

# 12.13.13 Minutes



## Full Commission Meeting Minutes

12/13/2013

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

DCCAH Large Conference Room

Dial In: 1.877.919.3206- Pass Code: 1848681#

**Attending Commissioners:** Judith Terra, CHAIR; Lavinia Wohlfarth, VICE-CHAIR; Susan Clampitt; Christopher Cowan; Alma Gates; Edmund C. Fleet; Darrin L. Glymph; Barbara Jones, GUEST; Rogelio Maxwell; MaryAnn Miller; James E. Laws, Jr.; Jose-Alberto Ucles, PHONE; Gretchen Wharton; Rhona Wolfe-Friedman

**Attending Staff Members:** Lionell Thomas, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; Lisa Richards Toney, DEPUTY DIRECTOR; Moshe Adams; Victoria Murray Baatin; Dolores Kendrick, POET LAUREATE; Steven Scott Mazzola

The Executive Committee meeting of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities was called to order on December 13, 2013 at 4:00 pm 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 October Minutes

- Commissioner Rhona Wolfe Friedman motioned to adopt the October 24<sup>th</sup> minutes. The motion was seconded.  
*The motion carried. Unanimous*

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### Chairperson's Report

Chair Judith Terra reported on being very excited about the state of the arts and humanities in the District.

- Chair Terra reported that *Travel and Leisure* has just voted DC the #1 destination for museums and galleries.
- Chair Terra reported a phone conference of the Executive Committee was held on Thursday, December 12, 2013.

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### Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Lionell Thomas reviewed highlights of recent activities.

- Executive Director Thomas noted that the Commission is involved in the Creative Economy Strategy through Deputy Mayor Victor Hoskins' office.
- Dean Doug Guthrie from George Washington University Business School and Dean Barron Harvey, PhD of the Howard University School of Business have been advising the process with the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development.
- Executive Director Thomas noted that the Commission is establishing goals for its strategic plan over the next couple of months.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that the Commission will hire a consultant for the strategic plan by February and that the Policy Committee would act as steering committee for the process.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that the next National Endowment for the Arts funding application is due September 30, 2014 and that funding is partly incumbent upon having a solid strategic plan laid out.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that both the Cultural Mapping and Arts Education Census activities continue.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that the 5x5 public art project is underway; noting that local and international artists and curators are involved.
- Executive Director Thomas reported that the Duke Ellington mural on the True Reformer Building is being refreshed through the Commission utilizing original artist Byron Peck to revisit the mural.

## 12.13.13 Minutes



- Executive Director Thomas reported that the *Live the Arts* campaign is moving forward. It is part of a larger communications strategy to be presented at the next meeting.
  - Commissioner Miller hopes the campaign can combine with current arts education activities such that students become the ambassadors for the campaign and thereby the District.
  - Executive Director Thomas reported that the Commission is also hosting a series of talkbacks with the community on such topics as technology, capacity and sustainability and international opportunities.
  - Executive Director Thomas noted the success of the Commission-hosted Art Open House with Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie (Ward 5) and this gave opportunities to discuss the integral role that the arts and humanities play in community and economic development.
  - Commissioner Miller added the staff did a great job of connecting artists and constituents.
  - Executive Director Thomas noted the next Art Open House is scheduled for the office of Councilmember Bonds on January 30, 2014.
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### Agency Reorganization

- Deputy Director Lisa Richards Toney reported on activities of the Personnel Committee and efforts to create more middle management positions within the Commission.
  - Deputy Director Toney proposed creating three additional MSS positions and to cluster existing staff divisions.
  - Deputy Director Toney noted that divisions would be clustered in terms of related areas of activity.
  - Deputy Director Toney reported that both she and Executive Director Thomas have met with the senior staff to discuss the transition.
  - Deputy Director Toney noted that the request has been built into the 2015 budget as well as an articulation of additional staff needs.
  - Commissioner Gretchen Wharton noted the process puts the agency in synchronicity with other agencies in District government.
  - Deputy Director Toney reported that the Commission is developing job descriptions for the new positions.
  - Deputy Director Toney noted the possibility to promote existing staff to the new positions.
  - Deputy Director Toney noted her belief that such action also responds to the staff request to effectively cross-train in other divisions.
  - Deputy Director Toney reported that senior team is excited for the possibilities offered by the new structure.
  - Deputy Director Toney noted that all staff members have not been made aware of the new structural adjustments that will occur in the near future.
  - Deputy Director Toney noted that her new position would be Chief of Staff.
  - Deputy Director Toney encouraged feedback on the chart of positions distributed at the meeting.
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### Office of the Poet Laureate

Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick reported on her activities.

- The Poet Laureate noted that *The Washington Post* reported on the Poet's activities regarding the Gettysburg Address.
  - Poet Laureate Kendrick read her note written to Nelson Mandela.
  - Poet Laureate Kendrick reported that she would be preparing poems for the Commission's Black History Month programming.
  - Poet Laureate Kendrick reported that she would be focusing on collaborative opportunities with poetry and dance in the future.
  - Poet Laureate Kendrick reported that her Tumblr is being updated on a regular basis.
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## Cultural Planning Group (CPG)

- Chair Terra introduced Martin Cohen and Jerry Allen from the Cultural Planning Group, who reported on their current study and activities undertaken at the request of the Commission.
- CPG is mapping the District's cultural assets.
- The purpose is to explore creative DC and the cultural life of the District.
- CPG is analyzing policy as a tool for strategic planning, identify constituent tools and uses for the cultural community and expand public access.
- CPG is identifying who is served and where resources are invested, where those investments are based in relation to each other and in context for those who live and work in the District and for understanding investments over time.
- The process will frame policy questions for deeper exploration in the planning process such as cultural equity and cultural access, economic development and guidance for investment strategies.
- CPG reviewed examples of interactive mapping including individual artist fellowships in 2013 and 2014.
- CPG will eventually create an artists' registry powered by Good Done Great.
- The registry will provide the most up-to-date listing of artists and creative workers and businesses.
- The registry will include an automated system for upgrading/notification, opt-in/opt-out features.
- The outcome will break new ground and establish a national model creating community pride.
- CPG welcomed feedback and questions from Commissioners.
- Vice Chair Lavinia Wohlfarth noted mapping the community is of paramount importance.
- Executive Director Thomas commended the efforts of Legislative and Community Affairs Director Victoria Murray Baatin who is spearheading the cultural mapping efforts and working closely with CPG.

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## Golden Triangle BID

Public Art Manager, Tonya Jordan introduced the Executive Director of the Golden Triangle BID.

- Executive Director Thomas provided some background on the BID and its activities as well as past public art works on which the Commission worked collaboratively with the BID.
- Golden Triangle BID presented a proposal for programmable light art project designed to link two national parks located within a couple of blocks from the White House.
- The project requires a 50/50 match and the Commission's portion would be \$128,000.
- The National Park Service and Office of Historic Preservation have provided input and buy-in to the project.
- The project transforms existing light fixtures with LED lighting.
- Vice Chair Wohlfarth said the need for the installation is quite strong.
- Public Art Manager, Tonya Jordan noted that a public call would be made exclusively for lighting designers.
- The project will utilize different technologies from the existing Connecticut Avenue project.
- Vice Chair Wohlfarth suggested a representative from the National Park Service be a panelist.
- Commissioner Alma Gates motioned that \$128,000 from the capital budget be utilized to realize the presentation. The motion was seconded.

*The motion carried. Unanimous*

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## New Business and Announcements

- Chair Terra referred to the Executive Committee's vote on the FY14 Special Panel and recommendation of three applications for funding.
- Chair Terra noted that the applications were routed through the Commission's normal panel process.
- Chair Terra noted that one applicant fell out of funding range.
- Chair Terra noted that funds will come from restricted grants.
- Chair Terra noted that all applications were received in a timely fashion.

# 12.13.13 Minutes



- Commissioner Glymph motioned to ratify the four recommendations of the Executive Committee.  
*The motion carried. Unanimous*
  - The Chair distributed copies of the internal, standing, and ad hoc committees.
  - The Chair expressed her hopes that everyone has a warm and artful holiday season.
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## **Adjournment**

- With no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 pm.