

3.24.2016 Minutes



Full Commission Meeting Minutes

3/24/2016

3:46 pm to 6:09 pm

DCCAH Large Conference Room

Attending Commissioners: Kay Kendall, CHAIR; Kim Alfonso; Stacie Lee Banks; Edmund C. Fleet; Antoinette Ford; Alma Gates; Darrin Glymph (phone); Barbara Jones; MaryAnn Miller; Elvi Moore; Mara Hall Rooney; José Alberto Uclés; Gretchen Wharton; C. Brian Williams

Attending Staff Members: Arthur Espinoza, Jr., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; Victoria Murray Baatin; Earica Brown; Ebony Brown; Tonya Jordan; Steven Mazzola; Patrick Realiza; Kyra Saffran; Derek Younger

The Full Commission meeting of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order on March 24, 2016 at 4:14 pm at 200 I Street, SE, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20003.

Adoption of the Agenda

- Commissioner Gretchen Wharton and Commissioner Mary Ann Miller motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried. Unanimous

Adoption of the February 24th Minutes

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

Public Comment Period

- Mr. Abdur-Rahim Muhammad, Founder and President of Hung Tao Choy Mei Leadership Institute spoke to the Commission in reference to his displeasure with FY17 Heritage Grant Program requirements.
- Mr. Muhammad expressed that he does not feel he was fairly reviewed by a panelist of his peers.
- Commissioner Stacie Lee Banks commended Mr. Muhammad's work on U Street.
- Grants Manager Steven Mazzola briefed Commissioners on the panelist's process behind Mr. Muhammad's application.
- Commissioner Gretchen Wharton agreed that equal representation of sex, race and ward needs to be reflected in panels.
- Executive Director Arthur Espinoza, Jr. addressed that reevaluating a panel's decision can demean the value of the panelist process.
- Executive Director Espinoza suggested walking Mr. Muhammad through the official grant application appeal process.
- Grants Manager Mazzola expressed building a deeper relationship with the Community to help with grant workshops and application resources.
- Grants Manager Mazzola stated the National Endowment of the Arts does not recognize the martial arts school, Hung Tao Choy Mei Leadership Institute as a designated form of the arts.
- Commissioner MaryAnn Miller put in a bid to try to incorporate more locals from the Community into the panels rather than bloggers and/or people at a national level.
- Commissioner Antoinette Ford supported Commissioner Miller's suggestion by stating the Smithsonian could be a tool to help find panelists instead of providing them.

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- Legislative and Community Affairs Advisor Victoria Murray Baatin explained the Public Comment Period as Mr. Muhammad is the 3rd or 4th person to speak to the Commission during the time designated for Public Comment Period.
- Chair Kay Kendall suggested drafting a response to Mr. Muhammad's "recall of grant decision" to inquire about his desire to make a formal appeal.
- Executive Director Espinoza questioned the use of the word "heritage" in the grant title in relation to the Hung Tao Choy Mei Leadership Institute's 21 year existence on U Street.

Chairperson's Report

- Chair Kay Kendall spoke about Bylaws on behalf of Commissioner Darrin L. Glymph.
- Chair Kendall lauded Commissioner Glymph for his hard work on the Bylaws.
- Chair Kendall thanked the Committee for their work thus far.
- Chair Kendall walked the Commission through the adjustments made to Bylaws, and asked for any additional suggestions.
- Chair Kendall explained the legislation created under the last Mayor in regards to the member's serving terms.
- Commissioner Gretchen Wharton questioned the listed serving dates in the event of a Commissioner's grace period and/or replacement.
- Chair Kendall invited the Commission's opinion on changing the wording of "executive commission."
- Commissioner Miller mentioned the Chair's preference of having Commissioners physically present in attendance at monthly meetings.
- Commissioner Glymph dialed in and continued with the Bylaws reading of Section VII.
- Chair Kendall explained Commissioner Glymph's edits relating to guidance and dialogue between Executive Director Espinoza and the Commission.
- Executive Director Espinoza shared his view of the Commission as a "think tank" in working together.
- Commissioner Glymph discussed the Commission's duty as the "voice of the residents of the District of Columbia."
- Commissioner Wharton commented on "visual arts" being a limiting phrase for all aspects of arts and humanities.
- Executive Director Espinoza asked Commission of their interpretation on monitoring and implementation of budget.
- Chair Kendall noted plans to speak about the budget clarification in the next monthly meeting.
- Commissioner C. Brian Williams asked Executive Director Espinoza if he reports to the Mayor or Office of Economic Development.
- Executive Director Espinoza explained he reports directly to the Mayor's Office, sometimes through the Deputy Mayor.
- Chair Kendall inquired how the Commission would feel about doing an anonymous evaluation on themselves.
- Commissioner Glymph ended Bylaws presentation by informing the Commission that they will receive copies of the draft.

Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Espinoza introduced the new Deputy Director, Michael Bigley.
- Deputy Director Bigley expressed his excitement in getting to know the Agency's staff and Commissioners.
- Commissioner Williams lauded Deputy Director Bigley's presence in the City's art field.
- Executive Director Espinoza mentioned a 4% reduction from FY16 budget, equating to \$515,000.
- Executive Director Espinoza noted preparation for annual budget review and hearing on Wednesday, April 13th.
- Executive Director Espinoza stated the budget has shrunk.
- Executive Director Espinoza expressed plans to move forward with FY17 budget planning within all departments in the Agency.

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- Executive Director Espinoza shared dedication in growing the grants budget.
- Executive Director Espinoza lauded Art Collections Manager, Ron Humbertson for his transition from a contractor to a full time employee.
- Executive Director Espinoza discussed plans for the launch of the e-museum in May with two additional launches in the first of the fiscal year and during the holiday.
- Executive Director Espinoza explained the e-museum will allow visual access to the Agency's Art Bank Collection and Public Art.
- Commissioner Moore questioned security and legal methods being taken to prevent reproduction of e-museum pieces.
- Executive Director Espinoza noted there is a full time employee and contractor position open in the grants department, but that one will be filled Monday, April 4th.
- Chair Kendall asked Executive Director Espinoza if he feels the agency is understaffed.
- Executive Director Espinoza responded with "yes" and inquired how the agency can better serve its constituents.
- Commissioner Williams addressed art organizations being historically understaffed.
- Commissioner Glymph wanted to ensure the concept of IDEA and inclusiveness are considered during hiring process.
- Commissioner Miller asked if any money comes from Deputy Mayor's Office.
- Derek Younger responded stating funding does come from DPW (Department of Public Works).
- Executive Director Espinoza described that the upcoming Signature Event: 202 Art and Music Festival will celebrate Go-go music, the District's signature sound.
- Executive Director Espinoza continued sharing there will be 4 events taking place around the City the weekend of August 19th-21st relating to Go-go music.
- Commissioner Williams suggested incorporating all aspects of art into Go-go theme.
- Commissioner Jones noted Chuck Brown and Go-go's origin from Ward 8.
- Commissioner José Alberto Uclés thanked Commissioner Jones for mentioning that and suggested moving an event to Ward 8.
- Executive Director Espinoza explained that the Commission is allowed to fundraise and accept donations.
- Commission Wharton noted there is a process in place to raise money as well as the existence of the Enterprise Fund that allows people to give money as a tax write off.
- Executive Director Espinoza informed Commission there is no longer a Capital Budget for Public Art, and instead the operating budget i.e local funds are used, resulting in additional management of Public Art.
- Executive Director Espinoza addressed DCCAH's decision to stop managing Art All Night but that the Agency will continue to be involved by funding and supporting the event through DSLBD's (Department of Small and Local Business Development) DC Main Streets Program.
- Executive Director Espinoza thanked Commissioner Wharton for her work on Art All Night.
- Chair Kendall praised Executive Director Espinoza's decision in transferring management of production of "Art All Night" to DSLBD.

Committee Reports

- Finance
 - Commissioner Moore announced there is not much to report until next month's meeting in April.
- Grants
 - Commissioner Susan Clampitt stated plans to move ahead with HGP panels next week.
 - Grants Manager Mazzola described working on Interim Progress Reports for FY16 grantee's 2nd payments.
 - Grants Manager Mazzola confirmed FY17 grant roll out at Dream Lab on Thursday, April 14 at 10am, and a preview taking place Tuesday, April 12 at Rise Demonstration Center in Ward 8.

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- Public Art
 - Commissioner Alma Gates acknowledged Commission has met to discuss Master Plan.
 - Public Art Manager Tonya Jordan stated the extension of the Marion Barry Statue deadline was done to gain more applicants, and that the selection of an artist will happen in June 2016.
 - Public Art Manager Jordan noted the release of Pepco call to artists.
 - Public Art Manager Jordan shared partnership with DDOT (District Department of Transportation) to help deter street harassment through “The Vision Zero Initiative.”
 - Public Art Manager Jordan explained 4 traffic management plans that involve street closures from DDOT to be completed early May for Office of Asian and Pacific Islanders Affairs month.
 - Public Art Manager Jordan addressed presentation of Duke Ellington High School students in DCCA lobby gallery tomorrow, March 25th.
 - Commissioner Miller asked if it is prudent to move forward with Pepco-Exelon merger given Mayor’s position.
 - Public Art Manager Jordan assured merger will not negatively affect their commitment to Public Art.
- Mayor’s Arts Awards
 - Commissioner Uclés mentioned working on a Signature Event at Lincoln Center to ensure it is done locally.
 - Commissioners Uclés noted that there are Multiple Mayor’s Arts Awards, and nominations are to be made by Monday, March 28.
 - Commission Uclés renamed Mayor’s Arts Awards for Emerging Artists to Mayor’s Arts Awards for Outstanding New Artists.
 - Commissioner Uclés shared call for running show stage management.
- Arts Education
 - There were no Arts Education reports presented.

Panel Recommendations

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

New Business and Announcements

- FY17 Art Bank Collection will open at the end of March for submissions.

Unfinished Business

- There were no panel recommendations presented.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 pm.