

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

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

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**TO:** All Councilmembers

**FROM:** Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Committee of the Whole

**DATE:** January 21, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Report on PR 23-577, “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Rhona Friedman Confirmation Resolution of 2020”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 23-577, “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Rhona Friedman 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 23-577, the “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Rhona Friedman Confirmation Resolution of 2020,”<sup>1</sup> was introduced by Chairman Phil Mendelson at the request of the Mayor. PR 23-577 would confirm the Mayor’s nomination of Ms. Rhona Friedman for reappointment as a member of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities for a three-year term to end June 30, 2022.

Ms. Friedman is a Ward 2 resident. She received her Bachelor of Arts from American University, a Master of Education in Counseling and Clinical Psychology from Boston University, Graduate School of Education, a Master of Arts in the History of Decorative Arts from Parsons

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

School of Design, and a Juris Doctor from the Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College. Currently, she serves as a realtor for Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate. Prior to working at Coldwell Banker, she worked for Tutt, Taylor & Rankin Real Estate, LLC. Ms. Friedman is admitted to practice law in the District, Oregon, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States. In addition, she serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Building Bridges Across the River (THEARC).

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.<sup>2</sup>

The Commission consists of 18 members appointed by the Mayor for three-year terms, with the advice and consent of the Council.<sup>3</sup> The Commission is tasked with appointing an Executive Director who serves as the chief administrative office of the Commission.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

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.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> Further, no employee of the District government can serve as a member of the Commission.<sup>8</sup>

In the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Support Act of 2019,<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> 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

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<sup>2</sup> D.C. Official Code § 39-203(a).

<sup>3</sup> See D.C. Official Code § 39-203.

<sup>4</sup> D.C. Official Code § 39-205.

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

<sup>6</sup> *Supra* note 5.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

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

<sup>10</sup> *Supra* note 5.

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

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

| <b>Resolution #</b> | <b>Commissioner</b>  | <b>Term End Date</b> | <b>Ward</b> |
|---------------------|--|----------------------|-------------|
| PR 23-576           | <i>Alma Gates</i><br>(specific interest, ability, or experience in public art)                               | June 30, 2022        | 3           |
| PR 23-577           | <i>Rhona Friedman</i><br>(specific interest, ability, or experience in theatre and performing arts)          | June 30, 2022        | 2           |
| PR 23-578           | <i>Jose Alberto Ucles</i><br>(specific interest, ability, or experience in theatre and performing arts)      | June 30, 2022        | 5           |
| PR 23-579           | <i>Mary Ann Miller</i><br>(specific interest, ability, or experience in arts or humanities education)        | June 30, 2022        | 3           |
| PR 23-580           | <i>Cicie Sattarnilasskorn</i><br>(specific interest, ability, or experience in arts or humanities education) | June 30, 2022        | 1           |
| PR 23-581           | <i>Dr. Natalie Hopkinson</i><br>(specific interest, ability, or experience in the humanities)                | June 30, 2021        | 5           |
| PR 23-582           | <i>Cora Masters Barry</i><br>(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. Friedman was first appointed to the Commission in 2006 and served for a term that ended on June 30, 2009.<sup>12</sup> Her second and current stint on the Commission began in 2012.<sup>13</sup> Ms. Friedman serves as Chair of the Commission’s Arts Education Committee, and she used to serve as the Treasure and Chaired the Finance Committee.<sup>14</sup> As Chair of the Arts Education Committee, she has organized District-wide arts education symposiums.<sup>15</sup> Ms. Friedman believes that arts must be a part of basic curriculum in all of the schools, equally and equitably, from pre-kindergarten through high school.<sup>16</sup> Ms. Friedman testified at the hearing on her nomination that children need art because it sparks their imagination and feeds their spirit, and it improves academic performance and discourages truancy.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> See PR 17-65, Commission on the Arts and Humanities Rhona Wolfe Friedman Confirmation Resolution of 2007.

<sup>13</sup> See PR 19-551, Commission on the Arts and Humanities Rhona W. Friedman Confirmation Resolution of 2012.

<sup>14</sup> Rhona Friedman, Nominee, Testimony before the DC Council Committee of the Whole, 1, January 9, 2020.

<sup>15</sup> Rhona Friedman, Written Responses to the Committee of the Whole’s Prehearing Questionnaire, 3, January 3, 2020. (Attached to this Report).

<sup>16</sup> *Supra* note 14 at 3.

<sup>17</sup> *Id.*

If reappointed, Ms. Friedman will continue to advocate for arts programs to be in all the District's schools.<sup>18</sup> Also, she will ensure that the Commission promotes the arts in every neighborhood since the arts play a significant role in the development of the District's vitality, image, and economic growth.<sup>19</sup> She will also focus her attention and time to grant-making, cultural events, and building the creative economy; and will advocate for increased funding for the Commission.<sup>20</sup> Further, Ms. Friedman's past service as a member of the Board of Directors for the Youth Orchestra of America and the Washington Ballet has strengthened her ability to serve on the Commission.<sup>21</sup>

The Committee believes Ms. Friedman meets the requirements to continue to serve as a member of the Commission pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 39-203(a-1)(2)(C) as she has a specific interest, ability, and experience in theatre and performing arts. The Committee believes Ms. Friedman's years of involvement in the arts attests to her ability to continue to serve on the Commission. Moreover, the Committee supports Chairperson Kendall's assertion that the changes at the Commission demands someone with Ms. Friedman's knowledge and experience to continue to serve on the Commission. The Committee recommends adoption of PR 23-577.

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- November 26, 2019 PR 23-577, the "Commission on the Arts and Humanities Rhona Friedman Confirmation Resolution of 2020" is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of Mayor Bowser.
- December 3, 2019 PR 23-577 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 23-577 will be deemed disapproved.
- December 6, 2019 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 23-577 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- December 6, 2019 Notice of Public Hearing on PR 23-577 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- January 3, 2020 Revised and Abbreviated Notice of Public Hearing on PR 23-577 is published in the *DC Register*.
- January 9, 2020 The Committee of the Whole holds a public hearing on PR 23-577.
- January 21, 2020 The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 23-577.

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<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

<sup>20</sup> *Supra* note 15.

<sup>21</sup> *Supra* note 14 at 3.

### III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ms. Rhona Friedman 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 23-577.

### V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on PR 23-577 (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.

*Rhona Friedman, 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.

#### **Testimony Submitted for the Record**

*Kay Kendall, Chairperson, Commission on the Arts and Humanities*, wrote in support of PR 23-577. She provided that Ms. Friedman's experience and knowledge of the Commission is valuable to the agency as it continues its transition as an independent agency.

*Jenny Bilfield, President & CEO, Washington Performing Arts*, wrote in support of PR 23-577 because Ms. Friedman has been a tireless champion for arts education, is a proponent of accountability and good governance, and has the ability to find common ground across the arts and culture community.

*The Honorable Sharon Pratt, Former Mayor of the District of Columbia*, wrote in support of PR 23-577 because Ms. Friedman is committed to furthering arts and arts education in the District of Columbia.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Ms. Friedman's 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 23-577 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

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <u>Section 1</u> | States the short title of Proposed Resolution 23-577.   |
| <u>Section 2</u> | Confirms the reappointment of Rhona Friedman as a member of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities for a three-year term to end June 30, 2022. |
| <u>Section 3</u> | Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.                              |
| <u>Section 4</u> | Provides that the resolution will take effect once approved by the Council.   |

## IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

## X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 23-577 as introduced.

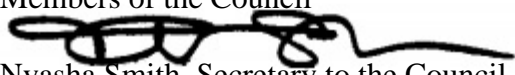
2. Nominee's response to Committee questions.
3. Written testimony.
4. Legal Sufficiency Determination.
5. Committee Print for PR 23-577.

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

Memorandum

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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 Rhona Friedman Confirmation Resolution of 2019", PR23-0577

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





19 NOV 26 AM 12:02

OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY

MURIEL BOWSER  
MAYOR

NOV 26 2020

The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 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:

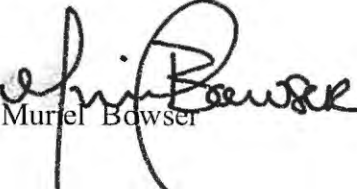
Ms. Rhona Friedman  
2441 Tracy Place, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20008  
(Ward 2)


as a member with specific interest, ability, or experience in theatre and performing arts 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. Rhona Friedman 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 Rhona Friedman  
Confirmation Resolution of 2019".

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

Ms. Rhona Friedman  
2441 Tracy Place, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20008  
(Ward 2)

as a member specific interest, ability, or experience in theatre and performing arts 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.

## **RHONA WOLFE FRIEDMAN**

### **REAL ESTATE AND LEGAL EMPLOYMENT**

- 2009-Present    **COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE**  
Georgetown Harbour, Washington, DC  
Residential Sales & Investments (DC and Maryland)
- 2001-2009    **TUTT, TAYLOR & RANKIN REAL ESTATE, LLC**  
Washington, DC
- 1990-2001    **COMMERCIAL LEASING AND MANAGEMENT, INC.**  
Rockville, Maryland  
Legal and business work in commercial real estate
- 1980-1985    **OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY**  
Portland, Oregon  
Deputy City Attorney, Lead Attorney for the Tort Litigation Section and Court  
Appointed Arbitrator  
Civil rights and tort litigation in federal and state trial and appellate courts.
- 1979-1980    **SCHWABE, WILLIAMSON & WYATT**  
Portland, Oregon  
Appellate attorney

### **ADMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW**

District of Columbia  
State of Oregon  
United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit  
Supreme Court of the United States

## **OTHER EMPLOYMENT**

- 1987-1989      **RODAN, INC.**  
Portland, Oregon  
Founder and President, International Import Company
- 1973-1974      **NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**  
**CENTER FOR COOPERATIVE EDUCATION**  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Director of Training  
Planned and directed national consulting service and training programs for college and university administrators.
- 1971-1973      **MASSACHUSETTS BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD**  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Manager of Office of Equal Employment Opportunity Programs  
Developed, implemented and maintained company-wide programs and training seminars. Organized community health care program.

## **EDUCATION**

- 1997-2001      **PARSONS SCHOOL OF DESIGN,**  
**COOPER-HEWITT, NATIONAL DESIGN MUSEUM, at**  
**THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION**  
Washington, DC  
Master of Arts in the History of Decorative Arts
- 1975-1978      **NORTHWESTERN SCHOOL OF LAW OF LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE**  
Portland, Oregon  
J.D. Law Review; special research project: Health Maintenance Organizations and Antitrust Regulation
- 1970-1971      **BOSTON UNIVERSITY, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**  
Boston, Massachusetts  
M. Ed in counseling and clinical psychology
- 1964-1968      **THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY**  
Washington, D.C.  
B.A. Liberal arts; Dean's List

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## **CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

- 2013-Present    **DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES**  
Washington, DC  
Commissioner (Ward 2); Chair of the Task Force for Arts Education; Chair, Arts Education Committee; Executive Committee; Former Treasurer
- 2012-Present    **THEARC (Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus)**  
Washington, DC  
Board of Directors
- 2009-2016       **THE UNIVERSITY CLUB OF WASHINGTON, DC**  
Founder and Chair, The ExecWomen's Forum
- 2001-2011       **THE WASHINGTON BALLET**  
Washington, DC  
Board of Directors; Community Outreach with Ward 8 and THEARC
- 2009-2012       **YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF THE AMERICAS**  
Washington, DC  
Board of Directors
- 2008-2010       **DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES**  
Washington, DC  
Vice-Chair, Chair Arts Education Committee
- 2006-2007       **MAYORAL PRE-TRANSITION AND TRANSITION TEAM VICE-CHAIR,  
ARTS COMMITTEE,**  
For Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor of the District of Columbia
- 1996-2005       **THE LAB SCHOOL OF WASHINGTON**  
Washington, DC  
Board of Trustees



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

## Rhona Friedman



Rhona Friedman is an attorney and a current member of the Commission on Arts and Humanities.

Ms. Friedman's primary focus is arts education as well as the creative economy in the District of Columbia. In 2008, Ms. Friedman participated in the City's Creative Economy Conference and she presented about the creative economy in relation to the arts. Ms. Friedman was also a panelist at the Creative Schools Seminar held by DC's international community at the Embassy of Sweden.

Ms. Friedman started her legal career as a litigator and is currently a realtor at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. Ms. Friedman is actively engaged in the arts in Washington, DC. As a member of the board of directors for the Washington Ballet, Friedman focused on outreach programs in public schools and its partnership at THEARC. She also served on the board of directors for the Lab School of Washington, a school that teaches students with learning disabilities with multisensory, experiential, arts-infused curriculum.

A Ward 2 resident, Ms. Friedman received her Masters of Arts in the History of Decorative Arts from the Parsons School of Design at the Smithsonian Institution, a Masters of Arts in Counseling and Clinical Psychology from Boston University and a Juris Doctor Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark College.





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.

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**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'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E'.

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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. Rhona Friedman  
2441 Tracy Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ms. Friedman,

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.

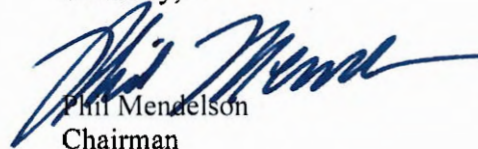


9. Please list all boards and commissions connected with the District government on which you are or have been a member, and include the term of service for each.
10. Please list any other boards (e.g. Boards of Directors of a non-profit) on which you are a member.
11. Do you have any outstanding liability 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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  
RESPONSE TO CONFIRMATION QUESTIONS  
RHONA FRIEDMAN  
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 PDF for questions 1-8.**

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 have been a member and include the term of service for each.

**DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities - 6/30/16 - 6/30/19.**

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

**Building Bridges Across The River (THEARC).**

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.

**Campaign contributions: Mayor Muriel Bowser; Councilmember David Grosso; Chairman Phil Mendelson**

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, I do, and I am committed to spend the necessary 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.

**The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities helps build, sustain and develop arts and cultural resources in the District. By serving on the Commission, I will devote time and effort to grant making, arts education, cultural events, and building the creative community.**

**A thriving arts community is a reflection of the quality of life for DC residents. Being a part of this endeavor is important to me. It will build the economy and make the city in which I reside and work, a world-class arts center.**

**As a member of the Commission, I would like to continue to advocate for and foster arts programs in all of our public and public charter schools. We know that children need art. It sparks their imagination and feeds their spirit. It improves academic performance and discourages truancy.**

**A priority for the Commission, like always will be identifying as much funding as possible so that the Commission can support the greatest number of programs and organizations. It's also important for organizations to receive funding for multiple years.**

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.

**Currently, I serve as the Chair of the Commission's Arts Education Committee. In this role, I have organized several city-wide arts education symposiums, the first held in 2016 at the Shakespeare Theatre, called "Spotlight on Arts Education: Innovation, Creativity and Impact." The second symposium, in partnership with the Library of Congress, was held at the Library and focused on the arts and learning. I also have served as Treasurer and Chaired the Finance Committee of the Commission.**

**In January 2019, I was honored by Former Mayor Sharon Pratt and Mayor Muriel Bowser to be named as the first Arts and Culture Resident Fellow at the Institute for Politics, Policy and History (IPPH) at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). This Institute was started by both Mayors to establish programs and expand scholarship about Washington DC and its history, culture and role in determining contemporary politics, policy and cultural legacy.**

**I am an original member and still serve on the Committee that is working on the Kennedy Center Initiative "Any Given Child." This seeks to eradicate barriers for arts learning as education for any given child in Washington DC by developing goals and support systems through various tools and collaboration among schools, educators and communities.**

**I established and chaired a Task Force for the Creation of an Arts Policy to include the arts in the District's Public and Public Charter schools. I am proud to say that the Policy was finally adopted by Council as the Sense of Council Arts Education Resolution of 2017.**

**I also have served on several Boards, including: Board of Directors of Paul Public Charter School, the Board of the Youth Orchestra of the Americas, the Board of Directors of the Lab School of Washington, and the Board of the Washington Ballet.**

**FDS Filing Details for 2018**

**Name:** Rhona Friedman

**Date of Appointment or Employment:** 6/30/2016

**Final Date of Service:**

**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?

| Position / Title    | Name of Employer                      | Description of Work                          | Start Date | End Date | Income Received from Outside Business | Client Name |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------|----------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Real Estate/Realtor | Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage | Purchase and sale of residential real estate | 1/1/2000   |          | \$1,001 - \$15,000                    |             |

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?

| Position / Title | Name of Employer | Description of Work | Start Date | End Date | Client Name |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------|----------|-------------|
| Attorney         | Perkins Coie     | Legal work          | 1/1/1975   |          |             |

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 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Board of Directors | Building Bridges Across the River | 05/08/2010 |          |

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?

| Position / Title   | Name of Entity     | Start Date | End Date |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------|----------|
| Board of Directors | Bread For the City | 1/1/2012   |          |

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. |
|--|---|
| Not controlled   | 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. |
|--|---|
| Not controlled   | Over \$1,000,000  |

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.)?

| Type of License Issued | Issuing Entity                 |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Law, Real Estate       | DC Bar; Real Estate Commission |

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.)?

| Type of License Issued | Issuing Entity |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Law                    | DC Bar         |

### 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

#### 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.

#### I understand that:

- Submission of this report means that I have completed the report with all applicable schedules and that the report is ready for filing with BEGA.
- Once this report is submitted, it cannot be edited. All modifications thereafter can only be done by filing an amendment.

### Additional Comments

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



**Public Roundtable on**

**PR23-577, the “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Rhona Friedman  
Confirmation Resolution of 2019”**

Testimony of  
Rhona Wolfe Friedman

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  
The John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004



Good morning, Chairman Mendelson, councilmembers, and staff of the Committee of the Whole. I am Rhona Wolfe Friedman, a current Commissioner on the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (Commission). I am here today to testify on my re-appointment nomination to the Commission.

I live and work in the District of Columbia. I am an attorney, licensed in the District of Columbia, the State of Oregon, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States. I started my career as a litigator and appellate attorney in Portland, Oregon. I hold a Master's Degree in Counseling and Clinical Psychology. I also hold a Master's Degree in the History of Decorative Arts from the Parsons School of Design/Smithsonian Institution. For five years, I studied decorative arts from an historical perspective and researched the material culture of many different populations. It became clear to me that art and culture played a significant role in the development of a city's vitality, image, and economic growth. Jobs were created, the housing base expanded and improved, income rose, and the quality of life improved.

I am currently the Chair of the Commission's Arts Education Committee. I have also served as Treasurer and Chaired the Finance Committee. My education, along with my experience with schools and arts organizations in the District, has aided me in my time at the Commission, where I have learned first-hand about arts education programming for children throughout the city. I have organized several city-wide arts education symposiums. The first symposium was held in 2016 at the Shakespeare Theatre called, "Spotlight on Arts Education: Innovation, Creativity and Impact." The second symposium, in partnership with the Library of Congress, was held at the Library and focused on the arts and learning. Further, in 2016 I was invited to open a week-long city-wide musical festival for Washington Performing Arts. As the opening speaker at the Library of Congress, I highlighted the importance of music, especially

symphonies, in communities around the country. I also moderated a Library of Congress Panel on the Disco Ball as a Cultural Icon.

In January 2019, I was honored to be named the first Arts and Culture Resident Fellow at the Institute for Politics, Policy and History (IPPH) at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) by Former Mayor Sharon Pratt and Mayor Muriel Bowser. This Institute was started by both Mayors to establish programs and expand scholarship about the District and its role in determining contemporary politics, policy and cultural legacy. To date, I have conducted two symposiums at UDC about the arts and its importance in our city. Each of these events related to several arts disciplines and consisted of panels of Pulitzer Prize winners and renowned arts innovators.

I currently serve as a member of the Board of Directors of THEARC (Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus) in Ward 8. Programs in this underserved community enable children to participate in a wide variety of artistic and cultural activities such as dance, crafts, music, creative writing, and studio arts. Children can attend one of several schools at THEARC and receive medical treatment from an adjunct Children's Hospital Clinic. Young adults now have the opportunity to learn culinary arts skills in the new kitchen/teaching facility as an entry step into the District's large hospitality industry. I also serve on the Committee for the Kennedy Center initiative "Any Given Child," of which I was a founding member. The initiative seeks to eradicate barriers for arts education for any given child in the District by developing goals and support systems in collaboration with schools, educators, and communities. As its "North Star," the initiative uses the DC Arts Education Policy, a policy I developed through years of coordination and collaboration.

These efforts started in 2008 when I established and chaired a Task Force for the Creation of an Arts Policy to include the arts in the District's Public and Public Charter schools. I am proud to say that the Council adopted our policy recommendations in 2017. The arts should,

and must, be a part of the basic curriculum in all of our schools, equally and equitably, from Pre-Kindergarten through high school. Every student deserves a high-quality education that includes the arts, regardless of Ward or socio-economic status.

I have served on the Board of Directors of Paul Public Charter School. While on the Board, I was involved with furthering the arts in their school curriculum. I have also served on several other Boards—including, the Board of the Youth Orchestra of the Americas; the Board of Directors of the Lab School of Washington; and the Board of the Washington Ballet, which have strengthened my ability to further the mission of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. If confirmed, I hope to continue to move the District of Columbia forward to become a world-class arts center.

As a Commissioner, I would continue to advocate for and foster arts programs in all of our public and public charter schools. We know that children need art. It sparks their imagination and feeds their spirit. It improves academic performance and discourages truancy. I believe that the arts are a critical factor for economic development in the District of Columbia. The Arts play a significant role in the development of a city's vitality, image, and economic growth. We must promote and sustain the arts in every neighborhood and engage community participation. The arts can and should be an integral part of our prosperity. By actively participating in the arts and humanities, I have seen how they can revitalize a neighborhood, foster creative energy and give residents a "fair shot" to join the creative sector.

Great civilizations have built their reputation on their contributions to the arts. The arts and humanities connect people to their families, culture and communities. They enrich a city and help make neighborhoods vibrant and sustainable. The District of Columbia will be judged by how we nurture and enhance our diverse cultural heritage. We must make the arts our legacy and I am proud to be a part of that effort. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I look forward to continuing my efforts on the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

**SUPPORT for  
RHONA WOLFE FRIEDMAN  
Nominee for the  
DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities**

**FROM  
KAY KENDALL  
Chair of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities  
December 26, 2019  
Committee Of The Whole**

I am writing in support of Rhona Wolfe Friedman's nomination to serve another term as a Commissioner of the DC Commission of Arts and Humanities.

Rhona is an attorney, licensed in the District of Columbia, the State of Oregon, in the United States of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and The Supreme Court of the United States. She has a Masters' Degree in Counseling and Clinical Psychology and a Masters' Degree in the History of Decorative Arts. She is also a realtor. She serves on the Board of THEARC (Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus) located in Ward 8 and has previously served on the Boards of The Lab School, The Washington Ballet, the YOA Orchestra of the Americas and the Paul Public Charter School.

This past year she was honored by Former Mayor Sharon Pratt and Mayor Muriel Bowser when named as the first Arts and Culture Resident Fellow at the Institute for Politics, Policy and History (IPPH) at the University of the District of Columbia.

While on the Commission Rhona has served on the Executive and Finance committees and currently chairs the Arts Education Committee. She has twice created and curated an arts symposium for the community. She has chaired a Task Force for the Creation of an Arts Policy to include the arts in the District's public and public charter schools, equally across all 8 wards.

Despite all her credentials, her greatest value at this time of a newly created independent status for the Commission is her longevity. Spanning over a decade

of service, she knows the history of the organization, has seen it through many iterations and brings valuable perspective to conversations and decisions.

I trust the Committee of the Whole will support this nomination.



January 2, 2020

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

Testimony by Jenny Bilfield, President & CEO, Washington Performing Arts  
On behalf of Rhona Friedman

January 9, 2020

**PR23-577, the “Commission on the Arts and Humanities  
Rhona Friedman Confirmation Resolution of 2019”**

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Members of the Committee of the Whole,

Travel precludes my ability to participate in the PR23-577 Confirmation Hearing for Rhona Friedman on January 9, 2020. However, I would like to convey my support for Ms. Friedman and share specific examples of how her service, expertise, and commitment as a current Commissioner, have so deeply benefitted the residents of our city.

One of the most important things to know about Rhona Friedman is that she is thorough, well-informed, and a tenacious problem-solver in every pursuit. I have observed myriad examples of these qualities in the 7 years I have known her.

**Rhona Friedman has been a tireless champion for Arts Education in the D.C. Public Schools, as a fundamental necessity for our schoolchildren.** I have been impressed with Friedman’s laser-focus on the creation (and adoption, by the Council) of an arts policy for public and charter schools. To formulate and refine her recommendations, Friedman convened and led public symposia that explored best practices in public arts education – within D.C. and in other U.S. cities. She held roundtables with local practitioners and thought leaders to understand where opportunity gaps and challenges exist, and how best to sustain access to resources (teachers, program partnerships, etc.) for the benefit of our students. I was impressed with Friedman’s agendas and selection of presenters at the symposia hosted by Shakespeare Theater Company and the Library of Congress; both daylong events were standing-room-only, filled with experienced professionals and those eager to learn and advocate. My own organization, Washington Performing Arts, is heavily invested in arts education (we have programs in 100 public schools), thus I know first-hand how essential informed (with data and research) advocacy is. As Chair of the Arts Education Committee at the DCCAH, Friedman brings her extensive knowledge to a most important forum, one where critical decisions are being made around impact and funding for the benefit of D.C. schoolchildren.

*J. Bilfield Testimony on behalf of Rhona Friedman, PR23-577*

**Rhona Friedman is a proponent of accountability and good governance.** I have known many people who have served with Friedman on Boards of arts and culture institutions and schools, and each has shared that they have relied upon her unwavering ethics, problem-solving skills, and expertise in governance, at times when complex and nuanced decisions needed to be made. For those who have read the publicly available Commission meeting minutes, it is clear that Friedman is well-prepared and highly participatory in key discussions around resource use, decision-making, reporting, and operations. For any public agency, accountability is paramount and public trust is always at stake. Having chaired the Finance Committee at DCCA, Friedman's experience, continuity and equanimity as a Commissioner will continue offer value in the years ahead.

In parallel to her role on the Commission, **Rhona Friedman is sought for her ability to find common ground across the arts and culture community.** She was a Keynote Speaker for the first public event (at the Library of Congress) of *SHIFT: A Festival of American Orchestras*, launched by Washington Performing Arts and The Kennedy Center. And, she has worked closely with former Mayor Sharon Pratt (serving as the Fellow on Arts and Humanities) on the newly launched *Institute on Public Policy and History (IPPH)* at the University of District of Columbia. Friedman has seamlessly navigated the fields of American Orchestras and Higher Education, forging connections between practitioners, experts and newcomers alike – just two examples of her deft skill in connecting stakeholders from varied backgrounds.

As both a D.C. resident and President & CEO of one of Washington's most storied organizations, I value Rhona Friedman's legacy of service to our community in ways that directly impact our residents and especially our students. I am delighted that Mayor Bowser has recommended her for another term, and am grateful that Friedman is willing and eager to serve.

Thank you for indulging this lengthy testimony. Please call on me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

*Jenny Bilfield*

Jenny Bilfield  
President & CEO  
Washington Performing Arts  
[jbilfield@washingtonperformingarts.org](mailto:jbilfield@washingtonperformingarts.org)  
202.533.1895



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To: Chair. Mendelson and Committee of the Whole of the Council of the District of Columbia

Re: Letter of Testimony in Support of the Reappointment of Rhona Wolfe Friedman to the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities

Hearing Date: January 9, 2020

Date: December 24, 2019

Dear Chair Mendelson and the Committee of the Whole,

I have worked with Commissioner Rhona Wolfe Friedman for over a year on the Institute for Politics, Policy and History (IPPH, housed at UDC), which I founded with Mayor Muriel Bowser in the beginning of 2019. The Institute's mission is to rediscover the history of the District of Columbia and its role in determining contemporary politics and history. To further its objectives and goals, the Institute appoints prominent people in various areas, such as the arts, sports, policy and politics as Residents Fellows.

Ms. Friedman was appointed as IPPH's first Resident Fellow for the Arts and Culture. We were impressed with her background as an attorney, Board member of many DC organizations such as THEARC, and her commitment to furthering the arts and arts education in Washington, DC.

She quickly understood the role of IPPH and its importance to the DC community and developed two symposiums this year related to the arts and culture in Washington, from both the historical and contemporary perspectives. Her panels consisted of Pulitzer Prize winners as well as speakers with local, national and international expertise and experience in the arts. The symposiums were well-received and enabled the Institute to expand its programs about Washington DC and at the same time, make the District's history more accessible and intriguing to audiences.

It is a pleasure to work with Ms. Friedman at the Institute and I look forward to expanding her involvement in that areas of arts and culture. I am happy to support Ms. Friedman for reappointment as a





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Commissioner on the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

Regards,

The Honorable Sharon Pratt

Former Mayor of the District of Columbia

Founding Director of IPPH at the University of the District of Columbia

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**

2 Committee of the Whole

3 January 21, 2020

4  
5  
6  
7 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

8  
9 23-577

10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11  
12 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

13  
14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15  
16 To confirm the reappointment of Ms. Rhona Friedman as a member of the Commission on the  
17 Arts and 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 Rhona Friedman  
21 Confirmation Resolution of 2020”.

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

23  
24 Ms. Rhona Friedman  
25 2441 Tracy Place, NW  
26 Washington, DC 20008  
27 (Ward 2)

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