

# 04.23.15 Minutes



## Full Commission Meeting Minutes

4/23/2015

3:30pm – 6:00pm

**Attending Commissioners:** Edmund C. Fleet, ACTING CHAIR; Susan Clampitt; Alma Gates; Darrin L. Glymph; James E. Laws; MaryAnn Miller; Jose Alberto Ucles; Gretchen Wharton

**Attending Staff Members:** Lisa Richards Toney, INTERIM DIRECTOR Victoria Murray Baatin, INTERIM DEPUTY DIRECTOR; Derek Younger, INTERIM DEPUTY DIRECTOR; Earica Busby; Elizabeth Carriger; Brittany Dibble; Tonya Jordan David Markey; Steven Mazzola

The Full Commission meeting of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order on April 23, 2015 at 4:05 pm at 200 I Street, SE, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20003

### Public Comment Period

- Mark Chalfant, Artistic and Executive Director of Washington Improv Theater, shared the mission of the organization as well as information regarding its artistic and educational programming.
- Carole Mumin, an individual artist and President of Organization for Training Others In Need Inc., shared the mission of the organization as well as information regarding upcoming student performances.

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### Adoption of the Agenda

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

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### Adoption of the February 26th Minutes

- Commissioner Gretchen Wharton motioned to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded.  
*The motion carried. Unanimous*

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### Adoption of the April 14th Minutes

- Commissioner Alma Gates motioned to strike the language “rarely ever fully funded request.” The motion was seconded.  
*The motion carried. Unanimous*

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### Chairperson’s Report

- Commissioner Edmund Fleet reported that Chair Kay Kendall will proceed to follow-up with staff and commissioners regarding requested research involving the East of the River grant program.

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### Interim Director’s Report

- Interim Director Lisa Richards Toney reported on updates regarding staff transitions, including the development of a revised organizational chart.
- Interim Director Toney provided an update regarding the long-term strategic plan.
- Interim Director Toney reported that the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development has invited the agency to lead a cluster meeting surrounding the issue of affordable artist housing and workspace. She continued by stating this initiative aligns with Mayor Muriel Bowser’s intention to address city-wide homelessness.
- Commissioner Wharton stated that she has received constituent calls regarding the Cultural Facilities Grant. She continued by stating that the agency should explore altering the language of the grant to not exclude those applicants that are not affiliated with an arts organization.

- Commissioner Wharton stated that non-arts organizations such as public charter schools have extra space that may be distributed to artists, but cannot be compensated by a funding source such as the Cultural Facilities Grant.
- Interim Director Toney deferred to Commissioner Wharton to offer a report on the upcoming Art All Night event.
- Commissioner Wharton reported that Art All Night has secured the date September 26, 2015. She continued by stating that the Art All Night committee has begun communicating with the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs as well as the Office on Latino Affairs to encourage Asian, Pacific Islander, and Latino artists to submit art for exhibition or performance.
- Commissioner Wharton reported that a new addition to Art All Night will be a conclusion breakfast to be held at 3:00am on September 27, 2015 at the Carnegie Library.
- Interim Director Toney deferred to Interim Deputy Director Victoria Murray Baatin for a report on the upcoming National Center for Creative Aging conference.
- Interim Deputy Director Baatin reported on the upcoming National Center for Creative Aging's The Creative Age: Leadership Exchange and Professional Development Institute conference occurring May 18 through 21, 2015. She continued by stating that complimentary registrations are available for commissioners.
- Interim Deputy Director Baatin continued her report by stating that Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick will be participating in a creative aging briefing for the National Endowment for the Arts on May 18, 2015.
- Interim Deputy Director Baatin continued her report by stating that the District of Columbia has been identified by the National Center for Creative Aging as a "community of practice."
- Interim Director Baatin reported that the agency has been engaging in courtesy meetings with various Councilmembers prior to the upcoming budget hearing.
- Interim Director Toney reported on recent exchange opportunities between the agency and delegations from both Cuba and South Africa.
- Interim Director Toney reported that the agency annual meeting has been scheduled for June 8, 2015.

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## Office of the Poet Laureate

- Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick reported on her upcoming "Poetry and Music" event to be held at Ebenezer's Coffee House on May 15, 2015 at 6:30pm.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick reported on her upcoming reading at the Larry Neal Writers Awards on May 27, 2015.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick reported that she has been chosen to deliver the keynote address at the upcoming graduation for the School Without Walls.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick reported that she submitted a formal recommendation to name Ethel Miller to the Washington DC Hall of Fame.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick reported on her recent experience meeting with a delegation of young poets and artists from South Africa through the agency's Sister Cities International grant program.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick reported that she was recently interviewed by the Washingtonian.

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## Public Art

- Commissioner Gates stated she was pleased to bring before the commissioners for a vote the Ward 7 Urban Farm Environmental Art Project.
- Public Art Manager Tonya Jordan reported that the District of Columbia Housing Authority granted the University of the District of Columbia permission to operate a three-acre urban farm and aquaponics center across from the South Capitol Metro Station.
- Public Art Manager Jordan deferred to Dwane Jones, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at the University of the District of Columbia, and Lisa Pellsman, US Department of Agriculture, to present on the proposed project.
- Commissioner Wharton inquired as to which entity would provide maintenance for the farm as opposed to the public art.

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- Mr. Jones and Public Art Manager Jordan both responded that all current and future entities involved in the project will absorb responsibility.
- Commissioner Miller asked if plans were in place to sell food produced by the urban farm at local farm markets.
- Mr. Jones responded that not only have local farm markets been approached to sell produce, but larger entities such as Walmart.
- Commissioner Clappitt asked about the expected life expectancy of the project.
- Mr. Jones responded that the University of the District of Columbia's lease with the District of Columbia Housing Authority is three years in length.
- Public Art Manager Jordan and Public Art Coordinator Elizabeth Carriger discussed the two proposed public art components: a sculpture installation that may address bio-retention, and a mural.
- Public Art Manager Jordan discussed the agency's request for \$100,000 for FY 2015 and an additional \$50,000 for FY 2016.
- Commissioner Clappitt suggested the team developing the urban farm consider engaging artists to help in the physical design of planting the crops.
- Commissioner Miller suggested the agency consider facilitating a city-wide competition similar to "Party Animals" to encourage artists to submit designs for planters.
- Commissioner Gates motioned to accept the project and move forward with a budget of \$150,000 over two years. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried. Unanimous

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### Committee Reports

- Grants
  - Commissioner Clappitt provided an update on the Innovate DC grant program.
  - Commissioner Clappitt discussed the past panel recommendation to provide volunteer panelists a stipend or honorarium.
  - Interim Director reported that staff discussed the recommendation and vetted it against the Bylaws. She continued by stating staff currently does not experience trouble attracting volunteer panelists.
  - Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Clappitt requested from Interim Deputy Director Baatin information regarding whether or not other District of Columbia boards and commissioners offer stipends or honorariums.
  - Commissioner Clappitt reported on Commissioner Wharton's previous request for information regarding East of the River grantees and possible grantees.
  - Commissioner Fleet responded that staff has completed research and will follow up with the commissioners.
  - Commissioner Clappitt enquired into the appointment of commissioner committee chairs.
  - Commissioner Clappitt stated she was impressed with the Urban Farm project as well as updates provided by Interim Director Toney and Poet Laureate Kendrick.
- Arts Education
  - Commissioner Miller requested commissioners refer to a summary on the results of the Celebration of the Creative Spark initiative.
  - Commissioner Miller continued by stating 102 organizations of varying sizes participated by providing workshops.
  - Interim Director Toney reported that the initiative was elevated to the Mayor's 100 Days Goals.
  - Arts Education Manager David Markey reported that the full report is available for those who are interested.
  - Commissioner Miller reported that the Poetry Out Loud finals will be held at the Lisner Auditorium at the George Washington University on May 28, 2015 and May 29, 2015.

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- Commissioner Miller reported that the upcoming May 27, 2015 Larry Neal Writers Awards has received 98 applications.
- Interim Director Toney reported that she will be sending a letter to the Chancellor of District of Columbia Public Schools Lisa regarding the results of the Arts Education census.
- Commissioner Miller reported on the upcoming exhibition by Duke Ellington School for the Arts students.
- Commissioner Miller reported on the recently completed Jessie Owens mural at the Reeves Center.
- Public Art
  - Commissioner Gates reported on the maintenance and upkeep of Monroe Park.
  - Commissioner Gates reported on and presented the selected designs of the Recycling Truck project.
  - Commissioner Gates reported on the upcoming June 22, 2015 dedication of the Legacy Memorial Park.

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### Panel Recommendations

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

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### Unfinished Business

- Interim Director Toney invited commissioners to attend the May 1, 2015 premier of "Fly By Light."
- Interim Director Toney reported that all Innovation DC grant award winners will be announced through Mayor Bowser's InnoMaytion month.
- Commissioner Darrin Glymph asked if a note could be made to excuse himself and Commissioner Gates from attending the meeting due to a technological malfunction.

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### New Business and Announcements

- There was no new business.

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### Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:56pm.