inquired as to how Commissioners could impact the budget process.
  - Commissioner MaryAnn Miller noted that Commissioners are to support the budget put forth by the Mayor.
  - Commissioner Williams inquired about the channels to appropriately reach out to the Mayor and expressed a desire to meet with Mayor to address investment in the arts.
- Grants
  - Commission Gretchen Wharton reported in Commissioner Susan Clampitt's absence.
  - Commission Wharton noted that grantee's interim reports are being submitted, this action on the part of the grantee will trigger their second payment.
  - Grants Director Steven Mazzola noted that the Heritage Program Grant closes on Friday, February 26, 2016. He went on to report that the applicant goal was on target with 80 applicants having been submitted so far, noting the projected goal of 90 applications.

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- Grants Director Mazzola reported that applicants would know their status by Friday, April 8, 2016.
- Commission Wharton reported that Friday, April 14, 2016 would mark the roll out of the program grant opportunities and that the presentation would be held at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in the great hall.
- Grants Director Mazzola reported that the East of the River grant program would be bifurcated into two categories, one for resident organizations and one for non-resident organizations with a 65/35 split.
- Public Art
  - Commissioner Alma Gates reported that the Public Art Committee met on Monday, February 1, 2016.
  - Commissioner Gates reported that major focus of the Committee will be the Public Art Master plan that will grow and expand the Public Art presence across the City.
  - Commissioner Gates reported that the next Public Art Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 4, 2016.
- Mayor's Arts Awards
  - Commissioner José Alberto Uclés reported that a Mayor's Arts Awards Committee meeting will be set.
  - Commissioner Uclés asked Commissioners to save the date of Tuesday, September 22, 2016 for the Mayor's Arts Awards.
- Arts Education
  - Chair Kendall reported in Commissioner Rhona Wolfe Friedman's absence noting that the Arts Education Committee met and continues to work.

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### Panel Recommendations

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

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### New Business and Announcements

- Chair Kendall distributed a blank fact sheet about the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and asked the Commissioners to fill it in to the best of their ability.
- Chair Kendall distributed packets to the Commissioners with Agency information pulled from the Performance Oversight Hearing binder.
- Commissioner Uclés expressed appreciation for the HumanitesDC presentations and that he found it enlightening.
- Commissioner Maria Hall Rooney inquired as to the Agency's interest in the Union Arts Building as constituents have asked her.
- Director Espinoza indicated that this occasion pointed to a larger and timely opportunity for the Agency to explore advocating for artist live/work space in the City.
- Director Espinoza noted that this is a broad conversation that warrants research and discussion with an eye towards what the Agency can practically provide by way of support.
- Commissioner Williams requested an update on the status of the Cultural Plan.
- Chair Kendall noted that the Office of Planning is on the brink of announcing the selected vendor.
- Director Espinoza noted that the Agency is taking the Union Arts Building concerns very seriously and exploring how to be of best service and to find sustainable solutions for the community.

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### Unfinished Business

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

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### Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.