

# 1.26.17 Minutes



## Full Commission Meeting Minutes

1/26/2017

3:30 pm to 4:00 pm-Public Comment Period

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm-Deliberative Meeting

CAH Large Conference Room

**Attending Commissioners:** Kay Kendall, CHAIR; Kim Alfonso (phone); Stacie Lee Banks; Alma Gates; Susan Clampitt; Edmund Fleet (Phone); Haili Francis; Darrin Glymph (phone); MaryAnn Miller; Elvi Moore; Josef Palermo; Maria Rooney; Cicie Sattarnilasskorn; José Alberto Uclés; Gretchen Wharton; C. Brian Williams (phone)

**Attending Staff Members:** Arthur Espinoza, Jr., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; Michael Bigley; Earica Busby; David Markey; Dominique Marsalek; Kyra Saffran; Jeffrey Scott; Regan Spurlock; Patrick Realiza; Kali Wasenko; J. Carl Wilson

The Full Commission meeting of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order on January 26, 2017 at 4:00 pm at 200 I Street, SE, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20003.

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### Public Comment Period

- Program Director Jackie Carter from Jah Kente International, Inc. explained the organization works primarily with children in Ward 8 to encourage literacy through the performing arts, is a CAH grantee, and expressed the desire for larger East of the River grant opportunities for literacy to allow for partnerships with parents, schools, authors and artists.
- Chair Kay Kendall inquired about Jah Kente International Inc.'s budget size.
- Program Director Carter answered \$10K and explained that a 1/3 of the grant was previously taken away because their main office is located in NW and their satellite office is at the United Black Fund, Inc. building in SE.

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### Adoption of the Agenda

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

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### Adoption of the December 15<sup>th</sup> and December 19<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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### Open Meetings Act and Ethics Training

- Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Attorney Advisors Johnnie Barton and Janet Foster conducted training.

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### Chairperson's Report

- Chair Kendall announced the release of the new Commissioner Handbook with a list of guidelines and Bylaws.
- Chair Kendall mentioned that Legislative and Community Affairs Advisor Dominique Marsalek will take RSVPs for Commission meetings, and requested that Commissioners who are unable to attend provide a reason.

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### Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Arthur Espinoza, Jr. noted The Hill newspaper wrote an article about potential funding cuts and elimination of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). The federal budget process is ongoing, and will not become formalized until April.
- Executive Director Espinoza shared plans to continue to monitor the federal budget process and news from the National Assembly for States Arts Agencies (NASSA), NEA, and other agency directors in order to stay up to date on the issue.

## 1.26.17 Minutes



- Executive Director Espinoza reminded the Commission that 3% of CAH's current budget is from federal funding, and next year federal funding is expected at 5%.
- Executive Director Espinoza mentioned that the next two Council Hearings are the Performance Hearing on February 17 and the FY18 Budget Hearing on April 26.
- Chair Kendall added that Council Hearings allow for members of the community to testify along with the Chair and Executive Director.
- Executive Director Espinoza explained that a Special Task Force Committee was convened to determine how to ensure that all grants are competitive, resulting in a new program for service organizations.
- Chair Kendall added that certain groups in the past received noncompetitive grants as partners; board determined that grants should be competitive and go through a panel process. These grants offer the ability to maintain support.
- Executive Director Espinoza stated that panelists are needed for upcoming panels.
- Commissioner Glymph requested clarification regarding the creation of a service organization grant.
- Chair Kendall explained that the Grants and Panel Committees studied the partnership grants and determined that they were noncompliant, as government funded grants must be competitive.
- Commissioner Elvi Moore noted that the discussion around partnership grants is detailed in the December 15<sup>th</sup> minutes.
- Commissioner Gretchen Wharton explained that in examining partnership grants, it was determined that they were not contractual partner agreements, and some partners were re-granting funds to existing CAH grantees.
- Commissioner Glymph asked for a report of the Special Task Force Committee meetings going forward.
- Deputy Director Michael Bigley stated the Cultural Plan is still being developed; a working draft should be available soon to share with the community to gain feedback. The deadline to present it to Council is April.
- Executive Director Espinoza reviewed staffing changes: Kali Wasenko began as the new External Engagement Specialist, Dominique Marsalek as the Legislative and Community Affairs Advisor, Grants Director Steven Mazzola resigned, effective January 27 and Lauren Dugas Glover will start as Public Art Manager in February.

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### Committee Reports

- Arts Education Committee:
  - Arts Education Coordinator David Markey noted the upcoming Poetry Outloud event, funded entirely by the NEA will take place March 8 at the Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment (OCTFME).
  - Arts Education Coordinator Markey mentioned the Creative Spark! initiative will launch soon offering a total of forty-five, three lesson residencies.
  - Arts Education Coordinator Markey stated the second cycle of the Arts Field Trip program will open soon with a budget of \$900K.
- Bylaws Committee:
  - Commissioner Glymph shared that he will present a report on the Commissioner Handbook after comparing it to the Bylaws.
- Events/Mayor's Arts Awards Committee:
  - Commissioner Miller stated the next major event is the Celebration of African American Month which will consist of a performance of Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick's *The Women of Plums* and an African American Diaspora panel discussion at the Lincoln Theatre on February 16.
  - Commissioner Uclés stated the date of the Mayor's Arts Awards is to be decided.
  - Commissioner Uclés noted the following nomination categories: Excellence in Visual Arts, Excellence in Performing Arts, Excellence in Arts Education, Excellence in Creative Industries, Excellence in Humanities, Larry Neal Writers' Award (Adult) and Larry Neal Writers' Award (Youth).
- Finance Committee:
  - Commissioner Moore mentioned that the Summer Youth Employment Program will need to be executed as a contract not a grant, and asked for a motion to move \$68K from the grants line to the contracts line.
  - Commissioner Alma Gates motioned for a vote. Commissioner Clampitt seconded.  
*The motion carried. Unanimous*
  - Commissioner Moore noted that partnership grants will continue through FY17.

# 1.26.17 Minutes



- Commissioner Cicie Sattarnilasskorn asked how grant amounts, such as those for Art Bank and Facilities and Buildings programs can be exceeded.
- Executive Director Espinoza explained that if a recommended grantee list is within a margin of the assigned budget, a waiver is required to exceed the allotted budget knowing the funds can be offset from other public art program budgets.
- Commissioner Moore stated that the Humanities Council will be acquiring Cultural Capital, receiving a \$25K grant to do so.
- Commissioner Moore noted that the remaining \$12K to Mid-Atlantic Foundation (MAAF), after the \$35K participation fee is to be reprogramed in grants.
- Commissioner Glymph asked about Velocity DC and Hip Hop Festival.
- Executive Director Espinoza explained they will be executed as contracts since they are CAH programs, not grants.
- Commissioner C. Brian Williams questioned the reassignment of \$12K for special presenter initiatives from MAAF's touring grant.
- Chair Kendall explained that artists may still apply directly to CAH. The purpose is to ensure that grantees are not receiving both grants from CAH and sub-grants through CAH grantees.
- Grants/Panels Committee:
  - Commissioner Clampitt expressed her gratitude for former Grants Director Steven Mazzola.
  - Commissioner Clampitt shared 6.3 million dollars have been expended since the beginning of the fiscal year.
  - Commissioner Clampitt explained that a new cohort of the Heritage Grant Program (HGP) has been created; the Horizon program will provide operating funds for organizations that have been in existence for a year, up to six years.
  - Commissioner Sattarnilasskorn asked if the Horizon program has been implemented yet.
  - Executive Director Espinoza answered that it will launch in FY18.
- Public Art Committee:
  - Commissioner Gates announced that CAH will fund and match \$100K toward the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MuralsDC, a partnership with Department of Public Works (DPW).
  - Commissioner Gates shared a new creative placemaking proposal at Brookland Manor.
  - Commissioner Gates explained the open Call for Curators is a new initiative to allow for DC-based curators and curatorial teams to curate an exhibit in the 200 I Street Galleries will close on January 30, and the panel will take place February 3.
  - Commissioner Gates mentioned that the Commission on Fine Arts (CFA) has approved the Howard Theatre Walk of Fame design concept.
  - Commissioner Gates stated that the second cycle of FY17 Public Art Building Communities (PABC) will open soon to individuals and organizations.

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## Panel Recommendations

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

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## New Business and Announcements

- Chair Kendall shared her appreciation for Grants Director Steven Mazzola's contribution to the Agency.

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## Unfinished Business

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

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## Adjournments

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm.