



# 06.30.15 Minutes

## Full Commission Meeting Minutes

6/30/2015

3:30pm – 5:25pm

Dial In: 1.877.919.3206- Pass Code: 1848681#

**Attending Commissioners:** Kay Kendall, CHAIR; Susan Clampitt; Edmund Fleet; Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Antoinette Ford; Alma Gates; James E. Laws, Jr.; MaryAnn Miller; José Alberto Uclés; Gretchen Wharton

**Attending Staff Members:** Lisa Richards Toney, INTERIM DIRECTOR Victoria Murray Baatin, INTERIM DEPUTY DIRECTOR; Earica Busby; 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 June 30, 2015 at 4:01pm at 200 I Street, SE, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20003

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### Adoption of the Agenda

- Commissioner MaryAnn Miller motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded.  
*The motion carried. Unanimous*
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### Adoption of the May 28th Minutes

- Commissioner Rhona Wolfe Friedman motioned to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded.  
*The motion carried. Unanimous*
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### Chairperson's Report

- Chair Kay Kendall reported on the two recent public art completions and dedications, including Legacy Memorial Park and the lighting of Monroe & Murrow Parks.
  - Chair Kendall reported on the recent Pulse DC special events, including I Love the 90s and DC's Biggest Dance Party.
  - Chair Kendall reported on updates regarding the creation of District of Columbia cultural plan, including the addition of an amendment that would require the Office of Planning to consult the DC Commission on the Art and Humanities during the process.
  - Chair Kendall reported on the DMPED-wide Creative Economy committee meeting that occurred, noting that the cluster effort was spearheaded by Office of Film and Motion Picture Development and Television soon to be Film Television and Entertainment.
  - Chair Kendall called upon members of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee to attend a meeting scheduled for July 15, 2015.
  - Chair Kendall reported on the Kennedy Center's interest in hosting a festival honoring Leonard Bernstein in 2018.
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### Interim Director's Report

- Interim Director Lisa Richards Toney reported on recent developments regarding the District of Columbia Cultural Plan, including a meeting with Office of Planning Director Eric Shaw.
- Interim Director Toney acknowledged Chair Kendall's report on the addition of an amendment that requires the Office of Planning to develop the Cultural Plan in consultation with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.
- Interim Director Toney continued Chair Kendall's report on the convening of the Strategic Plan Steering Committee, further adding that the consultants have drafted the plan.

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- Commissioner Miller asked if there was overlap regarding the development of the District of Columbia Cultural Plan and agency's strategic plan.
- Interim Director Toney responded that the overlap has been conveyed to Councilmember Grosso's office as well as to the Office of Planning.
- Commissioner Susan Clampitt asked how the agency will engage the community before the strategic plan is completed.
- Interim Director Toney responded that the agency and consultants will host a public comment period.
- Commissioner Clampitt recommended the creation of an online platform so that individuals may virtually submit comments and feedback.
- Interim Director Toney reported on the recent District of Creativity: The Arts and Humanities in 2014 Annual Meeting.
- Interim Director Toney reported on Interim Deputy Director Derek Younger's detailing to the Office of Cable Television to support the merger with Office of Film and Motion Picture Development.
- Interim Director Toney reported the agency is under a hiring freeze, thus preventing two staff vacancies from being filled.
- Interim Director Toney reported on recent public art installations.
- Interim Director Toney officially introduced Director of Grants Steven Mazzola as Director of Grants.
- Interim Director Toney reported that 80 youth had been placed in places of employment through the agency's participation in the Summer Youth Employment Program.
- Interim Director Toney reported on a partnership with DMPED to develop the McMillan site which would include the provision of public art in the development.
- Interim Director Toney continued that the agency would assign budget funds towards the project, but that there was potential to request capital funds.
- Interim Director Toney reported that a request for Mayor's Arts Awards producers had been released.

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## Office of the Poet Laureate

- Poet Laureate Delores Kendrick thanked the agency for the recent dedication of the conference room in her name.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick reported on her recent reading at Arena Stage during the National Center for Creative Aging conference.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick reported on her recent "Now Is the Thing To Praise" speech at the graduation ceremony for the School Without Walls.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick reported on her recent Poetry and Music session at Ebenezer's Coffee House.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick report on an upcoming event on August 27, 2015 at Ebenezer's Coffee House.

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## FY16 Budget

- Commissioner Wolfe Friedman reported that the Finance Committee and its members met numerous times to finalize the budget.
- Commissioner Wolfe Friedman referred to Page 6, noting that the Washington Area Lawyers for the Arts will receive an additional \$10,000.00 and those funds would be realized by deducting \$10,000.00 from the Creative Economy partnership line item.
- Commissioner Wolfe Friedman reported that the Creative Economy partnership involves multiple agencies and that their participation could offset the reduction in Commission funds.
- Commissioner Wolfe Friedman referred to Special Programs on Page 8, noting the budget for Art All Night is currently \$125,000.00. She went on to note that she would like to see the amount increased to \$200,000.00
- Commissioner Wolfe Friedman asked that the notes column of the budget indicate that an additional \$75,000.00 from O-type revenue will be added to the overall Art All Night budget.

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- Commissioner Wolfe Friedman explained the agency cannot put O-type or earned revenue money into a budget when it has not yet been earned.
- Commissioner Wolfe Friedman stated that in addition, the agency will seek sponsorships and partnerships for Art All Night.
- Commissioner Gates moved to approve the budget.

*The motion carried. Unanimous.*

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## Nominations

- Commissioner James E. Laws, Jr. reported that the Nominations Committee met on June 11, 2015.
- Commissioner Laws presented the commissioners with paper ballots on which to vote.
- Commissioner Uclés suggested commissioners create a mentorship program to aid incoming commissioners.
- Commissioner Laws collected the paper ballots and reported:  
9 in Favor  
1 Opposed

*The ballot passed.*

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## Committee Reports

- Panels
  - Commissioner Wharton complimented Director of Grants Steven Mazzola and staff for their preparation for panels.
  - Director of Grants Steven Mazzola referred to the individual packets distributed to each commissioner. Director of Grants Mazzola continued by reported each packet contains the commissioner's panel convening schedule, grant program guidelines, helpful documents, application Power Point presentation, and resumes of the panelists selected to serve.
  - Commissioner Wharton reported that those commissioners interested in accessing the Good Done Great system to review the grant applications should contact Director of Grants Mazzola to receive a password.
  - Commissioner Clampitt suggested the commissioners view work samples.
  - Commissioner Clampitt reported the panels still need four commissioners to serve as convener.
- Public Art
  - Commissioner Gates reported that commissioners should expect to view a large presentation regarding Art Bank at the July full commission meeting.
  - Commissioner Wolfe Friedman asked if that presentation would require a vote.
  - Public Art Manager Tonya Jordan responded that the commission previously voted to fund Art Bank.
  - Commissioner Gates continued by stating panels had convened to select Art Bank pieces. She further stated the pieces have been purchased and will be presented to the commissioners as a point of information.
  - Chair Kendall stated that the commissioners may consider reviewing the Art Bank selection process at a later date, but cannot currently alter the process.

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## Panel Recommendations

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

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## Unfinished Business

- There was no unfinished business.

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## New Business and Announcements



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- Commissioner Uclés commended the staff for keeping the commissioners so well informed.
- Commissioner Uclés suggested the agency filter event invitations from local artists and arts organizations through its list-serv in order to grant them more exposure.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick commended Office Manager Carolyn Parker for her patience and dedication to the Office of the Poet Laureate.

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## Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm.