

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
DRAFT COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole

DATE: January 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Report on PR 23-576, “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Alma Gates Confirmation Resolution of 2020”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 23-576, “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Alma Gates Confirmation Resolution of 2020” was referred, reports favorably thereon with technical amendments, and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On November 26, 2019, Proposed Resolution 23-576, the “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Alma Gates Confirmation Resolution of 2020,”¹ was introduced by Chairman Phil Mendelson at the request of the Mayor. PR 23-576 would confirm the Mayor’s nomination of Ms. Alma Gates for reappointment as a member of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities for a three-year term to end June 30, 2022.

Ms. Gates is a Ward 3 resident. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Maryville University, and a teaching certificate from the Washington Montessori Institute. Prior to retiring, Ms. Gates worked for the National Cultural Alliance where she was involved in conducting a three-

¹ The title of the resolution has been updated to reflect that the resolution was introduced in 2019 but is being considered by the Council in 2020.

year public awareness campaign on the importance of the arts and humanities to the American public. Ms. Gates also worked for the American Alliance of Museums which is the national organization serving museums and museum professionals. In addition, Ms. Gates served as a Commissioner on ANC 3D from 2002 to 2008 - serving as Chair from 2004 to 2007 - and from 2014 to 2018. Further, she is a trustee of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City and a member of the Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board.

The Commission on the Arts and Humanities (Commission) was established by the Commission on the Arts and Humanities Act, effective October 21, 1975 (D.C. Law 1-22; D.C. Official Code § 39-201 *et seq.*). The Commission is an independent agency within the District government and is designated by the National Endowment for the Arts as the state arts agency for the District of Columbia. Its role is to evaluate and initiate action on matters relating to the arts and humanities and encourage programs and the development of programs which promote progress in the arts and humanities.²

The Commission consists of 18 members appointed by the Mayor for three-year terms, with the advice and consent of the Council.³ The Commission is tasked with appointing an Executive Director who serves as the chief administrative office of the Commission.⁴ In addition, the mission of the Commission is to provide grants, programs, and educational activities that encourage diverse artistic expressions and learning opportunities so that all District of Columbia residents and visitors can experience the District's rich arts and humanities community.⁵

Members of the Commission must be District residents and must have displayed an interest or an ability in the arts and humanities or must be active in the furtherance of the arts or humanities.⁶ Moreover, the Mayor has to give due consideration to recommendations made by the arts and humanities community, and has to ensure that there is reasonable representation of all the neighborhoods in the District when considering appointments to the Commission.⁷ Further, no employee of the District government can serve as a member of the Commission.⁸

In the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Support Act of 2019,⁹ the Council approved additional qualification requirements for individuals to be eligible to serve as a member on the Commission. By July 1, 2019, six of the 18 members appointed to the Commission were required to meet the following requirements: (1) two members with specific interest, ability, or experience in the humanities; (2) two members with specific interest, ability, or experience in arts or humanities education; and (3) two members with specific interest, ability, experience in theatre and performing arts.¹⁰ By July 1, 2020, four of the 18 members appointed to the Commission were required to meet the following requirements: (1) two members with specific interest, ability, or

² D.C. Official Code § 39-203(a).

³ See D.C. Official Code § 39-203.

⁴ D.C. Official Code § 39-205.

⁵ Commission on the Arts and Humanities - About CAH, <https://dcarts.dc.gov/page/about-cah> (last visited January 11, 2020).

⁶ *Supra* note 5.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Effective September 11, 2019 (D.C. Law 23-16; D.C. Code § 39-201 *et seq.*).

¹⁰ *Supra* note 5.

experience in public art; and (2) two members with specific experience in arts or humanities organizational administration or governance.¹¹

Table 1: Membership of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities

Resolution #	Commissioner	Term End Date	Ward
PR 23-576	<i>Alma Gates</i> (specific interest, ability, or experience in public art)	June 30, 2022	3
PR 23-577	<i>Rhona Friedman</i> (specific interest, ability, or experience in theatre and performing arts)	June 30, 2022	2
PR 23-578	<i>Jose Alberto Ucles</i> (specific interest, ability, or experience in theatre and performing arts)	June 30, 2022	5
PR 23-579	<i>Mary Ann Miller</i> (specific interest, ability, or experience in arts or humanities education)	June 30, 2022	3
PR 23-580	<i>Cicie Sattarnilasskorn</i> (specific interest, ability, or experience in arts or humanities education)	June 30, 2022	1
PR 23-581	<i>Dr. Natalie Hopkinson</i> (specific interest, ability, or experience in the humanities)	June 30, 2021	5
PR 23-582	<i>Cora Masters Barry</i> (specific interest, ability, or experience in the humanities)	June 30, 2021	8
R.22-394	Edmund Fleet	June 30, 2020	7
R.22-185	Maria Rooney	June 30, 2020	4
R.22-181	Stacie Lee-Banks	June 30, 2020	3
R.22-186	Josef Palermo	June 30, 2020	1
R.22-182	Miles Gray	June 30, 2020	8
R.22-433	Chinedu Osuchukwu	June 30, 2020	7
R.22-557	Quanice Floyd	June 30, 2020	6
R.23-17	Gretchen Wharton	June 30, 2021	6
R.23-16	Kay Kendall (Chairperson)	June 30, 2021	2
R.23-15	KyMBER Menkiti	June 30, 2021	4
R.23-62	Derek Younger	June 30, 2022	5

Ms. Gates was first appointed to the Commission in 2012.¹² While serving on the Commission she has focused on finance and public art, and she currently serves as the Chair of the Public Art Committee.¹³ The Public Art Committee oversees the art bank program, the arts exhibitions grants, the public art building communities grants, the conservation of Commission public art installations, and Mural DC. Working with the Commission’s Department of Public Art and the Marion S. Barry Bronze Statute Public Art Commission, Ms. Gates helped ensure that the sculpture of the former Mayor matched his every likeness and made sure the unveiling went off without an issue.¹⁴

Ms. Gates wants to be reappointed because she wants to continue to serve her community and believes that the power of the arts and humanities can bring enrichment to ordinary experiences.¹⁵ She plans to assist the Commission’s efforts to enhance the role of the arts and

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² See PR 19-550, the Commission on the Arts and Humanities Alma H. Gates Confirmation Resolution of 2012.

¹³ Alma Gates, Nominee, Testimony before the DC Council Committee of the Whole, 1, January 9, 2020.

¹⁴ *Id.* at 1-2.

¹⁵ See Alma Gates, Written Responses to the Committee of the Whole’s Prehearing Questionnaire, 3, January 3, 2020. (Attached to this Report).

humanities and the impact it has on District residents.¹⁶ Ms. Gates will also use her experience as a former ANC Commissioner to create partnerships with developers in order for them to consider including arts and other new creative uses on development projects.¹⁷ Finally, she believes that she has the necessary personal and professional experience to serve another term on the Commission.¹⁸

The Committee believes Ms. Gates meets the requirements to continue to serve another term as a member of the Commission pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 30-203(a-1)(1)(D) as she has a specific interest, ability, and experience in public art. Ms. Gates dedication to the District as a community activist and in serving with non-profit organizations that help to promote arts and humanities to communities' nationwide attest to her ability to help the Commission promote the arts and humanities in the District. The Committee recommends adoption of PR 23-576.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- November 26, 2019 PR 23-576, the “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Alma Gates Confirmation Resolution of 2020” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of Mayor Bowser.
- December 3, 2019 PR 23-576 is “read” at the December 3, 2019 Legislative meeting; on this date the referral of the PR to the Committee of the Whole is official and the 90-day period for Council review begins. If this measure is not acted upon by the Council before March 11, 2020, PR 23-576 will be deemed disapproved.
- December 6, 2019 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 23-576 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- December 6, 2019 Notice of Public Hearing on PR 23-576 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- January 3, 2020 Revised and Abbreviated Notice of Public Hearing on PR 23-576 is published in the *DC Register*.
- January 9, 2020 The Committee of the Whole holds a public hearing on PR 23-576.
- January 21, 2020 The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 23-576.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Supra* note 13 at 2.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ms. Alma Gates is the Mayor's nomination for reappointment to the Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 23-576.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on PR 23-576 (and 6 other nominations to the Commission on the Arts and Humanities) on Thursday, January 9, 2020. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing. A copy of the written testimony provided to the Committee is attached to this report.

Alma Gates, Nominee, testified and answered questions from Chairman Mendelson regarding her background and experience as it pertains to the Commission on the Arts and Humanities and her interest in serving another term on the Commission.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Ms. Gates' reappointment.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Members of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities are appointed pursuant to section 4 of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities Act, effective October 21, 1975 (D.C. Law 1-22; D.C. Official Code § 39-203).

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

PR 23-576 will have no fiscal impact on the District of Columbia budget or financial plan. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 39-203(e), members of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities are not entitled to compensation.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1 States the short title of Proposed Resolution 23-576.

- Section 2 Confirms the reappointment of Alma Gates as a member of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities for a three-year term to end June 30, 2022.
- Section 3 Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.
- Section 4 Provides that the resolution will take effect once approved by the Council.

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

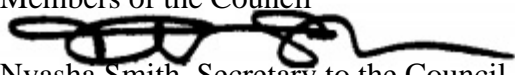
X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 23-576 as introduced.
2. Nominee's response to Committee questions.
3. Written testimony.
4. Legal Sufficiency Determination.
5. Committee Print for PR 23-576.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20004

Memorandum

To : Members of the Council

From : 
Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

Date : November 27, 2019

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Tuesday, November 26, 2019. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Commission on the Arts and Humanities Alma Gates Confirmation Resolution of 2019", PR23-0576

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor

The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee of the Whole. This resolution will be deemed disapproved on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 without Council action.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services



2019 NOV 26 AM 12:02

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

NOV 26 7

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01), and pursuant to section 4 of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities Act, effective October 21, 1975 (D.C. Law 1-22; D.C. Official Code § 39-203), I am pleased to nominate the following person for reappointment:

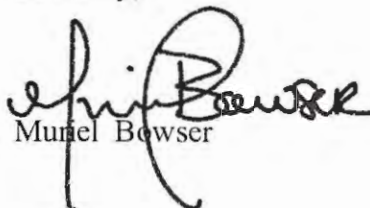
Ms. Alma Gates
4911 Ashby Street, N.W.,
Washington, DC 20007
(Ward 3)

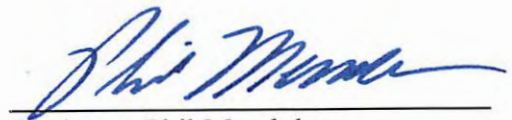
as a member with specific interest, ability, or experience in public art of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities, for a term to end June 30, 2022.

Enclosed you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominee, together with proposed resolution to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

I would appreciate the Council's earliest consideration of this nomination for confirmation. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Steven Walker, Director, Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments should the Council require additional information.

Sincerely,


Muriel Bowser


Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chairman Phil Mendelson, at the request of the Mayor, introduced the following resolution,
which was referred to the Committee on _____.

To confirm the reappointment of Ms. Alma Gates as a member of the Commission on the Arts
and Humanities.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
resolution may be cited as the "Commission on the Arts and Humanities Alma Gates
Confirmation Resolution of 2019".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the reappointment of:

Ms. Alma Gates
4911 Ashby Street, N.W.,
Washington, DC 20007
(Ward 3)

as a member with specific interest, ability, or experience in public art of the Commission on the
Arts and Humanities, pursuant to section 4 of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities Act,
effective October 21, 1975 (D.C. Law 1-22; D.C. Official Code § 39-203), for a term to end
June 30, 2022.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution,
upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

ALMA HARDY GATES

CAREER SUMMARY: Extensive experience in nonprofit organizations, including long-range planning; policy and program development; research; administration; financial management; fund raising; and multi-agency coordination.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

National Cultural Alliance, Washington, DC, 1993 - 1995.

A coalition of 53 national service organizations in the arts and the humanities conducting a three-year public awareness campaign on the Importance of the Arts and Humanities to the American Public.

American Alliance of Museums, Washington, DC, 1987-1993.

The national organization serving museums and museum professionals.

American Institute of Architects Foundation, Washington, DC, 1986-1987

The publicly-oriented arm of the American Institute of Architects.

National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, DC, 1980-1986

National Main Street Program providing technical assistance for the revitalization of central business districts and neighborhoods.

ELECTED POSITIONS

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, 2002-2008 – Chair 2004-2007

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, 2014 – Secretary 2015

BOARDS and COMMISSIONS

Commissioner, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, 2011 – present

Chair, Public Art Committee 2014

Trustee, Committee of 100 on the Federal City, 2010 - present

Member, Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board, 2008 - present

Member, Palisades Citizens Association, 1999-2015

Member, Museums in the Life of a City, Philadelphia, Pa., 1990-1993

Member, Stone Ridge School, 1971-1974; 1987-1994

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Member, Zoning Regulation Review Task Force, 2010 – 2014

Member, Committee of 100 on the Federal City, 2008 – present

Chair, Zoning Subcommittee, 2010 - present

Member, Spring Valley FUDS Partnering Team, 2003-present

Member, Mayor's Parking Task Force, 2002-2003

Member, Mayor's Ward 3 Transportation Task Force, 2001-2005

Coordinator, Police Service Area (PSA) 205, 2000-present

Chair, Traffic Committee, Palisades Citizens Association, 1999-2001

AWARDS

- 2013 Committee of 100 on the Federal City Barbara Zartman Award for Planning and Zoning
- 2013 Federation of Citizens Associations of the District of Columbia Outstanding Citizen Activist

EDUCATION

B.A., Maryville University, St. Louis, Mo
Diploma, Washington Montessori Institute



Executive Office of the Mayor - Office of Talent and Appointments
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

Alma Gates



Ms. Gates, a native Washingtonian and current member of the Commission on Arts and Humanities, has a long and distinguished record of service to the city as a volunteer and community activist.

Ms. Gates retired from the National Cultural Alliance, which conducted a three-year public awareness campaign on the importance of the arts and humanities to the American public. Ms. Gates also served in the programs and policy area of the American Alliance of Museums (formerly the American Association of Museums), where she represented the association in a unique public private partnership in Philadelphia.

At the American Institute of Architects Foundation, Ms. Gates initiated the Foundation's grants program. Ms. Gates was appointed by the Army Corps of Engineers to serve as a member of the Spring Valley Partnering Team and Restoration Advisory Board in an advisory capacity on the recovery of World War I munitions from the American University Formerly Used Defense Site. Ms. Gates is also a recipient of the DC Citizens Federation's 2013 Outstanding Citizen Activist Award and is retired from the National Cultural Alliance.

Ms. Gates also has extensive experience in nonprofit organizations, including long-range planning, policy and program development, research, administration, financial management, fund raising, and multi-agency coordination. Currently, Ms. Gates is a trustee of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City and serves as chair of its zoning subcommittee.

A Ward 3 resident, Ms. Gates received her Bachelor of Science degree from Maryville University, and a teaching certificate from the Washington Montessori Institute.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

To: Gianelle Rivera, Steve Walker
From: Betsy Cavendish
Date: November 22, 2019
Subject: Legal sufficiency review of Resolutions nominating Cora Masters Barry, Natalie Hopkinson, Cicie Sattarnilasskorn, Mary Ann Miller, Alma Gates, Jose Alberto Ucles, and Rona Friedman as members to the Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

This is to Certify that this office has reviewed the above-referenced legislation and found it to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-724-7681.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'.

Elizabeth Cavendish



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

Phil Mendelson
Chairman

Office: (202) 724-8032
Fax: (202) 724-8085

December 18, 2019

Ms. Alma Gates
4911 Ashby Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Ms. Gates,

Congratulations on being nominated for reappointment to the Commission on the Arts and Humanities (Commission). As you know, the reappointment is subject to confirmation by the Council. The Committee of the Whole has scheduled a public hearing on your nomination for **Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 412**. Enclosed is a copy of the hearing notice. It is standard for the Council to submit questions to nominees. I request your response to the following questions no later than close of business Friday, January 3, 2020.

1. Please provide a copy of the Financial Disclosure Statement you filed with the Office of Campaign Finance or the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. If you have not filed a Financial Disclosure Statement, please provide answers to questions 2-8 in lieu of that statement.
2. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business with the District Government in which you have a beneficial interest valued in excess of \$5,000, including publicly traded stock.
3. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business (including consulting) with the District Government from which you or your immediate family have received (or are receiving) income for services rendered in excess of \$1,000 during the past two years.
4. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting business with the District Government in which you or any member of your immediate family serves as an officer, director, partner, or agent. Also list the position(s) held, a brief description of the entity, and any other pertinent details.
5. Please provide the name of any lender and the amount of liability for each outstanding liability borrowed by you or any member of your immediate family in excess of \$5,000. Do not include loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution, or from any business enterprise regularly engaged in the business of providing revolving credit or installment accounts.
6. Please list the location of all real property located in the District of Columbia in which you have an interest with a fair market value in excess of \$5,000.
7. Please list all professional and occupational licenses held by you.
8. Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member.

9. Please list all boards and commissions connected with the District government on which you are or have been a member, and include the term of service for each.
10. Please list any other boards (e.g. Boards of Directors of a non-profit) on which you are a member.
11. Do you have any outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to the District, federal, or other state or local governments, either contested or uncontested? If so, please provide documentation of attempts to pay the amount owed or to resolve the disputed claim.
12. Do you or any member of your immediate family have any interest, financial or otherwise, that may directly or indirectly pose a conflict of interest for you in performance of your duties as a member of the Commission?
13. Please describe any local political activity (i.e. the District of Columbia local elections or campaigns) that you have engaged in over the past five years, including any campaign contributions to a local candidate or political action committee.
14. Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdiction(s) in which you are registered.
15. Do you understand how much time will be required of you to serve on the Commission and do you commit to spend that time?
16. Why have you agreed to serve another term, and how do you plan to help the Commission fulfill its role and mission during your time on the Commission? Include in your answer what you believe should be the priorities of the Commission and specific challenges you see for it.
17. Please discuss any past and present experiences not already mentioned that you believe are relevant to support your reappointment as a member of the Commission.

At the January 9th hearing, you will be asked to make an opening statement indicating your interest in serving another term as a member of the Commission. The testimony of persons interested in supporting your nomination is helpful but not necessary. Interested parties may call the Committee office to register to testify (724-8196) or, alternatively, may submit written comments to the Committee regarding your nomination via letter mail or e-mail (COW@dccouncil.us).

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me or Peter Johnson on my staff at (202) 724-8083.

Sincerely,



Phil Mendelson
Chairman

enc.

PM/pj

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
REPOSE TO CONFIRMATION QUESTIONS
ALMA HARDY GATES
JANUARY 9, 2020

1. Please provide a copy of the Financial Disclosure Statement you filed with the Office of Campaign Finance or the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. If you have not filed a Financial Disclosure Statement, please provide answers to questions 2-8 in lieu of that statement.

See attached Financial Disclosure Statement.

2. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business with the District Government in which you have a beneficial interest valued in excess of \$5,000, including publicly traded stock.

See attached Financial Disclosure Statement.

3. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business (including consulting) with the District Government from which you or your immediate family have received (or are receiving) income for services rendered in excess of \$1,000 during the past two years.

See attached Financial Disclosure Statement.

4. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting business with the District Government in which you or any member of your immediate family serves as an officer, director, partner, or agent. Also list the position(s) held, a brief description of the entity, and any other pertinent details.

See attached Financial Disclosure Statement.

5. Please provide the name of any lender and the amount of liability for each outstanding liability borrowed by you or any member of your immediate family in excess of \$5,000. Do not include loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution, or from any business enterprise regularly engaged in the business of providing revolving credit or installment accounts.

See attached Financial Disclosure Statement.

6. Please list the location of all real property located in the District of Columbia in which you have an interest with a fair market value in excess of \$5,000.

4911 Ashby Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007.

7. Please list all professional and occupational licenses held by you.

See attached Financial Disclosure Statement.

8. Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member.

See attached Financial Disclosure Statement.

9. Please list all boards and commissions connected with the District government on which you are or have been a member, and include the term of service for each.

ANC 3D 2003-2008; 2014-2018

Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board, non-voting member, 2006-2018

10. Please list any other boards (e.g. Boards of Directors of a non-profit) on which you are a member.

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City.

11. Do you have any outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to the District, federal, or other state or local governments, either contested or uncontested? If so, please provide documentation of attempts to pay the amount owed or to resolve the disputed claim.

No.

12. Do you or any member of your immediate family have any interest, financial or otherwise, that may directly or indirectly pose a conflict of interest for you in performance of your duties as a member of the Commission?

No.

13. Please describe any local political activity (i.e. the District of Columbia local elections or campaigns) that you have engaged in over the past five years, including any campaign contributions to a local candidate or political action committee.

No campaign activity.

Kent Boese Campaign \$250.00.

14. Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdiction(s) in which you are registered.

No.

15. Do you understand how much time will be required of you to serve on the Commission and do you commit to spend that time?

Yes.

16. Why have you agreed to serve another term, and how do you plan to help the Commission fulfill its role and mission during your time on the Commission? Include in your answer what you believe should be the priorities of the Commission and specific challenges you see for it.

Service on the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities has brought balance to the public service and provided an uplifting experience. Heading up the Public Art committee has provided exposure to many fine artists who reside in the area as well as their work.

As the Commission moves forward as an independent agency there will be numerous challenges as its position is established within the DC Government. The immediate challenge is to identify and hire an Executive Director who will provide leadership and

programmatic direction to staff. The Commission will have a more defined role in running of the organization and setting priorities for its continued growth and success.

17. Please discuss any past and present experiences not already mentioned that you believe are relevant to support your reappointment as a member of the Commission.

The most relevant experiences I have had were with the National Cultural Alliance and the American Alliance of Museums. Both positions provided background and excellent preparation for work in the area of public art and demonstrating the influence art can have on the daily lives of those who are touched by it. This may have been previously mentioned, but I feel strongly concerning the power of the arts and humanities to bring enrichment to ordinary experiences.

Observing students at the Lab School of Washington grow and demonstrate excitement about their participation in creating a large sculpture for the school or learning to play a musical instrument or express their feelings through the annual poetry contest or participation in a Shakespeare production was very exciting. Having had this kind of rich experience makes the work the Commission does in the field of education have an even fuller meaning. You realize how different styles of learning result in different kinds of expression.

As the Commission moves forward, it is my hope that the current goal of the Commission to enhance the role of the arts and humanities and its influence of the everyday lives of individuals will be expanded as capacity for such growth increases with an increase in funding and funding opportunities. As a former ANC Commissioner and member of the Zoning Revision Task Force, I know there are opportunities to leverage public/private partnerships with developers as they meet their requirement options for public amenities. Not only can new development sites be enhanced and beautified, developers may experience exposure to the arts which has not been there previously. Also, the development of the McMillan Sand Filtration site will afford new opportunities for use of the historic elements on site for the Commission as new creative uses are explored.

FDS Filing Details for 2018

Name: Alma Gates

Date of Appointment or Employment: 7/1/2016

Final Date of Service: 12/31/2018

Position: Commissioner

Agency: Commission on the Arts & Humanities

Position Held with the District Government During the Prior calendar year (If Not The Same As Above)

Position:

Final Date in Position:

Agency:

Non District Employment/Business

1) Did you have any non-District employment or engage in any outside business during the previous calendar year for which you received compensation of \$200 or more?

No

2) Was your spouse, registered domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) employed by a private entity or did they engage in any business endeavors during the previous calendar year for which they received compensation of \$200 or more?

No

3) Did you serve in any unpaid position (without compensation) as an officer, director, partner, consultant, contractor, volunteer, member or any other fiduciary capacity of a non-government board or other outside entity during the previous calendar year?

Position / Title	Name of Entity	Start Date	End Date
Commissioner	ANC 3D05	01/01/2018	12/31/2018
Member/Volunteer	Committee of 100 on the Federal City	01/01/2018	12/31/2018
Member/Volunteer	Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board	01/01/2018	12/31/2018

4) Did your spouse, registered domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) serve in any unpaid position (without compensation) as an officer, director, partner, consultant, contractor, volunteer, member or any other fiduciary capacity of a non-government board or other outside entity during the previous calendar year?

No

5) During the previous calendar year, did you have any agreements with a former or current employer, other than with the District of Columbia, for future payments or benefits (such as separation pay, partnership buyouts, or pension or retirement pay) or for future employment or for a leave of absence?

No

6) During the previous calendar year, did your spouse, registered domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) have any agreements with a former or current employer, other than with the District of Columbia, for future payments or benefits (such as separation pay, partnership buyouts, or pension or retirement pay) or for future employment or for a leave of absence?

No

Securities, Holdings and Investments

7) Did you have a beneficial interest in or hold any security ("security" means stocks (any class), bonds (including savings bonds and tax exempt bonds), stock options, warrants, debentures, obligations, notes (not mortgage notes), mortgages (not on one's home), investment interests in limited partnerships, REITs, and such other evidences of indebtedness and certificates of interest or participation in any profit-sharing agreement as are usually referred to as securities) at the close of the previous calendar year that exceeded in the aggregate \$1,000 or that produced income of \$200 or more?

List each security and/or beneficial interest you held below	Total Value of Beneficial Interests or Securities at the close of previous calendar year.
See Attachment 1	Over \$1,000,000

8) Did your spouse, registered domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) have a beneficial interest or hold any security ("security" means stocks (any class), bonds (including savings bonds and tax exempt bonds), stock options, warrants, debentures, obligations, notes (not mortgage notes), mortgages (not on one's home), investment interests in limited partnerships, REITs, and such other evidences of indebtedness and certificates of interest or participation in any profit-sharing agreement as are usually referred to as securities) at the close of the previous calendar year that exceeded in the aggregate \$1,000 or that produced income of \$200 or more?

List each security and/or beneficial interest you held below	Total Value of Beneficial Interests or Securities at the close of previous calendar year.
See Attachment 1	\$250,001 - \$500,000

9) Did you owe any entity or person (other than a member of your immediate family) \$1,000 or more, (excluding: mortgages on your personal residence, student loans, automobile loans, credit card accounts or other revolving credit, and other loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution), during the previous calendar year?

No

10) Did your spouse, domestic partner or dependent child(ren) owe any entity or person (other than a member of their immediate family) \$1,000 or more, (excluding: mortgages on personal residences, student loans, automobile loans, credit card accounts or other revolving credit, and other loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution), during the previous calendar year?

No

11) Did you have an interest in any real property located in the District during the previous calendar year, aside from personal residences occupied by you, your spouse or your domestic partner, where your interest had a fair market value of more than \$1,000, or where the property produced income of \$200 or more?

No

12) Did your spouse, domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) have an interest in any real property located in the District during the previous calendar year, aside from personal residences occupied by you, your spouse or your domestic partner, where their interest had a fair market value of more than \$1,000, or where the property produced income of \$200 or more?

No

Regulated Professions

13) Do you hold any professional or occupational licenses issued by the District of Columbia government (i.e., are you licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia, or are you licensed by the District's Department of Health, the District's Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, the District's Department of Mental Health, the District's Department of Insurance Securities and Banking, the Metropolitan Police Department, the District's Occupational and Professional Licensing Administration, etc.)?

No

14) Does your spouse, domestic partner, or dependent child(ren) hold any professional or occupational licenses issued by the District

of Columbia government (i.e., are they licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia, or are they licensed by the District's Department of Health, the District's Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, the District's Department of Mental Health, the District's Department of Insurance Securities and Banking, the Metropolitan Police Department, or the District's Occupational and Professional Licensing Administration, etc.)?

No

Gifts

15) Did you receive any gift(s) (Gift is defined as a payment, subscription, advance, forbearance, rendering, or deposit of money, services, or anything of value, unless consideration of equal or greater value is received) from any person that has or is seeking to do business with the District, conducts operations or activities that are regulated by the District, or has an interest that may be favorably affected by the performance or nonperformance of your duties in the total amount or with a total value of \$100 or more during the previous calendar year?

No

Additional Comments

Supporting Documents

2019 BEGA Financial Disclosure Form.docx

I certify that I have:

- Not caused title to property to be placed in another person or entity for the purpose of avoiding the disclosure requirements on the preceding form;
- Filed and paid my income and property taxes;
- Diligently safeguarded the assets of the taxpayers and the District;
- Reported known illegal activity, including attempted bribes, to the appropriate authorities;
- Not been offered or accepted any bribes;
- Not directly or indirectly received government funds through illegal or improper means;
- Not raised or received funds in violation of federal or District law; and
- Not received or been given anything of value, including a gift, favor, service, loan gratuity, discount, hospitality, political contribution, or promise of future employment, based on any understanding that my official actions or judgment or vote would be influenced.

Additional Comments

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Commission on the Arts and Humanities



Public Roundtable on

**PR23-0576, “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Alma Gates
Confirmation Resolution of 2019”**

**Testimony of
Alma Gates**

Before the

Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman

January 9, 2020
10:00 AM
Room 412
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Good afternoon, Chairman Mendelson, councilmembers, and staff of the Committee of the Whole. I am Alma Hardy Gates, and I am honored to be nominated by Mayor Bowser for reappointment to the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Thank you, Chairman Mendelson for allowing me the opportunity to testify on my reappointment. I also want to thank the Commission's stalwart Chair, Kay Kendall. Kay's stellar leadership provided the guidance necessary to steer the Commission and its members where we are today. Through the most recent transition to an independent agency, we were able to remain focused because our leadership was forward thinking, strong, and committed.

First appointed to the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities in 2012, I have focused my efforts in two areas: finance and public art. Those committees still remain areas of special interest, as I am currently chair of the Public Art Committee. The Commission's Public Art Department oversees the Art Bank Program; the Art Exhibitions Grant; City Commissioned Projects; the Public Art Building Communities Grant; Conservation of CAH public art installations; and Murals DC, a graffiti abatement project done in partnership with the Department of Public Works. The Public Art Department also partners with other District agencies on public art projects. Additionally, the Department works with civic and community organizations to provide subject matter expertise on the role of public art in place making. As chair of the Public Art Committee, I share the work of the Department through committee meetings with the staff and as a non-voting convener of selection panels.

The staff of the Public Art Department, under the able leadership of Lauren Dugas Glover, has been a joy to work with as projects move from the staff level to the selection panels and through the decision-making process. This extremely able staff has worked beyond capacity at times to ensure the right outcomes are achieved. The Marion S. Barry Bronze Statue is case

and point. Working with the Marion S. Barry Bronze Statute Public Art Commission to identify the right artist to sculpt the likeness, visiting the artist's studio to ensure every likeness was correct, and, finally, standing at the dedication in a brisk and chilly wind to make sure the drape fell at the right time brought home the meaning of staff dedication for me. This scenario is not unique or unusual, because it has become what is expected of Commission staff. It is a pleasure to work with this group of highly knowledgeable individuals.

My personal exposure and interest in the arts began at home. My mother was a concert pianist and my aunt was an arts patron and collector. They both shared their love and enthusiasm of art and music with me from a very early age. I am fortunate to have grown up in such a rich and stimulating environment and strive to incorporate this environment in today's youth.

At one point, I was a Montessori teacher and was taught the importance of incorporating different art forms—painting, music, and dance—into the daily curriculum of young students. I also spent five years at the Lab School of Washington where the curriculum is arts-based and enables students to learn and express themselves when they might not be able to do so in a more traditional classroom.

My professional positions included working with the founding director to establish the National Main Street Center at the National Trust for Historic Preservation; develop programs and policy for museum professionals at the American Alliance of Museums; and, conduct a national campaign with the National Cultural Alliance on the importance of the arts and humanities to the everyday lives of the American public. My personal and professional experiences have prepared me well for the work I do with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. My community activist role on the ANC and membership in the Committee of 100 on the Federal City provide a more balanced and well-rounded experience.

It has been an honor to serve on the Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and if confirmed, I plan to continue to work hard and serve my community. This concludes my testimony, and I welcome any questions you may have.

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 Committee of the Whole
3 January 21, 2020
4
5
6

7 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

8
9 23-576
10 _____

11
12 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
13
14 _____
15

16 To confirm the reappointment of Ms. Alma Gates as a member of the Commission on the Arts and
17 Humanities.

18
19 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
20 resolution may be cited as the “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Alma Gates Confirmation
21 Resolution of 2020”.

22 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the reappointment of:

23
24 Ms. Alma Gates
25 4911 Ashby Street, NW
26 Washington, DC 20007
27 (Ward 3)

28
29 as a member with specific interest, ability, or experience in public art of the Commission on the
30 Arts and Humanities, pursuant to section 4 of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities Act,
31 effective October 21, 1975 (D.C. Law 1-22; D.C. Official Code § 39-203), for a term to end June
32 30, 2022.

33 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution,
34 upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

35 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.