



10.24.13 Minutes

Full Commission Meeting Minutes

10/24/2013

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

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

DCCAH Large Conference Room

Dial In: 1.877.919-3206 Pass Code: 188681#

Attending Commissioners: Judith Terra, CHAIR (phone); Lavinia Wohlfarth, VICE-CHAIR; Susan Clampitt; Edmund Fleet; Rhona Wolfe Friedman; Alma Gates; James Laws; MaryAnn Miller; Joes Uncles, Gretchen Wharton

Attending Staff Members: Lionell Thomas, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; Moshe Adams; Victoria Murray Baatin; Earica Busby; Dolores Kendrick, POET LAUREATE; Steven Scott Mazzola; JR Russ

The Full Commission meeting of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities began on October 24, 2013 at 3:30 pm at 201 I Street SE, Washington, DC 20003.

Public Comment Period

- There were no comments from the public

Call to Order

- The Vice-Chair Lavinia Wohlfarth, called the business meeting to order at 4:13pm.

Adoption of the Agenda

- Vice-Chair Wohlfarth, noted a request to have an Executive Session. Move Poet Laureate after Reports and before Votes, then move to Executive Session.
- Commissioner Maryann Miller motioned to accept the agenda as amended. Commissioner Gretchen Wharton seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Adoption of the September 26th Minutes

- Commissioner Rhona Friedman motioned to accept the minutes. Commissioner Edmund Fleet seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Chairperson's Report

- Vice-Chair Wohlfarth welcomed all present.
- Chair Terra noted disappointment in turnout at the Mayor's Arts Awards, regarding the commissioners' attendance.

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- Vice-Chair Wohlfarth noted that the Awards are our biggest event. She went on to thank the staff as the ceremony continues to grow every year.
- Vice-Chair Wohlfarth spoke to board retreat, noted its location as well as environment seemed well suited to the needs of the retreat.
- Vice-Chair Wohlfarth noted the work of the Grant Allocation Committee and commended working with Director of Grants Moshe Adams.

Office of the Poet Laureate

- Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick reported on the Dunbar High School opening event, at which she read an original, signature poem commissioned for the ceremony.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick was asked to launch an event at the Library of Congress.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick was asked to participate in a program at the George Washington University recognizing poets who had worked and resided in Washington, DC, for a significant period of time.
- Poet Laureate Kendrick was invited to read the Gettysburg Address at Lincoln Cottage Old Soldier's Home.

Cultural Facilities Projects

- Commissioner Wohlfarth provided a summation of the program including requested amounts, ranking recommendations from the panel, and funding recommendations from the Grants Allocation Committee.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that for Cultural Facilities Projects, there was \$2,151,699 in requests and \$1,000,000 in recommendations for funding.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that 15 out of 20 eligible applicants were recommended for funding.
- Commissioner Gates reported that the panel gave serious consideration to all applicants and recommended that the Grant Allocation Committee's final recommendation is approved.
- Commissioner Miller motioned to adopt the recommendations of the Grant Allocation Committee for Cultural Facilities Projects. Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Artist Fellowship Program - Dance

- Commissioner Wohlfarth provided a summation of the program including requested amounts, ranking recommendations from the panel, and funding recommendations from the Grants Allocation Committee.

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- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that for Artist Fellowship Program – Dance, there was \$110,000 in requests and \$27,500 in recommendations for funding
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that 4 out of 11 eligible applicants were recommended for funding.
- Commissioner Friedman commended the fact that fellows are being awarded significant amounts, as lesser amounts having less of an impact.
- Commissioner Miller commented on the amount awarded reflected a vote of confidence.
- Moshe Adams commented on having a greater maximum enables awarding on a greater scale
- Commissioner Clampitt observed that awarding fewer grantees larger amounts also reflects a higher standard of excellence.
- Commissioner Friedman motioned to adopt the recommendations of the Grant Allocation Committee for Artist Fellowship Program - Dance. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Artist Fellowship Program - Humanities

- Commissioner Wohlfarth provided a summation of the program including requested amounts, ranking recommendations from the panel, and funding recommendations from the Grants Allocation Committee.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that for Artist Fellowship Program – Humanities, there was \$330,000 in requests and \$95,000 in recommendations for funding
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that 12 out of 33 eligible applicants were recommended for funding.
- Commissioner Miller reported that, for the purposes of funding recommendations, multiple disciplines were combined, in order to get a holistic sense of disbursing funds to the total applicant pool
- Commissioner Miller motioned to adopt the recommendations of the Grant Allocation Committee for Artist Fellowship Program - Humanities. Commissioner Friedman seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Artist Fellowship Program – Media Arts

- Commissioner Wohlfarth provided a summation of the program including requested amounts, ranking recommendations from the panel, and funding recommendations from the Grants Allocation Committee.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that for Artist Fellowship Program – Media Arts, there was \$250,000 in requests and \$67,500 in recommendations for funding .

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- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that 9 out of 25 eligible applicants were recommended for funding.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth mentioned that commissioner Maxwell recommended funding as proposed.
- Commissioner Friedman motioned to adopt the recommendations of the Grant Allocation Committee for Artist Fellowship Program - Media Arts. Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Artist Fellowship Program - Music

- Commissioner Wohlfarth provided a summation of the program including requested amounts, ranking recommendations from the panel, and funding recommendations from the Grants Allocation Committee.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that for Artist Fellowship Program – Music, there was \$260,000 in requests and \$72,500 in recommendations for funding
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that 9 out of 25 eligible applicants were recommended for funding.
- Commissioner Laws noted the diversity of applicants.
- Commissioner Laws motioned to adopt the recommendations of the Grant Allocation Committee for Artist Fellowship Program - Dance. Commissioner Friedman seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Artist Fellowship Program - Theater

- Commissioner Wohlfarth provided a summation of the program including requested amounts, ranking recommendations from the panel, and funding recommendations from the Grants Allocation Committee.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that for Artist Fellowship Program – Theater, there was \$280,000 in requests and \$82,500 in recommendations for funding .
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that 10 out of 28 eligible applicants were recommended for funding.
- Commissioner Clampitt reported that the panel made a policy recommendation that theater applicants should require a video to be able to judge the applicants fairly.
- Commissioner Clampitt believed that the panel did their due diligence.

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- Commissioner Gates motioned to adopt the recommendations of the Grant Allocation Committee for Artist Fellowship Program - Theater. Commissioner Ucles seconded the motion.
The motion passed.

Artist Fellowship Program – Visual Arts 8.28.13

- Commissioner Wohlfarth provided a summation of the program including requested amounts, ranking recommendations from the panel, and funding recommendations from the Grants Allocation Committee.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that for Artist Fellowship Program – Visual Arts 8.28.13, there was \$270,000 in requests and \$57,500 in recommendations for funding
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that 7 out of 27 eligible applicants were recommended for funding.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth believed the process worked well and the panel’s recommendations were appropriate.
- Commissioner Gates motioned to adopt the recommendations of the Grant Allocation Committee for Artist Fellowship Program - Visual Arts 8.28.13. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Artist Fellowship Program – Visual Arts 8.30.13

- Commissioner Wohlfarth recused herself due to a conflict of interest and left the room.
- Executive Director Thomas provided a summation of the program including requested amounts, ranking recommendations from the panel, and funding recommendations from the Grants Allocation Committee.
- Executive Director Thomas noted that for Artist Fellowship Program – Visual Arts 8.30.13, there was \$360,000 in requests and \$97,500 in recommendations for funding.
- Executive Director Thomas noted that 13 out of 36 eligible applicants were recommended for funding.
- Commissioner Miller motioned to adopt the recommendations of the Grant Allocation Committee for Artist Fellowship Program - Visual Arts 8.30.13. Commissioner Clampitt seconded the motion. *One abstention from Commissioner Friedman.

The motion passed.

Artist Fellowship Program – Visual Arts 9.11.13

- Commissioner Wohlfarth provided a summation of the program including requested amounts, ranking recommendations from the panel, and funding recommendations from the Grants Allocation Committee.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that for Artist Fellowship Program – Visual Arts 9.11.13, there was \$370,000 in requests and \$115,000 in recommendations for funding
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that 14 out of 37 eligible applicants were recommended for funding.
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that Commissioner Maxwell was impressed with the applicants.
- Commissioner Wharton motioned to adopt the recommendations of the Grant Allocation Committee for Artist Fellowship Program - Visual Arts 9.11.13. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Chuck Brown Memorial Project at Langdon Park

- Executive Director Thomas reported on the history of the project, coming from the Mayor's Office, and involving partners like the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of General Services as well as a match.
- Commissioner Clampitt inquired about how the calendar was changed
- Executive Director Thomas noted that a calendar was proposed with the understanding that the Commission would have final say
- Commissioner Friedman inquired about the medium of the project
- Executive Director Thomas responded that the request leaves it open based on the submissions
- Commissioner Miller recommended inclusion of local music students in the process of creating the project
- Public Art Director mentioned intern program as an opportunity
- Commissioner Wharton inquired about Ward 5 committee involvement
- Commissioner Wohlfarth responded that the committee has not been selected yet
- Commissioner Wohlfarth noted that the call being closed does not mean that the final selection is limited to those submissions, if an appropriate project is not found
- Commissioner Miller motioned to adopt the recommendations of Chuck Brown Memorial Project at Langdon Park. Commissioner Wharton seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

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Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Thomas reported on attending the Leadership Retreat with Chair Terra, sponsored by the National Assembly of Arts Agencies.
- Executive Director Thomas reported on the Mayor's Arts Awards, noting that in the future a different producer will be retained.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that Historic Lincoln Theatre transition is moving smoothly, under its new management.
- Executive Director Thomas reported on the New York Avenue bridge opening, particularly in terms of raising the profile of our public art work.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that the Arts Education Director and Public Arts Assistant positions had been filled.

Committee Reports

- There were no committee reports.

Panel Recommendations

- There were no committee reports.

Unfinished Business

- There were no committee reports.

New Business and Announcements

- There was no new business reported.

Adjournment

- With no further business, the Chair adjourned the business meeting at 5:45pm.