

**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 23-578, “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Jose Alberto Ucles Confirmation Resolution of 2020”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 23-578, “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Jose Alberto Ucles Confirmation Resolution of 2020” was referred, reports favorably thereon with technical amendments, and recommends approval by the Council.

CONTENTS

I.	Background And Need.....	1
II.	Legislative Chronology.....	4
III.	Position Of The Executive.....	5
IV.	Comments Of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions	5
V.	Summary Of Testimony.....	5
VI.	Impact On Existing Law	5
VII.	Fiscal Impact.....	5
VIII.	Section-By-Section Analysis	5
IX.	Committee Action.....	6
X.	Attachments	6

I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On November 26, 2019, Proposed Resolution 23-578, the “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Jose Alberto Ucles Confirmation Resolution of 2020,”¹ was introduced by Chairman Phil Mendelson at the request of the Mayor. PR 23-578 would confirm the Mayor’s nomination of Mr. Jose Alberto Ucles for reappointment as a member of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities for a three-year term to end June 30, 2022.

Mr. Ucles is a Ward 5 resident. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Goshen College and a Master’s in Public Relations from American University. Currently, he serves as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) Hispanic Outreach

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.

Spokesperson. In this role, he serves as a liaison, advisor, and media specialist for programs directed to Hispanic/Latino communities. Before working at NHTSA, Mr. Ucles served as Assistant Director of Development for the Whitman-Walker Clinic and as Director of Public Relations for Weight Watchers franchises located in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Mr. Ucles was the first Latino to be Director of the DC Capital Pride Festival and was on the Board of Directors for the Millennium March on Washington for Equality. From 2009 to 2011 he served as a judge for the Helen Hayes Awards, which are theater awards recognizing excellence in professional theater in Washington, DC metropolitan area.

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

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.*).

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 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> <i>(specific interest, ability, or experience in public art)</i>	<i>June 30, 2022</i>	3
PR 23-577	<i>Rhona Friedman</i> <i>(specific interest, ability, or experience in theatre and performing arts)</i>	<i>June 30, 2022</i>	2
PR 23-578	<i>Jose Alberto Ucles</i> <i>(specific interest, ability, or experience in theatre and performing arts)</i>	<i>June 30, 2022</i>	5
PR 23-579	<i>Mary Ann Miller</i> <i>(specific interest, ability, or experience in arts or humanities education)</i>	<i>June 30, 2022</i>	3
PR 23-580	<i>Cicie Sattarnilasskorn</i> <i>(specific interest, ability, or experience in arts or humanities education)</i>	<i>June 30, 2022</i>	1
PR 23-581	<i>Dr. Natalie Hopkinson</i> <i>(specific interest, ability, or experience in the humanities)</i>	<i>June 30, 2021</i>	5
PR 23-582	<i>Cora Masters Barry</i> <i>(specific interest, ability, or experience in the humanities)</i>	<i>June 30, 2021</i>	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

Mr. Ucles was first appointed to the Commission in 2013.¹² He serves on the Public Arts Committee, and he previously served on the Events Committee and was the Chair of the Mayor’s Arts Awards. As a member of the Commission Mr. Ucles has been active in the furtherance of the arts and humanities in the District.¹³ He has used his extensive public relations and community outreach experience to make District residents aware of the Commission’s grant opportunities, and arts and cultural events.¹⁴ Mr. Ucles believes that the Commission plays a vital role in bringing arts to all the ethnically, culturally, and financially diverse residents in all eight wards.¹⁵

If reappointed, Mr. Ucles will continue his work to get the Commission to promote the arts and humanities through its mission, programs and policies in grantmaking, education, public art,

¹⁰ *Supra* note 5.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² See PR 20-155, Commission on the Arts and Humanities Jose Alberto Ucles Confirmation Resolution of 2013.

¹³ Jose Alberto Ucles, Nominee, Testimony before the DC Council Committee of the Whole, 3, January 9, 2020.

¹⁴ *Id.* at 4.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 2.

events, and professional development.¹⁶ He plans to continue to push for investment in the arts by the District government.¹⁷ During the Committee’s public hearing on PR 23-578, Mr. Ucles stated that the District continues to be ranked number one in funding per capita among the 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies across the country.¹⁸ Finally, he will work with the Commission to improve the creative economy and help continue making the District an artistic and world class cultural destination.¹⁹

The Committee believes Mr. Ucles 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 he has a specific interest, ability, and experience in theatre and performing arts. His extensive knowledge of the theater and performing arts in the District to include his time as a judge for the Helen Hayes Awards makes him more than qualified to serve another term on the Commission. Further, the Committee supports Mr. Ucles’ goal of ensuring all District residents are aware of the grants and programming offered by the Commission. The Committee recommends adoption of PR 23-578.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- November 26, 2019 PR 23-578, the “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Jose Alberto Ucles Confirmation Resolution of 2020” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of Mayor Bowser.
- December 3, 2019 PR 23-578 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 23-578 will be deemed disapproved.
- December 6, 2019 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 23-578 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- December 6, 2019 Notice of Public Hearing on PR 23-578 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- January 3, 2020 Revised and Abbreviated Notice of Public Hearing on PR 23-578 is published in the *DC Register*.
- January 9, 2020 The Committee of the Whole holds a public hearing on PR 23-578.
- January 21, 2020 The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 23-578.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 4.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ Jose Alberto Ucles, Written Responses to the Committee of the Whole’s Prehearing Questionnaire, 3, January 3, 2020. (Attached to this Report).

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Mr. Jose Alberto Ucles 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 23-578.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on PR 23-578 (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.

Jose Alberto Ucles, Nominee, testified and answered questions from Chairman Mendelson regarding his background and experience as it pertains to the Commission on the Arts and Humanities and his interest in serving another term on the Commission.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Mr. Ucles' 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 23-578 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 23-578.

- Section 2 Confirms the reappointment of Jose Alberto Ucles 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

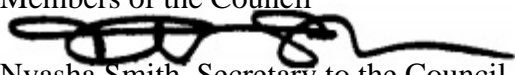
X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 23-578 as introduced.
2. Nominee's response to Committee questions.
3. Written testimony.
4. Legal Sufficiency Determination.
5. Committee Print for PR 23-578.

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 José Alberto Uclés Confirmation Resolution of 2019", PR23-0578

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 2019

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:

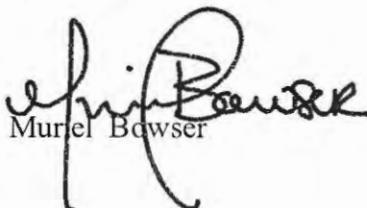
Mr. José Alberto Uclés
23 T Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
(Ward 5)

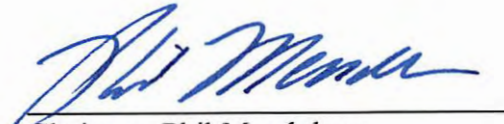
for reappointment as a member with specific interest, ability, or experience in theatre and performing arts of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities, for a term to end June 30, 2022.

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 Mr. José Alberto Uclés to 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 José Alberto Uclés
Confirmation Resolution of 2019”.

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

Mr. José Alberto Uclés
23 T Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
(Ward 5)

as a member with specific interest, ability, or experience in theatre and performing arts of the
Commission on the Arts and Humanities, established by 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.

José Alberto Uclés

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Hispanic Public Affairs Specialist, Media & Consumer Relations – US Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

January 2001 To Present * Washington, DC

NHTSA Hispanic Outreach Spokesperson, serving as a liaison, advisor, and media specialist for programs directed to the Hispanic/Latino communities in the United States.

Member of DOT's Hispanic Leadership Council. Appointed as NHTSA's Hispanic Employment Program Manager in 2006.

Extensive experience in public relations, media, social media, special events, community outreach and building coalitions with other agencies and organizations.

Special interest in traffic safety issues that affect the Hispanic community, including pedestrian and bicyclist safety, the correct use of safety belts and child safety seats, speeding, aggressive driving, auto safety, and the prevention of distracted and impaired driving.

Commissioner Ward 5 (Mayoral Appointment) - DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAH)

July 2013 To Present * Washington, DC

Helen Hayes Awards/ Theatre Washington Judge

June 2009 – December 2011 * Washington, DC Metro Area

Assistant Director of Development - Whitman-Walker Clinic

September 1997 to December 2000 * Washington, DC Metro Area

Whitman-Walker Clinic (WWC) is the premiere HIV/AIDS agency serving the Washington DC metropolitan area, including northern Virginia and southern Maryland.

Director 1998 and 1999 Capital Pride Festival; a nine-day celebration of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Communities and friends in the Washington metropolitan area

Coordinator/Supervisor of all aspects of Washington, DC's Pride Celebration: budget, community advisory board, corporate and festival vendor/exhibitors outreach, official events/dances, parade, fair site logistics, government permits (federal and local), supplier and local/national entertainment contracts

Wrote, edited and coordinated media outreach, advertising, publicity, brochures and posters. Assisted with first Official National Pride Magazine, edited Washington, DC section and Local Pride Guide

Co-organizer and Member in Charge of Gay Bingo, monthly benefit for the Lesbian and Gay Programs of WWC. Budget, permits, site negotiations, supply ordering, advertising, marketing and logistics

Advisor to Youth, Prevention, Education and Latino Departments of WWC

Assisted with AIDS Walk Washington, AIDS Marathon, Latino Art Auction, Annual Gala, and various other fundraisers

Speaker at various United Way/Combined Federal Campaign presentations and exhibit fairs; regarding the work the clinic does for a diverse community

Director Public Relations - Weight Watchers of WDC Metro Area

August 1995 to September 1997 * Rockville, MD

Created and developed Public Relations Department for the Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia franchise.

Media Coordinator: Research, write, edit and place media releases and news stories; resulting in coverage by Washington Post, Washington Times, Journal Newspapers, television channels 5,7,8 & 9, as well as various local radio stations

Editor quarterly membership newspaper "Weights & Means" and bimonthly staff newsletter "Paper Thin"

Managed annual staff meetings, special events, openings, employee recognition award program

Organized corporate participation in community events such as "Race for the Cure," AIDS Walk Washington" and "Make a Difference Day"

Designed and coordinated annual "New Year's Resolution Rescue" campaign

1996 Winner of Weight Watchers International's first "Public Relations Excellence Award"

Winner of "Top 50 Exemplary Volunteer Project 1996" through USA Weekend Magazine and Points of Light Foundation's "Make a Difference Day"

EDUCATION

1984 – American University, Washington, DC - Masters in Public Relations

1982 – Goshen College, Goshen, IN – BA Communications and AD Business Administration

***Born in San Pedro Sula, Cortes in Honduras.**



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

José Alberto Uclés



José Alberto Uclés, a current member of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities, is a Freelance Consultant.

Mr. Uclés has a love for the fine arts, architecture, design, literature, history, technology, social sciences, recycling and fashion. His particular interests include plays, musicals, opera, and music. An avid theater aficionado, he has previously served as a Helen Hayes Awards judge for Outstanding Theater.

Previously, Mr. Uclés was Assistant Director of Development at the Whitman-Walker Clinic ('96-'99) and the first Latino to be Director of DC Capital Pride Festival ('97-'99). He was also on the Board of Directors for the Millennium March on Washington for Equality 2000. Mr. Uclés is an active member of the Bloomingdale/LeDroit community, and believes in the nurturing and transformative power of art in all its forms and that Washington, D.C. with its diverse cultures and artistic community is indeed a world-class destination for all to enjoy and appreciate.

A Ward 5 resident, Mr. Uclés obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Business Administration from Goshen College and a Master of Arts in Public Relations from American University.



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 Sattamilasskorn, 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 cursive script 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

Mr. Jose Alberto Ucles
23 T Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Ucles,

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
RESPONSE TO CONFIRMATION QUESTIONS
JOSÉ ALBERTO UCLÉS
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.

Please see questions 2-8.

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.

None.

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.

None.

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.

None.

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.

None.

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.

23 T Street NW, WDC 20001 – home that is my residence (Ward 5).

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

None.

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

None.

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.

The DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities.

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

None.

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.

None, as I am a Federal Worker with the US Department of Transportation.

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?

As I have been on the Commission, I am very aware of the time that is required to serve and glad to do that and more as necessary as I have flexibility from my job.

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.

I am grateful and honored to have been asked to serve for another three-year term on the Commission. My top priority and challenge will be to assist and support our staff, local individuals, and organizations as we improve as an independent agency and show the community that we are stable, stronger, and ready to make our arts, humanities, and cultural presence even greater.

Humbly, I consider myself a communicator, a connector of people, and seeker of peaceful and productive resolutions and improvements. Under the leadership of our Chair Kay Kendall, our capable Interim Executive Director Heran Sereke Brhan, and our staff, I feel prepared to help with any challenges that may lay ahead.

We are proud to be the official arts agency for the District of Columbia, and I will continue to bring people and organizations together to continue our work to promote progress in the arts and humanities through our mission, programs and policies in grant making, education, public art, events and professional development with our eclectic and diverse organizations and individuals. We are glad to work with, to be of service to, and in turn improve, our creative economy and help continue making Washington, DC an artistic and world class cultural destination.

I am proud that as an agency, we were able to recently have a record-breaking year in our agency's 51-year history - awarding \$24,738,534 in 626 competitive grants to support arts and humanities projects, nonprofit organizations, and individual practitioners across the District in FY 2020. This is what I hope to continue helping with and our ambitious mission.

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.

Having lived in this great city for over 30 years I have a deep appreciation, enjoyment, knowledge, and love for the arts, humanities, and cultures that are so richly and diversely present in our city and metro area and readily available to all of us. I have an extensive background in public relations, media, special events, fundraising and community outreach that will help me continue as an active member of this Commission.

Besides my professional work for the past 19 years at the U.S. Department of Transportation, as the Hispanic Outreach Spokesperson, Public Affairs, and Consumer Relations for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), I was a judge to the Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Theater in the WDC metropolitan area ('09 -'11) with TheatreWashington, which provided me an amazing window into the rich and diverse theatre community in our area.

As over my last couple of terms, I have had the pleasure to be visible and supportive participant and helping connect people in so many visual arts, performance arts,

humanities, and cultural events from the Kennedy Center, GALA Hispanic Theatre, InSeries, Cultural DC, Mosaic Theatre, Anacostia Playhouse, National Theatre, Phillips Collection, Textile Museum at GWU, Shakespeare Theatre, Arena Stage, Woolly, Studio, Imagination Stage for Children, SITAR, Explore! and Children's Museum, Washington Ballet, Pride Nite at Kennedy Center for the National Washington Opera and Signature Theatre in Shirlington, DC Jazz Festival, DC Humanities, EventsDC and art exhibits from Zenith Gallery to individual painters, sculptors and artists in our DMV. Many of these organizations, their leaders, and individuals can attest to my involvement, support and love for the arts and humanities and that I have been active in the furtherance of the arts and humanities in the District of Columbia.

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



Public Roundtable on

**PR23-0578, the “Commission on the Arts and Humanities José Alberto Uclés
Confirmation Resolution of 2019”**

**Testimony of
José Alberto Uclés**

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 José Alberto Uclés, and I am humbled, honored, and grateful to Mayor Muriel Bowser for nominating me to continue my service at the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (Commission) for another three-year period. Thank you also, Chairman Mendelson, for holding this hearing and allowing me to speak on my nomination.

Born in Honduras, with a Latino, Italian, Spanish, and French heritage, my love and passion for the arts, humanities, and culture is evident in all that I do in my life. My parents instilled in me from an early age their love and open-minded appreciation for all types of music, dance, visual arts, theatre, opera, the fine arts, education, culture, reading literature, history, and poetry. Most of all, my parents inspired me to be actively engaged in life and not to take anything for granted. The love of the arts helped me through some rough times in my life and continues to do so. I am a proud Latino, gay man and I have lived in Washington, DC for over 35 years. I have owned a home in the wonderful Bloomingdale neighborhood in Ward 5 for the last 17 years with my spouse Tom Noll. We both support the beautification of our neighborhood and participate in various community activities and engage our ANC. My spouse is a local sculptor, artist, and children's book writer, and we greatly enjoy sharing our modest, but eclectic, collection of art from artists in the Washington, DC metro area.

Having lived in this great city for so long, I have a deep appreciation and love for the arts, humanities, and cultures diversely present in our city and readily available to all of us. I have an extensive background in public relations, media, special events, fundraising, and community outreach that will help me continue as an active member of the Commission.

My professional work for the past 19 years has been at the U.S. Department of Transportation, as the Hispanic Outreach Spokesperson, Public Affairs, and Consumer Relations

for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). I enjoy serving as a liaison and advisor on programs with diverse agencies, partners, and organizations to reach out to the Hispanic/Latino communities around the country with lifesaving messages on traffic safety. I am thankful for my work with Commission and the gift of the arts and humanities for enriching and elevating my life, as it balances out the more stressful and difficult aspects of my job at NHTSA.

I am a graduate of American University with a Master's Degree in Public Relations and of Goshen College with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and a Minor in Business Administration. I also was an appointed volunteer judge to the Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Theater in the Washington, DC metropolitan area from 2009 to 2011 with TheatreWashington. This opportunity provided me an amazing window into the rich and diverse theatre community in our area. Currently, my spouse and I still attend over 60 theatre performances annually in the Washington, DC metro area.

I firmly believe that the Commission plays a vital role in bringing education and arts to all the ethnically, culturally, and financially diverse residents in all eight wards. The work we do is critical for the city's economic development, revitalization, vitality, richness, and image, making our city an international cultural destination.

I believe in and enjoy supporting the core mission and activities of the Commission. I have enjoyed meeting and supporting an incredibly diverse and creative group of individuals and organizations when attending events and asking questions and listening to concerns. My love for the arts and my extensive background in public relations, media, special events, fundraising, and community outreach has helped me immensely during my current time with the Commission. I have enjoyed being a convener at various grant panels for individuals and nonprofit organizations located in our city, such as grants for arts education, city arts projects, public arts,

artist fellowships, cultural facilities, upstarts, grants in aid, and east of the river programs. I support the various engaging and educational events/programs that have been brought to the community both as a Commissioner and member of the Events Committee. I have had the pleasure of being part of the Events Committee and the Chair for the Mayor's Arts Awards for three years and now a member of the Public Arts Committee.

Over my last couple of terms, I have had the pleasure of being a visible and supportive participant, helping to connect people and make them aware of our grant opportunities, public art, and other events. I aim to continue to be visible in many visual arts, performance arts, humanities, and cultural events from the GALA Hispanic Theatre, InSeries, DC Humanities Council, Cultural DC, Mosaic Theatre, Anacostia Playhouse, National Theatre, Phillips Collection, Textile Museum at GWU, Shakespeare Theatre, Arena Stage, Woolly, Imagination Stage for Children, Explore!, Children's Museum, Washington Ballet, Pride Nite at Kennedy Center, DC Jazz Festival, EventsDC, and art exhibits from Zenith Gallery to individual painters, sculptors and artists in our DMV. Many of these organizations, their leaders and individuals can attest to my involvement, support, and love for the arts and humanities and that I have been active in the furtherance of the arts and humanities in the District of Columbia.

Kudos goes to our excellent leader, Chair Kay Kendall, our Interim Executive Director Heran Sereke-Brhan, our dedicated, talented and hard-working staff, and the professionalism of my fellow Commissioners. I am indeed very proud to be able to continue to be part of this awesome, caring, passionate, forward-thinking team and help with the challenges that may lay ahead. We are ready and stronger to continue fully helping, guiding, and promoting art, humanities, and cultural communities in our Nation's Capital.

I am proud to mention that the Commission was able to recently have a record-breaking year for public funding of the arts and culture throughout all eight wards in DC. The Commission awarded \$24,738,534 in 626 competitive grants to support arts, arts education, humanities projects, nonprofit organizations, and individual practitioners across the District in FY 2019. This funding also helped projects serving residents East of the Anacostia River, support improvements to arts and humanities facilities, buildings, and venues, public art projects proposed by individual artists or nonprofit organizations, and cultural events and festivals occurring year round throughout the District. Indeed, this marks the largest annual issuance of grant funds in the agency's 51-year history. We continue to be ranked number one in funding per capita among the 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies across the country, which is a testament to the District government's commitment to invest in the city's arts and humanities community. This is what I hope to continue supporting when pursuing our ambitious mission.

If confirmed, I will continue to bring people and organizations together to continue our work to promote progress in the arts and humanities through our mission, programs and policies in grant making, education, public art, events, and professional development. With our eclectic and diverse organizations and individuals, we will work to improve our creative economy and help continue making our Washington, DC an artistic and world-class cultural destination.

Let me leave you with this belief of mine: *“Arts, Humanities, Performing Arts and Culture should be important to us all, as they bring us; enlightenment, creativity, intellectual stimulation, emotional enrichment, happiness and inspiration. They bring us together as a humanity, educating and expanding the world around us - transforming and enhancing the*

quality of our lives. But they also have a critical impact, as they can foster and fuel vibrant healthy communities, growing creative industries and the economic development in our city.”

Thank you for this opportunity, and if confirmed, I hope to continue being a Latino ambassador, community arts advocate, and supporter. This concludes my testimony and I welcome any questions you may have at this time.

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**

2 Committee of the Whole

3 January 21, 2020

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7 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

8
9 23-578

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12 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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16 To confirm the reappointment of Mr. Jose Alberto Ucles 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 Jose Alberto Ucles
21 Confirmation Resolution of 2020”.

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

23
24 Mr. Jose Alberto Ucles
25 23 T Street, NW
26 Washington, DC 20001
27 (Ward 5)

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.