

2.23.17 Minutes



Full Commission Meeting Minutes

2/23/2017

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

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm – Deliberative Meeting

CAH Large Conference Room

Attending Commissioners: Kay Kendall, CHAIR; Stacie Lee Banks; Susan Clampitt; Haili Francis; Rhona Wolfe Friedman (phone); Alma Gates; Darrin Glymph (phone); MaryAnn Miller; Elvi Moore; Josef Palermo (phone); 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; Lauren Dugas Glover; Dominique Marsalek; Patrick Realiza; Kyra Saffran; Regan Spurlock; Derek Younger

The DC Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick was in attendance.

The Full Commission meeting of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order on February 23, 2017 at 4:02 pm at 200 I Street, SE, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20003.

Public Comment Period

- Daniel Phoenix Singh addressed concerns with grants communication, clarity and errors. He requested consideration for a change of the public comment period time to accommodate accessibility, application deadline extension, review of the LOI requirement, and requested that CAH conduct a comprehensive community-based survey.
- Chair Kay Kendall and Executive Director Arthur Espinoza, Jr. responded to concerns, agreed to address errors that were identified and requested further information about Mr. Singh's interactions with CAH Staff.
- Mr. Singh noted that he had previously met with members of the grants department.

Adoption of the Agenda

- Commissioner Elvi Moore motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Adoption of the January 26th Minutes

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

Chairperson's Report

- Chair Kendall thanked Commissioner C. Brian Williams for providing Commissioners and Staff with a tour of the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC).
- Chair Kendall shared that she attended a Black History Month celebration at the African American Civil War Museum.
- Chair Kendall congratulated Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick for her production of *The Women of Plums: Poems in the Voices of Slave Women*.
- Chair Kendall informed Commissioners of the Mayor's Budget Hearing sessions to encourage participation.

Committee Reports

- Events/Mayor's Arts Awards Committee:
 - Commissioner Miller noted that Poetry Out Loud is being held March 8 at the Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment (OCTFME) studio.
 - Commissioner Miller stated Poets-In-Progress will take place April 8 at Folger Shakespeare Library, and explained it is one of Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick's programs.

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- Commissioner José Alberto Uclés reminded Commissioners that the Mayor Art's Awards will take place September 14, and mentioned the deadline to submit award nominations is February 24.
- Finance Committee:
 - Commissioner Moore reviewed line item changes: noted an overage in Facilities and Buildings (FAB) grant, in public art \$300K was moved from Civic Commissioned Projects (CCP) to Public Art Building Communities (PABC) and \$100K was moved from Community Initiated Projects (CIP) to MuralsDC.
 - Chair Kendall clarified that the public art budget is remaining the same.
 - Commissioner Moore noted that \$12K from the Mid-Atlantic Foundation will be reassigned to another grants program.
 - Commissioner Miller asked why \$30K was moved from grants to contracts.
 - Commissioner Moore answered that the \$30K is a Mid-Atlantic Foundation membership fee which should not be issued as grant.
 - Executive Director added that current estimates for CAH's FY18 budget suggest a two percent decrease from the FY17 base line budget.
- Grants/Panels Committee:
 - Commissioner Gretchen Wharton explained that the Special Task Force reviewed CAH grant making to ensure compliance to District policy, which led to the recommendation to establish a grants program for service-based organizations and to eliminate subgranting. A report was distributed from the Special Task Force.
 - Commissioner Susan Clampitt noted that the new Horizon Grant Program (HGP) was released and is currently accepting applications.
 - Commissioner Clampitt mentioned that the slate of FY18 grants will open in April.
 - Commissioner Wharton reminded Commissioners to sign up for panels, and noted that the agency is in need of panelists for all cohorts.
- Public Art Committee:
 - Executive Director Espinoza introduced the recent hire of Public Art Manager Lauren Glover.
 - Commissioner Alma Gates addressed that a panel was held on February 3 for the Call to District Curators, an opportunity for local curators to host an exhibition in the 200 I (EYE) Street Galleries. Asked the Commission to support the panel's recommendation for a grant to be executed in the amount \$15K.
 - Commissioner Miller motioned to award the \$15K grant. Commissioner Uclés seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous
 - Commissioner Gates stated that a call to local (DC based) artists is open for the Pepco Waterfront Substation Building Niches, and will close March 3.
 - Executive Director Espinoza explained that a site location is being determined for the Barry Bronze Statue Commission project. The two artists under consideration are continuing to develop their design concepts for a tentative installation in November 2017. Agreements for this project are forthcoming pending further details of funding and site location
 - Commissioner Gates noted *Is Separate Ever Equal?* exhibition is scheduled to open in 200 I (EYE) Street Galleries in March.
 - Commissioner Gates mentioned that CAH is working to identify site locations for the potential relocation of *Solomon's Gate*, currently situated in front of the James Monroe Building.

Office of the Poet Laureate

- Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick stated that the second production of *The Women of Plums: Poems in the Voices of Slave Women* was a success, and suggested producing a third version in 2018.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick shared plans to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Gwendolyn Brooks.

Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Espinoza mentioned that he met with a representative from the National Assembly of States Arts Agencies (NASAA) to continue gaining further information on possible National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) budget cuts.

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- Executive Director Espinoza reviewed staffing changes: the initial stages have begun to fill the position of Grants Director, and an offer has been made for a Legislative Affairs and Grants Assistant.
- Executive Director Espinoza noted that he is continuing to review grants and contracting and procurement practices to ensure compliance.
- Executive Director Espinoza stated that CAH is continuing to work on the Cultural Plan. One more engagement session will take place to gain community feedback.
- Executive Director Espinoza met with the Chancellor of DCPS to discuss delivering effective arts education programs for the sake of students' personal and academic development.
- Executive Director Espinoza shared an idea to commemorate Frederick Douglass' 200th birthday during Black History Month 2018.
- Executive Director Espinoza mentioned that the agency will have its 50th anniversary in 2018, and suggested creating a special committee to determine celebratory events.

Panel Recommendations

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

New Business and Announcements

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

Unfinished Business

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

Executive Session

- Motioned to hold a closed session. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Adjournments

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.