



Testimony from Jenny Bilfield, President & CEO
Washington Performing Arts
Hearing, Committee of the Whole
District of Columbia City Council
Friday May 29, 2020

Good morning, Chairman Mendelson and Members of the City Council. Thank you for welcoming our testimony today in support of Mayor Bowser’s budget and continued, dedicated funding for the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities. My name is Jenny Bilfield, President & CEO of Washington Performing Arts, speaking on behalf of my organization and as a member of the executive committee of the 20-member National Capital Arts Cohort, which includes Arena Stage, Atlas Performing Arts Center, Cathedral Choral Society, Choral Arts Society of Washington, Dance Place, Folger Shakespeare Library, Ford’s Theatre, GALA Hispanic Theatre, Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, National Building Museum, National Museum of Women in the Arts, The Phillips Collection, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Step Afrika!, Studio Theatre, Washington Bach Consort, Washington Ballet, The Washington Chorus, Washington Performing Arts, Woolly Mammoth Theatre.

The arts & culture community in Washington has long been one of the most vibrant and impactful in our nation, nurturing local art forms and presenting events featuring varied cultures, genres, and forms. In addition to creative vitality, the arts & culture community has anchored economic development and growth. When this community thrives, our city, residents, and businesses benefit. But when the arts & culture community suffers blows like those inflicted by COVID-19 – loss of ticket revenue, contributed revenue, jobs, events -- the impact radiates both within and well beyond our organizations to the many individuals we employ and partner with. We are adapting. We are taking the long view. We know that challenges will persist in the coming year, but are determined to fulfill our missions and to be impactful within our community.

Wearing my Washington Performing Arts Hat, I want to spotlight some of our local engagement and impact. Throughout our 54 year history, Washington Performing Arts has been an **anchoring partner for the DC Public Schools**, collaborating on programs in over **100 schools in all 8 wards, and employing local practitioners and teaching artists to do so.** We are the **only arts presenter in the country with two resident gospel choirs.** And **our Mars Arts D.C. initiative has had year-long residencies with artists including Chelsey Green, The String Queens, Dupont Brass, and VeVe and tha Rebels.** In 2019-20 alone, **we partnered with over 50 organizations, featuring local artists, bands, ensembles, in free events around the city.**

*Testimony, Jenny Bilfield, Washington Performing Arts
Committee of the Whole, May 29, 2020*

Like our peers in the National Capital Arts cohort, it would not be possible to mobilize our programs and partnerships without marshalling a mix of public funding and philanthropy. And, without a base of public funding, it would be impossible to secure private support; the two are inextricably linked. What we are able to achieve within our DC Community, is significant. A copy of our collective Impact Storybook is attached – the same one we submitted with our testimony in February. The stories speak to the ways we address creative enterprise and equity.

Pivoting now to the National Capital Arts Cohort, we strongly support Mayor Bowser’s budget and hope the Council will as well. The budget preserves the dedicated funding stream for the arts, increases the amount available for grants to artists and arts organizations, recommends no changes to the program structure, and embraces equity among artists and arts organizations. We believe the Mayor’s budget is a vital response to the unprecedented decline in revenue for the arts caused by the unprecedented response to the coronavirus crisis.

I’d like to close with a few words about Go-Go, which has been designated the Official Music of Washington DC. With the designation, came Councilmember McDuffie’s very appropriate call to implement a program to support and archive Go-Go Music and its history in the District. The chorus of support has been widespread across many agencies, including the Office of Nightlife and Culture, the DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment, and DC Commission on Arts and Humanities. Go-Go has been part of Washington Performing Arts’ program as well – through our Mars Arts DC concerts, a Go-Go book club, and within our DCPS Honors Ensemble program. Indeed, given the widespread existing advocacy support, this seems like a perfect moment to propel forward a thoughtful strategic planning process that looks long-term – linking multi-agency funding and multi-agency advocacy, to the development of new funding efforts around new resources that support Go-Go’s significance as a cultural touchstone in Washington DC and funds it as such. Not to the exclusion of other art forms or organizations, but as a coordinated, multi-agency effort alongside sustained existing support.

Artists, organizations, and diverse art forms give Washington its unique place in our national, cultural landscape. They are all interconnected. I am proud to be a member of this community and hope that robust public arts funding as currently recommended and structured, will continue to be supported at our highest levels of government. Thank you.

Testimony for C. Brian Williams
Friday, May 29th
DC Commission on Arts & Humanities

Let me begin by first saying Thank you, Mayor Bowser, the City Council for maintaining a dedicated source of revenue for the arts in the FY 21 budget. For many years, the arts has struggled with a very small piece of the financial pie which hampered the growth and development of our sector. Thanks to the Bowser Administration and this dedicated Body of Public Servants, dedicated funding for the arts in only its 1st year has successfully achieved the goal of providing efficient support for the District's arts community and provided an increase in overall arts funding for large and small arts organizations and every arts entity in between.

Through her budget, Mayor Bowser strongly demonstrates that the arts remain an important part of the District's economy and culture and must be supported in order to weather and survive this crisis. Mayor Bowser also increased the arts budget by several million and despite the unprecedented challenges we currently face, we believe that this funding will secure our ability to rebound in the future. Equally important, Mayor Bowser preserved the architecture of the arts funding budget that meets arts groups and artists where they are in their organizational development

Step Afrika! is the largest African American arts organization in the city and employs more *full-time* artists of color than any other arts organization in the Washington, DC. This year, the Company celebrates its 25th year of serving audiences across the District of Columbia. Step Afrika!'s artists perform in every D.C. Ward, bringing stepping into theaters, classrooms, recreation centers, libraries, and more. This budget proposal will allow us to improve the tremendous work we have undertaken for more than 25 years. And although the pandemic has brought our LIVE events to a complete halt, Step Afrika! remains committed to sharing the joy of stepping with DC audiences on the digital platform until we are safely allowed to gather again.

Step Afrika! is also sadly familiar with the obstacles faced by arts organizations of color not only in DC but across the country. I personally built Step Afrika! from the ground up over the last 25 years and Equity issues regarding fundraising, individual donors, grant-making, and overall organizational capacity strike deep at the viability of not only my Company, but my peer organizations of color. I fully expect that the National Capital Arts group will work hand in hand with the DC Commission on Arts & Humanities to create ways to support and broaden the possibilities for these organizations in the immediate future.

As we move forward, please consider Step Afrika! and my work a resource for you as we seek to expand support for the arts in our city and help artists and arts organizations prosper. DC is a world-class city and we must maintain our artistic excellence for years to come. I am very glad to be of service.

TESTIMONY BY REBECCA MEDRANO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GALA HISPANIC THEATRE
Budget Oversight Hearing: Committee of the Whole

I want to start by thanking Mayor Bowser, Chairman Mendelson, and the City Council, for their continued commitment to dedicated funding for the arts and for their direction on funding for the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities, which has ensured more funding for all organizations and individuals. The arts and humanities sectors remain an important part of the District's economy and must be supported in order to survive the current crisis caused by the pandemic.

GALA Hispanic Theatre has a 44--year track record of artistic excellence and service to the community and today stands as a center for Hispanic arts and culture attracting over 22,000 patrons annually. Since opening its permanent home in the historic Tivoli, GALA has helped revitalize Columbia Heights; brought diverse sectors of the community together to share excellent art across economic, social, and cultural barrier; educated thousands of youth in the arts; provided jobs to hundreds of underemployed Latinx artists and technicians; drawn national and international visitors to the city, generating tax revenues for the city; hosted numerous events and programs for groups without performance spaces, including city agencies; and forged dynamic partnerships with arts and social service groups throughout the city.

We are very grateful to the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities for its many years of support and valuable partnership. Over the years, general operating support from the Commission has made it possible for us to produce high quality theater, commission new works by Latinx artists and community residents, and strengthen our human resources and youth education programs. These funds are essential for our institutional growth and stability in these critical times CAH grants have also made it possible for us to serve almost 9,000 elementary and high school students from every Ward in the City, as well as hundreds of teachers. These programs introduce students to live Spanish language or bilingual theater and provide them an opportunity to share ideas about the show in post- performance talk backs. Over the years, grants from the Facilities and Building Initiative have made it possible for us to do critical repairs and upgrades to our facility, making GALA a state-of-the art performance space that serves not only the theater, but over 35 other arts groups and organizations, as well as Churches from throughout the city.

As a part of the National Capital Arts Cohort, we would like to thank Mayor for preserving the dedicated revenue stream for the arts, increasing the amount available for grants and recommending no changes be made to the program. The Mayor's budget will help assure a stable and predictable public funding source, so that in an economic downturn, like this one, arts institutions could bear the burden of the loss in revenue. At GALA we have lost close to \$400,000 in earned revenue, yet we must continue paying our staff and individual artists, all of whom are Latinx or Afro-Latino and depend on this income for survival. Now more than ever we need to support the youth in our out of school program and their families, as they make up a large percent of the vulnerable service workers, live in crowded, unhealthy home environments, and have little access to health care due to language and financial barriers. As a culturally specific theater of color, we cannot rely on our Board of Directors to come up with the necessary funds to meet our challenges, as they have limited financial resources themselves.

We understand and appreciate all the competing claims on diminished revenue and know we have to play our part in supporting the District's recovery. We respectfully request that the Council support the Mayor's budget for the arts.

Finally, we support the Mayor's efforts to seek greater Equity in the entire city and are working on ways in which the National Capital Arts can take on a greater leadership role in this effort amongst the Arts Community.

Thank you for all you are doing to insure that our diverse artists and arts groups thrive and keep Washington DC on the map as a cultural destination that rivals any world capital city.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca Medrano, Executive Director,
GALA Hispanic Theatre



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HUGO MEDRANO, PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
ABEL LOPEZ, ASSOCIATE PRODUCING DIRECTOR

May 26, 2020

Mr. Phil Mendelson
Chair, Council of the District of Columbia

Dear Chair Mendelson:

As Executive Director of GALA Hispanic Theatre, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, I write to let you know we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for in increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

GALA Hispanic Theatre has a 44--year track record of artistic excellence and service to the community and today stands as a center for Hispanic arts and culture attracting over 22,000 patrons annually. Since opening its permanent home in the historic Tivoli, GALA has helped revitalize Columbia Heights; brought diverse sectors of the community together to share excellent art across economic, social, and cultural barrier; educated thousands of youth in the arts; provided jobs to hundreds of underemployed Latinx artists and technicians; drawn national and international visitors to the city, generating tax revenues for the city; hosted numerous events and programs for over 40 groups annually, including City agencies; and



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forged dynamic partnerships with arts and social service groups throughout the city. At GALA we have lost close to \$400,000 in earned revenue due to the pandemic, yet we must continue paying our staff and individual artists, all of whom are Latinx or Afro-Latino and depend on this income for survival. During this time we have continued to serve the Latinx youth in our Out of School program and their families, many of whom are vulnerable service workers who live in crowded, unhealthy environments and have little access to health care due to language and financial barriers.

We hope as a Chair of the City Council, you will support the Mayor's budget for the arts as it was legislated by the Council last year, providing equity and transparency in the grant process.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Medrano
Executive Director



Testimony from Paul Tetreault, Director
Ford's Theatre Society
Hearing, Committee of the Whole
District of Columbia City Council
Friday May 29, 2020

Good Morning Mr. Chairman, members of the Council and staff. My name is Paul Tetreault and, in addition to being the Director of Ford's Theatre for the last 15 years, I am also the Chair of the National Capital Arts group. This cohort contains some of the oldest and most established “non-federal” arts organizations in the city—along with DC’s largest African American and largest Latino arts organization. We employ over 1,000 full-time staff members and thousands more artists annually—many of whom reside right here in the District. Our organizations help to make Washington, DC one of the most artistically vibrant cities in our nation today.

I am here first to say, Thank You, to Mayor Bowser who has put forward a budget proposal, which continues the dedicated source of revenue funding, the granting architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history.

Last year, the National Capital Arts group advocated for a more specific funding directive from the Council that would provide more money in grants to individuals and ALL organizations—and we are thrilled to say that goal has been achieved.

Beyond the specific dollars that were provided to the National Capital Arts cohort —more money was distributed than ever before. Here are a few examples:

- In 2019, excluding the “controversial” Budget Enhancement Grants or “Earmarks”—nearly \$12M was distributed to all other organizations and individuals. In 2020 that number grew by over 33% to nearly \$16M.
- In the largest grant program, the GOS/General Operating Support, over 62% of organizations saw an increase, received a brand new grant, or remained flat.
- The Facilities and Building grant program recipients grew by 50% and average grant dollars grew by 80%.
- There was also an increase in the number of individual grants received and an increase in the total dollars awarded to individuals.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the entire Council for these improvements. The increase in DCCAH funding that has now been proposed in the Mayor’s budget, is deserved and critical to our industry, especially now, when all our theaters and museums are dark for the foreseeable future.

Some believe that the National Capital Arts organizations are immune to this economic crisis; however, this spring alone, our projected loss from ticket sales and admissions exceed \$20M.

We are not alone in these financial challenges. Individual artists and arts organizations all across the city are desperately struggling to survive this unprecedented challenge, and many of them are our partners, artists and staff members. We also recognize that historic inequities have limited the growth and development for arts organizations of color in significant ways. We support greater equity in the arts. As a group, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

We look forward to working with the Council and the Commission to support the DC Arts and Culture community as we begin to rebuild our city's economy following this devastating public health crisis.

Thank you for your time.

Dear Commissioners of the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities:

After reading the minutes of the last several Commission meetings we would like to address what seems to be some confusion and even misperceptions surrounding the National Capital Arts Cohort (NCAC). As the chair of the NCAC organization, I thought it might be helpful to provide some information about NCAC organizations and why the Council created this “funding Cohort” within the DC-CAH. Most importantly, we think it is important for Commissioners, particularly those who are new to this issue, to understand NCAC’s work in support of a thriving community of artists and arts organization in our city.

Background, NCAC

The NCAC is a collective of multiple disciplines: Dance, Theatre, Music, Presenting and Visual Arts and Museums. We are the Gay Men’s Chorus to the Phillips Collection, GALA Hispanic Theatre to the Cathedral Choral Society, Step Afrika! to Arena Stage, Dance Place to the National Museum for Women in the Arts, The Atlas Performing Arts Center to The Shakespeare Theatre, The Washington Ballet to Woolly Mammoth Theatre—and many more. Our organizations collectively have annual incomes of over \$200M and reach audiences of over 2.4M people across all eight wards of the city. We employ over 1,000 full-time staff members and thousands more artists annually—many of whom reside right here in the District.

Our organizations have long been connected to the larger DC Arts community – not siloed or disconnected in any shape or fashion, as has been suggested in some of the conversation at Commission meetings. NCAC contains some of the oldest and most established “non-federal” arts organizations in the city along with DC’s largest African American arts organization as well as the largest LatinX performing arts organization. As demonstrated in our grant applications for decades, and further highlighted in the Impact Storybook (distributed to DCCAHA commissioners in February and attached herein), the NCAC organizations are robust partners within each ward of Washington, working closely with schools and peers of all sizes to ensure equitable access and participation. Our expansive and progressive education programs (in DC public/charter schools) have local and, in many cases, national impact.

Adequate support for these groups is absolutely critical for DC to maintain its presence as a world-class city and NCAC is prepared to do even more in the future towards this regard.

It also is critical to understand that the National Capital Arts Cohort is NOT an exclusive group and is open to ALL organizations, which meet the criteria. In fact, based on the language in the law, we were recently informed of a new member that will join later this month. Each of our organizations has been in existence for at least 10 years—has a budget of over \$1M and is recognized as having a national reputation. Collectively, we bring over 500 years of institutional experience to the DC Arts Community.

NCAC Advocacy for Increased funding to DCCAHA and formula funding:

We are troubled that the NCAC organizations’ advocacy has been overlooked in recent discussions at the Commission. Just two years ago, DCCAHA was receiving just over \$20M in allocated funding, with additional funds provided through budget enhancement grants or “earmarks”. Even as the CAH budget increased, adding staffing and events, grants to NCAC organizations were reduced or did not increase at the same level as non-NCAC groups. For years CAH was unable to create an equitable grant program to support larger organization. NCAC sought to both raise funding levels for all, as well as even the playing

field: we advocated for dedicated tax-based funding and the elimination of earmarks within the DCCA budget, therein providing transparency and more resources for distribution.

The Council recognized the need to make the process more transparent -- and the NCAC worked hard to support changes to the program that would provide this, such as formula funding, while at the same time ensuring that all grantees would receive more funds. **In fact, we strongly supported the formula providing significantly increased funding for non-NCAC organizations, individual artists, and the humanities, and this is reflected in the law today.** For example, prior to the Council-implemented changes of a year ago, Facilities and Building grants (the FAB program) was distributing grants averaging under \$50K. This past year those average grants increased dramatically including two grants of \$700K to Non-NCAC groups! We strongly supported this change.

After years of advocating only for increased dollars in the DC budget, we requested that the Council eliminate "Earmarks" (or Budget Enhancement Grants). We fought for a higher percentage going to FAB so those grants could actually impact Facility projects. We fought for a specific designation for the Humanities Council, and we fought for a specific percentage of grants funds for NCAC groups. Lastly— we fought for greater transparency in how the entire CAH budget works.

This effort was not plucked from "thin air" or created overnight. Even among the cohort there was debate, discussion and compromise. The idea of the National Capital Arts groups has existed for over 35 years—it started with 9 organizations and now numbers 22. Our financial analysis has been worked on for over 2 years including over 4 budget cycles and looking at historical data, every single grant awarded in those years, and what the NCA organization received in total funds—in all budget categories.

Arts in the time of COVID-19: stabilization and equity

NCAC is a critical part of the cultural fabric of Washington, DC, serving hundreds of thousands each year (not including the millions of visitors, internationally) and helping DC earn recognition as one of our country's leading centers of arts and culture. The increase in DCCA funding that has now been achieved, is deserved and critical to our industry, especially now. In addition, just because our organizations are well-established and reach large numbers of people, does not mean that critical assistance is not needed, particularly during this crisis, when all our theaters and museums are dark for the foreseeable future.

In a recent survey of NCAC members we discovered that we will collectively post deficits this year totaling over \$10M. Our projected loss of earned revenue (from ticket sales and admissions) just this spring will exceed \$20M in losses. **However, despite these financial hardships—since the Mayor's Emergency Order which shut our organizations down—along with the rest of the city—we continued to pay over 300 artists to the tune of just under \$1M.**

NCAC is not alone in these financial challenges. Individual artists and arts organizations all across the city are desperately struggling to survive this unprecedented challenge, and many of them are our partners, performers, staff members. We also recognize that historic inequities have limited the growth and development for arts organizations of color in significant ways. Currently we are working at a leadership level to structure initiatives that can further push and support equity in the District, particularly as the city develops strategies to rebuild the District's economy coming out of this crisis in a way that benefits all District residents. We desire to play a major role in capacity building and

mentorship of small and emerging organizations and artists of color across the city. We would be honored to share our ideas regarding this critical effort with the Commission as well as other city officials in the coming weeks and months.

We are hopeful—that this communication has helped provide useful information regarding the members of the NCAC, why it exists in the law as a funding cohort, and our commitment to supporting artists and arts organizations in all 8 wards. We look forward to working with the Commission to support the DC Arts and Culture community as we begin to rebuild our city's economy following this devastating public health crisis.

I hope that my colleagues and myself will have an opportunity to come before a future commission meeting and address any questions you may have. We very much look forward to that opportunity.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Tetreault

Chair

Members of the National Capital Arts Cohort

DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities (DCAH) Testimony

May 29, 2020 Committee of the Whole Hearing

Maureen Dwyer, Executive Director, Sitar Arts Center



- Good Morning Chairman Mendelson and members of the Council. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am Maureen Dwyer, Executive Director of Sitar Arts Center, a nonprofit that provides equitable access to arts learning for DC's children and teens from low-income and marginalized households. 85% of our 900 students are Latino/Hispanic and African American.
- Today, I am also speaking on behalf of the members of the DC Alliance for Arts Education: Capitol Hill Arts Workshop, CityDance, DC Youth Orchestra, Joy of Motion, Levine Music, Sitar Arts Center, and The Theatre Lab School of the Dramatic Arts. Collectively, we educate more than 8,000 DC youth from all 8 wards during the vulnerable out-of-school time hours and employ 400 teaching artists and 115 staff members. I want to thank you Chairman Mendelson and members of the Council for your continuing support of the arts and arts education.
- Right now, our organizations are first responders to young people's urgent socio-emotional needs as they face disparity, isolation, and too frequently trauma in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic. We all immediately adapted to online teaching, mentoring, and fostering community and self-expression through the arts. Our staffs are working remotely and programs are up and running virtually.
- First and foremost, the Alliance requests that the Council support Mayor Bowser's proposed FY 21 budget provisions for the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. The proposed budget retains the dedicated funding for CAH initiated in FY19 and preserves the FY 20 structure that removed earmarks and increased grant funding and transparency. It also allocates a \$3.5M increase to the budget, acknowledging how essential artistic expression is to human's ability to cope with the pandemic induced stresses and knowing that the arts will contribute mightily to a recovering economy.
- Secondly, the Alliance for Arts Education is a group of anchor arts organizations with budgets of \$1 million or more whose core missions are dedicated to arts education for District youth, adults and families. As a group, our general operating support from the Commission has remained flat over the past several years, despite overall funding for the arts increasing. Our budgets are larger than other grantees because we educate more children and teens with programs that are highly intensive in number of hours per day and week. We provide immersive learning in environments rooted in best practices for youth development. Moving forward, the Alliance would like to help shape an equitable funding structure that enables our organizations to sustain the number of students we serve and high quality of our programs.

DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities (DCCA) Testimony

May 29, 2020 Committee of the Whole Hearing

Maureen Dwyer, Executive Director, Sitar Arts Center

- Lastly, the Alliance is hard at work addressing the inequities highlighted in The ReOpen DC report regarding education for our children, and the growing digital divide --all of which are core to the missions of our organizations and to our programming. Now we are collaborating to reach as many DC children and youth during this unprecedented time, when the most vulnerable children are suffering the most learning loss due to reduced school schedules and distance learning. This spring, during COVID-19, we immediately pivoted to online programming so that our students, many of whom have no access to arts education otherwise, can continue to be engaged. As a group, we served nearly 4,000 children and youth this spring and will serve a similar number this summer, on-line, from all 8 wards.
- A closing request - this new way of providing programming is cost intensive in technology, design and staffing. It is a very challenging time to add to our budgets, but we are committed to bridging the divide. The Alliance members are actively seeking additional emergency funds, public and private, so we can continue to respond to the socio-economic needs of DC. At Sitar, we are purchasing tablets for any child that needs one to participate in our interactive Camp and virtual summer musical.
- This new programming is more than a shortterm response to COVID-19. It will increase the ways in which arts education organizations can reach children—for those children who might benefit from individualized focused education with less distractions; for children who might not be able to travel to a facility for arts education; and by increasing approaches for different learning styles. We anticipate online education accompanying our traditional programming in the future.
- The inequities in society have only been intensified through this crisis. For many underserved children, our organizations are their only exposure to the arts and to arts education. Our organizations are keeping our staff and teaching artists employed. Our impact is measured in the number of students we educate and the artists – current and future-- that we support.
- Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Dwyer
Executive Director, Sitar Arts Center
Alliance for Arts Education



TESTIMONY OF ELIZABETH FALCON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DC JOBS WITH JUSTICE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
AGENCY BUDGET HEARING
EVENTS DC
MAY 29, 2020

Chairman Mendelson and members of the DC Council. Thank you for the ability to testify today. My name is Elizabeth Falcon and I am the Executive Director of the DC Jobs with Justice (DC JWJ). DC JWJ is made up of labor organizations, community groups, faith-based organizations, and student groups. We have over 70 member organizations represented in our coalition. Together, we are dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights of working people and supporting community struggles to build a more just society.

DC JWJ helped bring together over 50 organizations to advocate for public funding to provide cash assistance to excluded workers during the pandemic. We appreciate that a majority of the Council, including you, Chairman, shared the sentiment that cash assistance for excluded workers is critical for our safety and recovery. We applaud the Events DC board for responding to the call and providing \$5 million in assistance to undocumented residents. However, much more is needed, and the FY21 budget must reflect the needs in our community.

Excluded workers include tens of thousands of immigrant families and other workers who have been locked out of unemployment and/or federal assistance because of their immigration status or lack of formal work history. These people make DC work. They care for children and grandparents so others can go to their offices, they clean hotel rooms to make our hospitality sector strong, they power our new development by constructing our buildings, they keep our offices clean overnight, they wash dishes and keep bars stocked so we can enjoy our cocktails and DC's fine dining, they sell tamales and roses on the street. They are active members of the DC community.

It is a matter of equity that we ensure excluded workers can access cash assistance. The population that is not covered by cash assistance is almost exclusively Black and Brown residents. They are unable to access traditional or fully legal employment because of structural racism, high incarceration rates, transphobia, and anti-immigrant bias. And any negative impacts stemming from the lack of income and assistance will hurt not only these adults, but their children as well, further disadvantaging them.

Without cash assistance they are at risk of homelessness or other impacts of deepened poverty which will hurt themselves and their families in the long term and cost DC more to resolve later.

Events DC has created a stream, but DC must expand it into a river that can reach our neighbors in need.

I am working tirelessly with five community based organizations who will be implementing the Events DC funds. These organizations are unrelenting in their service to the community every day, and in standing up this new project. And they are joined by nearly 100 other organizations who are creating pipelines into the core agencies so we reach deep into immigrant communities to connect to those in need. We are all waiting eagerly for the process to be fully operational, which we believe will happen very shortly.

Each of these organizations also share our concern that funds will dry up quickly, and the need will overwhelm the cash available.

The \$5 million available from Events DC will provide 5,000 immigrant families with a one-time \$1,000. Unfortunately, there are over 30,000 undocumented residents in DC, so most will not be served. Also, \$1,000 is hardly enough to compensate for the nearly three months of lost revenue most households who have lost work are experiencing. Fair market rent for a two bedroom apartment in DC for one month is over \$1,500.

And we're not only talking about three months. Many immigrant families are in industries that will be slowest to recover (restaurants, hospitality, etc) and will need sustained economic security beyond this period, whether or not DC experiences another peak. It's critically important that immigrant communities are able to stay home when possible and not seek employment. Immigrant neighborhoods having the highest concentration of confirmed cases of COVID 19 in DC.

And while we deeply appreciate that Events DC stepped in the void with funds for undocumented workers, there are still many who are cut out of the traditional economy for other reasons. Transgender residents, returning citizens, and others have been unwelcome in traditional employment due to bias, racism, and transphobia. We cannot allow the District to look the other way while these residents have also been responsible neighbors and stayed home with the rest of us for the good of the whole are left to quietly slip into deep poverty.

These are not ordinary times, and they require extraordinary action. Just as the federal government has poured money into our unemployment system to keep households economically stable, so should DC make cash assistance available to those for whom unemployment is not an option. And we are not talking about as full a benefit as the current unemployment system. But we estimate that providing a realistic baseline of economic security for excluded workers would mean an investment of closer to \$50 million, ten times what is available now.

We want to continue to be partners with the Council to address this need. DC JWC is in touch with nearly 100 organizations who have joined the distributing organizations and Events DC in creating an infrastructure to reach excluded workers. DC Council should build on this by moving more money into the communities most cut off from assistance during the pandemic.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I am happy to answer any questions.

Open letter to ReOpen DC Committee

Statement of need and vulnerability of excluded workers

There are tens of thousands of workers in the District who will not be able to access any form of cash assistance to weather the storm of the immediate Covid-19 crisis. These workers have been excluded because of who they are or the work they perform. Their needs are particularly acute during the pandemic and must be addressed.

In our city, thousands of residents survive in the informal cash economy and are currently out of work. Most have faced structural barriers to joining traditional workplaces, including discrimination based on race, gender orientation, and immigration status; lack of work experience due to incarceration; and poor education and job training from underinvested, segregated schools. These workers include in-home caregivers (for children, elderly, and disabled people), sex workers, day laborers, street vendors, people doing hair, and others, including many returning citizens unable to find formal employment. These excluded workers have no proof of income with which to access cash assistance or unemployment benefits.

Our DC community also includes of thousands of undocumented residents, many with children and spouses who are citizens or legal residents. These community members are an integral part of the DC economy, paying taxes and working in the hospitality, tourism, and construction sectors. Their children attend DC schools. In this COVID-19 crisis, however, thousands are now out of work and are ineligible for either unemployment benefits or the federal cash assistance in the CARES Act (and for which even citizen members of mixed-status families are ineligible).

For many immigrant and informal economy workers, the experience of marginalization and exclusion has increased their vulnerability to chronic health conditions such as HIV and diabetes; few have had healthcare to manage otherwise preventable diseases. **All these excluded workers face greater financial strain and pressure to work even when dangerous to do so. Leaving these workers unprotected, unsupported, and excluded affects the wellbeing of the entire DC community.**

Statement of values

We value the lives of all members of our community, regardless of whether they are marginalized or lack access to power. We believe that our city's recovery depends on protecting *all* community members. Reopening the city must not be done by imperiling the health, labor, and vulnerability of excluded, poor, Black, Brown and immigrant workers. The COVID-19 pandemic has *already* disproportionately negatively affected the lives and wellbeing of these communities, and DC must prevent further inequitable impacts. **An inclusive definition of community wellbeing in the reopening process is necessary to protect the city's health, promote a strong economic recovery, and ensure that the COVID-19 crisis does not further entrench inequities in our city.**

Recommendations

Economic security of excluded workers

Many low-wage and informally employed workers will not be back to pre-COVID-19 levels of employment during the reopening process, which could last months. Additional assistance and strategies will be required to make sure that these families do not fall into dangerous levels of poverty and homelessness, now and into the foreseeable future. **DC must make cash assistance available to undocumented residents, mixed-status families, and cash economy workers.**

DC must also enact a range of strategies to keep renters and low-income homeowners in their homes, especially those who do not have income due to the emergency. Current emergency protections from eviction and rent increases must be extended until well after the final phase of reopening. DC must also enact rent forgiveness and/or widespread rental assistance to families who have lost months of income in order to prevent a large spike in homelessness. This is also true for utility cut-offs and fees. Given the loss of Hope Village, DC needs to create a new pathway for families to be reunited and end incarceration. **Housing returning citizens and those who are currently experiencing homelessness is also critical.**

It is important to keep in mind that the children of these excluded workers face daunting odds given their parents' dire situations. Planners must **focus attention on the nutritional, health, schooling, and overall security needs of children** as an integral part of recovery, to prevent trauma and ensure positive development and growth. Already parents are reporting that 1 in 5 children are not getting enough food at this time.

DC must make Pandemic Assistance a viable option for workers in the informal economy. This requires a program that operates in multiple languages, with low-barrier application processes. DC must allow proof of income beyond a traditional paycheck or invoice to ensure these workers can access the program.

Unfortunately, many families now have an additional expense, the cost of funeral and burial services. **DC must make such funds available for these families who have tragically lost loved ones.**

Excluded workers rely on buses to get to and from work. As DC reopens, **ensuring full service access to public transportation, particularly buses, is critical.** Bus service must be reliable and safe for all DC residents.

Ensuring information and resources are shared across languages and communities

DC should **hire community ambassadors across DC**, particularly in areas where the number of infections and deaths from Coronavirus are high. These paid ambassadors will speak a

variety of languages, share accurate information about prevention of the virus and available services, distribute masks, and relay the community's concerns to the government.

All relevant **government services should be accessible in English, Spanish, Amharic, and American Sign Language**, including a hotline for people to call for information about Coronavirus testing locations. This hotline should continue indefinitely into the future as a reliable source of information on health-related issues for the community.

Areas identified as **hot spots for positive cases, such as Columbia Heights and 16th Street Heights, need the direct support of government-nonprofit partnerships**. The goal of the partnership is to avoid misinformation, provide needed services such as contact tracing and food delivery, assist those in need of maintaining isolation, and support families in seeking care at a community health center or hospital when needed. Many have been scared to seek care even when very sick, for both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 issues, particularly in light of fear about public charge rule changes at the federal level.

The city is hiring over 900 people to do massive contact tracing. They must prioritize the **hiring of bilingual and culturally-competent community members to participate in contact tracing** in order to be successful in reaching marginalized communities who may be fearful about opening the door to English-only speakers, community outsiders, or government workers.

Protecting the health of all communities

First and foremost, **testing must be universal and free** to reopen DC and protect community safety.

In addition, residents must be able to **access the basic supplies** to prevent the spread of the virus, including PPE and basic cleaning supplies. Cleaning supplies have become unaffordable or inaccessible for so many in the city.

During this crisis, DC eliminated the 6-month recertification mandate for the **DC Healthcare Alliance**. This practice should continue from now on to avoid more families becoming uninsured. The rolls of the uninsured have risen along with losses of income and of workplace-linked insurance. There is data showing that at least 25% of people will not get their jobs back when the city is open again.

We must **expand trauma and grief services** as many families have experienced multiple family tragedies due to COVID-19. Many also have not been able to claim the remains of their loved one or been able to give them the proper ceremony or burial. Vulnerable children have been significantly impacted by the switch to distance learning and the loss of school and neighborhood supports. And some families are being affected by rising rates of violence at home. DC must recognize and address the toll all of these take on our families and prepare for an increase in post-traumatic stress symptoms.

DC must acknowledge that both homelessness and incarceration greatly increase the danger of exposure to COVID-19. Having recently lost Hope Village, **DC must create pathways out of incarceration and into the community. Housing must be seen as the number one solution to protecting homeless individuals and families.**

Protecting all people at work

It is the responsibility of employers to make sure that workers are safe at work. **Employers should be responsible for supplying PPE and cleaning supplies** to ensure a sanitary workspace for all workers. Although this might delay the reopening of many businesses as these supplies are difficult to access, it must be recognized that it is even harder - and inappropriate - for employees themselves to take on such costs.

Essential workers on the frontlines are taking on difficult jobs and often endangering their lives in the process. These essential workers include nannies and childcare providers, home care workers, grocery workers, workers delivering all kinds of goods, transportation providers, sanitation providers, healthcare workers and cleaners, among others. It is appropriate for workers to be compensated for this additional risk through **the addition of hazard pay.**

All workers need access to sick days to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to allow time to recuperate. Recent federal legislation enacted paid sick days for up to two weeks for many workers across the United States. However, many workers were carved out. The law excludes emergency responders; workers whose employers have 500 or more employees; and workers who fall into a broad definition of "health care provider." **DC must fill in the gap and ensure that all workers have access to at least two weeks of paid sick leave.**

During a time of increased threats to workers' health and wellbeing it is crucial that DC continue to enforce and implement labor standards and social programs. Now more than ever, workers can not afford to lose out on their right to a living wage, sick leave and paid family and medical leave. **DC must implement the \$15 minimum wage and Paid Family Leave Program on July 1 as planned.**

We urge the ReOpen DC Committee to integrate these solutions into DC's reopening process.

Sincerely,

1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East MD/DC
32BJ SEIU
Bread for the City
Briya Public Charter School
DC Jobs With Justice
Jews United for Justice
Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor
LiUNA Local 11

Many Languages One Voice
Mary's Center
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Domestic Workers Alliance - DC Chapter
Positive Force DC
The Platform of Hope
Restaurant Opportunity Center - DC
Trabajadores Unidos de Washington DC
UNITE HERE Local 23
Washington Teachers Union
We Are Family Senior Outreach Network

Many additional organizations are working with and advocating for excluded workers, however, this is the complete list at the time that this document was sent to ReOpen DC.

Testimony for C. Brian Williams
Friday, May 29, 2020
Events DC

Founded in Washington DC in 1994, Step Afrika! is the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping. In addition to performing locally, nationally and internationally, the company is also dedicated to arts education activities serving over 18,000 students in the DMV each year.

Step Afrika! is the largest African American arts organization in the city and employs more *full-time* artists of color than any other arts organization in the Washington, DC. This year, the Company celebrates its 25th year of serving audiences of all ages across the District of Columbia. Step Afrika!'s artists perform in every D.C. Ward, bringing stepping into theaters, classrooms, recreation centers, libraries, and more. Although the pandemic has brought all of our public-facing programs to a complete halt, Step Afrika! remains committed to sharing the joy of stepping with as many people as possible as we explore the digital platform.

Events DC funding allows organizations like Step Afrika! to make a significant cultural and community impact in the District and represent the District to out-of-town audiences. Events DC, through its generous and accessible grant programs, annually helps my organization serve Washington, DC in extremely creative ways, reminding citizens of the tremendous beauty within our city limits and introducing many to the amazing creative opportunities found here. One of Step Afrika!'s recent projects, StepFest on Kingman & Heritage Islands, supported by Events DC, saw my Company activate one of our city's most under-utilized assets and green spaces. Since this project launched in 2017, Kingman & Heritage Islands are visited and enjoyed more than ever and its future as a community-gathering space looks incredibly bright. Events DC helps to make projects like StepFest and so many others possible for small and mid-size arts organizations. Support for Events DC invariably translates into support for many, many groups and individuals across our city.

Step Afrika! is also a recipient of funding from Events DC over the past several years including \$25k to support Step Afrika!'s 25th Anniversary Gala in 2019. The Company serves as a "cultural ambassador" of Washington DC while performing abroad and represents the richness of Washington DC as a premiere cultural destination to international audiences. We also look forward to activating new spaces developed by Events DC in Wards 7 and 8 as the year progresses. Events DC invests in all of our city's wards, creating safe spaces for our community to gather and celebrate.

I wholeheartedly support Events DC as they continue to invest deeply in Washington DC. Thanks so much for your time and consideration.

**Testimony of
Conrad Kenley
DC Jazz Festival
To the Committee of the Whole
Friday, May 29, 2020**

Good morning, Chairman Mendelsohn and members of the DC Council Committee Of The Whole. On behalf of the DC Jazz Festival, thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of the work being carried out by Events DC.

My name is Conrad Kenley and I proudly serve as Chairman of the DC Jazz Festival's Board of Directors. Founded in 2004, the DC Jazz Festival is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing enriching and entertaining programs that introduce students and adults from all walks of life to jazz.

Our annual DC JazzFest is the District's largest jazz festival and a signature event on Washington's cultural calendar. Since its inception, the DC JazzFest has grown in size and stature, and has attracted visitors from across the United States and abroad.

In addition, our organization provides free, year-round education programs that extend our reach into underserved communities and enhance the quality of life for DC public and charter schools students.

Events DC has supported the DC JazzFest since 2010 and in 2017, Events DC became the Presenting Sponsor of the DC JazzFest. In 2019, Events DC provided \$500,000 of financial support that was critical for the Festival to attract higher profile talent, expand programming, extend our marketing campaign to national publications, and increase visitation to the District.

Most recently, the 2019 DC JazzFest attracted a record-breaking 150,000 attendees. It featured 167 events in more than 40 DC clubs, hotels, galleries, community centers, libraries and arts venues. Programming took place in 25 neighborhoods across all 8 wards of the District.

The festival's signature DC JazzFest at The Wharf weekend presented 45 diverse programs on multiple stages, including The Anthem. Our Education Village at The Wharf offered free all-day education programs for children and adults with our festival headliners. In total, programming at The Wharf served 117,000 attendees, a 310% increase over 2018.

The economic impact to the District of the DC JazzFest has grown to \$50 million, including more than 21,000 hotel room nights in 2019.

Continued funding from Events DC has been critical to this growth. Simply put, the DC JazzFest would not take place without Events DC's support.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have. Thank you.



**TESTIMONY OF DIANA MAYHEW, PRESIDENT/CEO
NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL**

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OF THE WHOLE/
EVENTS DC**

May 29, 2020

Good morning Chairman Mendelson and members of the Committee of the Whole. My name is Diana Mayhew, President and CEO of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, Inc. (“NCBF”). NCBF is a District-based 501(c) (3) organization that was established in 1985 to plan, coordinate, and promote the National Cherry Blossom Festival (“Festival”). I appreciate the opportunity to testify today in support of Events DC, an important organization that supports so many city functions. The National Cherry Blossom Festival is among the D.C. organizations that they support annually, through not only financial investment, but also leadership involvement and service on NCBF’s board of directors. The Events DC marketing team also provides guidance and collaboration to support the Festival’s marketing efforts and brand experiences, including the award-winning National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade® (“Parade”).

This year’s unusual spring and unprecedented challenges demonstrated the importance of Events DC’s support, as well as the Council’s support. Festival events were cancelled only nine days prior to opening day. Working with key stakeholders and technology partners, the Festival team

was able to immediately pivot to present a Virtual Festival. We brought engaging experiences as well as the blossoms to the living rooms of **hundreds of thousands of people from around the world**, and garnered more than **3.5 billion impressions** through earned media and public relations, keeping a positive spotlight on the District of Columbia at a time when we needed it the most. In addition, we were able to continue our efforts for D.C. community programs, as well as present an “encore presentation” of the Parade, a compilation of past Parade broadcasts, which was nationally syndicated, airing in 92% of U.S. markets.

As Events DC takes a lead in the economic recovery efforts of Washington, DC, the National Cherry Blossom Festival organization will work closely with them and other city organizations to play a key role in that recovery plan.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

DC Chapter - National Domestic Workers Alliance
Testimony before the Committee of the Whole - Agency Budget Oversight (Events DC)
29 May 2020

My name is Ingrid, and I'm a domestic worker. I'm a member of the DC chapter of the National Domestic Workers Alliance, and I'm speaking today on behalf of the tens of thousands of domestic workers in the DC area. Our chapter has spoken with members of the Council before about our Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, a proposal which was introduced in the Fall of 2019, and which is currently with the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development. Domestic workers are excluded from some of the most basic worker protections, and our proposal would ensure that we have all the same rights that any other worker has.

Today, we would like to speak on a different topic - the crisis of unemployment that many of us are facing as a result of the COVID pandemic.

I've been working in DC for 20 years. Before the pandemic, I'd been working cleaning homes, but in the past I've been a nanny and have also taken care of senior citizens. The work that we do as domestic workers is essential. That's never been more clear than it is now, during the pandemic. That's why we're here today - we are asking you to recognize all the work we do taking care of the community.

The situation right now is crazy for so many people. So many of us have lost work and have little to no income to take care of ourselves and our families. For those who aren't eligible for federal COVID relief, including immigrants, people are barely getting by - we're sharing with each other and helping each other out. But there's not much to go around. I even know some domestic workers who've gotten sick with COVID, and they don't have the resources to take care of themselves during these difficult times.

We don't know how long we're going to be in this situation. It's not only putting us in an impossible situation economically, it's also affecting us emotionally. It depresses you to feel so uncertain about the future.

We appreciate that Events DC has already committed \$5 million for workers who are excluded from federal COVID relief, and we appreciate the community organizations that are working together to distribute these funds. We also know that one-time payments of \$1000 for 5,000 families are a great start, but they are not going to be enough. This crisis of unemployment is going to stretch on for many more months, and we will need much more to survive. And, there are tens of thousands of families in DC that qualify, but with current funding, only 5,000 will get help.

As a member of the Excluded Workers' Coalition, we're calling on the Council to include additional funding in the Events DC budget, to continue to support excluded workers in the difficult months ahead. This money is literally a lifeline for thousands of DC families.

Whether we are immigrants or U.S. born, the pandemic is affecting all of us in some way. It's attacking everyone. As human beings, we should have empathy with one another, no matter your religion, race, status, or language. We are asking you to recognize our dignity and our humanity.

Testimony for the Record



Dear DC Councilmember:

I serve on the Board of Trustees for Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, which is a member of Arts Action DC and the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs (NCACA) cohort. I am writing on behalf of Hillwood and the NCACA cohort in support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for arts funding.

The Mayor's FY21 budget maintains the important dedicated funding, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. The budget also provides an increase in the critical dedicated financial support DC arts and culture organizations so urgently need during this unprecedented time. In FY21, funds from the DC government and DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities will be more crucial than ever to ensure that the cultural life of the District continues to thrive and tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Over the last four years, the NCACA cohort has taken the lead in advocating for increased arts funding for every arts organization in the District. We believe a diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours and helps foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture in the District. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential to the DC arts community. With increased funding, all of DC's arts and culture organizations will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law. As we stated during last year's budget process - all boats rise.

With a permanent collection containing more than 20,000 works of art, including the most comprehensive collection of Russian Imperial art outside of Russia and an outstanding collection of 18th-century French decorative arts, as well as changing annual special exhibitions, Hillwood takes great pride in the offerings we provide more than 80,000 visitors each year. But we are perhaps most proud of the more than 300 educational programs we offer annually to adults, families, and youth from every Ward in the District. Dedicated arts funding has helped make these programs possible, and increased funding has enabled us to enhance and expand programs to reach new audiences and deepen our engagement with these audiences. In this time of social distancing, Hillwood, like so many arts nonprofits, has endeavored to be both creative and fiscally responsible with our resources while finding innovative ways to remain connected to our patrons and the wider public. Despite the fact that Hillwood is currently closed, staff are still working to serve visitors from across the country through virtual experiences and programming, including video lectures and workshops, mobile tours of Hillwood's Mansion and gardens, printable art projects and activities for families, and more. The FY21 budget proposal will enable us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken in DC for more than 43 years.

We know there are huge challenges ahead of us next year, and continuing dedicated funding for the arts will be more critical than ever. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for DC arts organizations, which serve hundreds of thousands of DC residents each year through compelling and unique cultural programming.

Respectfully,

Nedenia C. Rumbough



Dear DC Councilmember:

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Respectfully,

Sally E. Chapoton



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Respectfully,

W. Brett Rees



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Respectfully,

Stanley H. Rumbough



Dear DC Councilmember:

I serve as Assistant Treasurer of the Board of Trustees for Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, which is a member of Arts Action DC and the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs (NCACA) cohort. I am writing on behalf of Hillwood and the NCACA cohort in support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for arts funding.

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Respectfully,

Sophie Hawkins



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Respectfully,

Jocelyn Linke



Dear DC Councilmember:

I serve on the Board of Trustees for Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, which is a member of Arts Action DC and the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs (NCACA) cohort. I am writing on behalf of Hillwood and the NCACA cohort in support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for arts funding.

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Respectfully,

Nancy Appleby



Dear DC Councilmember:

I serve as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees for Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, which is a member of Arts Action DC and the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs (NCACA) cohort. I am writing on behalf of Hillwood and the NCACA cohort in support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for arts funding.

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Respectfully,

Lucy Street Rhame



Dear DC Councilmember:

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Respectfully,

George D. Iverson



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Respectfully,

Amy Ballard



Dear DC Councilmember:

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Respectfully,

Josh Hildreth



Dear DC Councilmember:

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Alison Martin



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2019-2020 Performance Oversight & FY 2021 Budget Schedules DC COMMISSION ON THE ARTS & HUMANITIES (CAH) TESTIMONY

Julianne Brienza, President & CEO, Capital Fringe; WARD 6 resident and 18-year resident of DC

I want to thank Chairman Mendelson and Mayor Bowser for their work and dedication during the budget process for 20' and standardizing the CAH budget. Their work not only aligned real-time priorities but allowed for further transparency to grantees.

It would be an understatement to say the 10.5% increase to the overall CAH 21' proposed budget and the 15% to the Arts and Humanities Cohort is a surprise and a miracle. In my planning to keep Capital Fringe afloat during this moment, I had decreased the projected grant total from CAH for 21' by 50%.

This increase from the DC government is the type of leadership that I strive to see in my city and the world. If you scan larger to mid-size US cities and their proposed budgets for 21, the arts and humanities are receiving substantial cuts or being entirely eliminated. The leadership and wisdom that the DC government is showing illustrates their fundamental understanding of how arts and humanities organizations and individual artists drive our economy and impact small businesses and the entire fabric of our world-class city.

This moment is an incredibly uncertain time, particularly for the arts and humanities. In reviewing the proposed 21' budget and its U-shaped recovery framework, I think it is fair to ask, if the City experiences a W-shaped recovery (as opposed to a U-shaped one), does the City's budget become invalid?

With this in mind and given the myriad of uncertainties that we all face, I request that included in the grant notifications slated to be distributed at the top of the City's fiscal year to organizations awarded funds from CAH, is an "ironclad" guarantee to ensure that the two payment disbursements (amount and payment schedule) are protected regardless of the type of recovery that the City actually experiences.

Current grant agreement language is: Section 3 (e) CAH's Obligations.

Pay to Grantee the Grant Amount as provided in Attachment A. CAH may choose not to pay to Grantee all or any portion of the Grant Amount if: (1) this Agreement terminates before the end of the Grant Period; (2) Grantee does not send to CAH the Required Documents on time; and/or **(3) the Grant funds are not available to CAH.** Grantee must visit the "Managing Grant Awards" sub-tab under the "Grants" tab of CAH's website (at www.dcartarts.dc.gov) for an overview of the District of Columbia Government payment process, including invoice submission.

Here, specifically item (3) included in the three reasons that CAH may not pay out the grant needs to be updated to ensure grantees are not at risk of only receiving half of their award. If this is unable to happen, I request that CAH provide a clear and transparent strategy for honest communication with all grantees during the grant award-process.

In 2021 the CAH Board and Staff must explore ways and become empowered to execute an increase in the percentage of new grantees to its funding opportunities. The 18.2% increase in 2019 was promising but was a decrease from the prior year. I am interested to know what the actual increase is for 2020. Given social distancing, it is vital the CAH Board and Staff are set up to reach new grantees in innovative ways. Additionally, the CAH Staff and Board need to explore ways to set up intra-agency funding opportunities to continue to increase this percentage.

Finally, I would be remiss not to end my testimony without acknowledging the extraordinary work and dedication of Heran Sereke-Brhan and her staff and Kay Kendell and the full CAH Board. They are in a position to lead during a time that there are no straight answers. I value that they know the bounds of their roles, but they have the wisdom to push forward to reach more individuals through their agency's services.

STUDIO
THEATRE

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
c/o Evan Cash
Council of the District of Columbia
Via email: pmendelson@dccouncil.us; ecash@dccouncil.us

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

As you may know, Studio Theatre is a proud member of the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities' (CAH) National Capital Arts cohort program.

We are incredibly grateful for the generous support the D.C. Council and CAH has provided to us over the years. Since its inception 52 years ago, CAH has made it possible for arts organizations in the District to bring inspirational and thought provoking works to audiences of all ages and to serve as an important economic engine. Without the generous grants provided by CAH, the work of so many would not be possible, and the arts sector would not generate the significant tax revenue it provides to the city each year.

Particularly during this unprecedented health and financial crisis, the dedicated funding you put in place has been a lifeline to prevent catastrophic negative consequences to our institutions, which are currently closed because of the virus. It has allowed us to provide payment to our artists and staff, and support for our artistic and educational programming. Now as the nation faces new challenges as we continue to work towards finding a path forward in the wake of the COVID-19 health crisis, the District's arts organizations are also facing new challenges.

All of the participating organizations depend upon "mass gatherings" of people—whether we are in a rehearsal room, in a performance venue, displaying and presenting fine arts in our facilities, or hosting field trips for public schools. In this time of social distancing and lockdown of public spaces we have tried to be creative and fiscally responsible with our scarce resources, while finding ways to remain connected to our patrons and program partners. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Council and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

At Studio Theatre specifically, we have closed our facility for the remainder of this season, through the end of August, in order to keep our artists, our staff and our audiences safe. This included cancelling our production of *Pass Over* in the middle of its run in mid-March and subsequent productions of *Fun Home* and *Aspen Ideas*.

Despite losing over 15% of our income for the year due to these cancelled performances, our entire staff is currently continuing to receive their full salaries (save for a significant pay cut taken by executive leadership) and are working remotely to plan and produce our next season, create virtual field trips that can supplement the learning of public school students throughout the District, and offer new and innovative free on-line content for audiences across the District and beyond. Because the people who make art are at the heart of what we do, we also paid our artists and

STUDIO

THEATRE

part-time staff for the cancelled weeks of *Pass Over* performances *and* are looking for ways to offer the same support for upcoming productions that were cancelled. Despite receiving emergency relief funds, the cash flow challenges the organization faces are significant ones. Going forward, we will be evaluating what emergency resources are available and what cost cutting measures we can take to preserve our mission of using theatre to foster a more thoughtful, more empathetic, and more connected community, in Washington DC and beyond for the thousands of audience members, hundreds of students, and scores of artists that we serve each year.

While we look to a future where we can bring people together again through live theatre, we know that this global pandemic will pose many challenges and restrictions on that in the year ahead, putting severe limitations on our ability to drive revenue. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. As you begin to craft the FY 2021 budget, under the most difficult of circumstances, I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

We thank you for your ongoing support and consideration.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Ende Lichtenberg
Managing Director

Folger SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY

Advancing knowledge & the arts

May 28, 2020

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

As you may know, the Folger Shakespeare Library is a proud member of the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities' (CAH) National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY2021 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

The Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The Folger Shakespeare Library has operated and served the District of Columbia for more than 70 years. We are the world's largest Shakespeare collection, the ultimate resource for exploring Shakespeare and his world. We provide unparalleled access to a huge array of resources to millions of visitors online and in-person. At the Folger, you can experience the power of performance, the wonder of exhibitions, and the excitement of pathbreaking research. We offer the opportunity to see and even work with early modern sources, driving discovery and transforming education for students of all ages.

We believe that our mission is fueled by a dedicated, loyal, and talented team of professionals and area experts and we are committed to them. As we review the impact of lost revenues, and reduction in the return on our endowment on which we are dependent, we will prioritize the

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

201 East Capitol Street, SE Washington, DC 20003-1004

Phone 202 675 0300 Fax 202 675 0330 www.folger.edu

retention of our staff as we plan ahead to remain a private institution on Capitol Hill that has exhibitions and many programs that are always free and open to the public.

We learn, we teach, we enact, and we share. We believe that with roots in our collection from an era that produced democracy as we know it (alongside some of the greatest stories of the human condition ever told), and situated the crossroads of American democracy, we have something valuable to impart that will enrich and uplift the discourse in our national life. Our own measures to be as efficient and responsible as possible with limited resources, combined with your reliable support, will be essential to our doing just that.

Despite our best efforts, we know that there are huge challenges ahead of us as we start planning for our 2021-2022 season, and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents.

I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

We thank you for your ongoing support and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Witmore", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Michael Witmore
Director, Folger Shakespeare Library

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of Dance Place, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant programs, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. All members of the National Capital Arts group support greater equity in the arts, and Dance Place has made that a cornerstone of our work for 39 years. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been a leader for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours, to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

For 39 years Dance Place has served the District of Columbia, including over 25,000 students, audiences and artists through onsite and offsite classes, youth enrichment programs, rehearsals, and performances each year. The patrons we serve reside in all wards of Washington DC, the surrounding DMV community, as well as artists from throughout the United States. Hundreds of artists, teachers, and arts administrators count on Dance Place for their livelihood each month. Dance Place is the only venue in our nation's capital exclusively devoted to the training, creation AND presentation of dance performances. Dance Place pivoted quickly to provide meaningful virtual content to support our artists, dance teachers, youth and adult dance students, and audiences. To date, Dance Place has provided 28 virtual youth dance classes that have reached 1,452 participants, a dramatic increase from the 720 youth we serve annually for an in-person Kids on the Move series. Since our facility closure and in-person programming suspension in March, our adult dance class series has made the virtual shift to Facebook Live, with our adult dance class teachers each providing a free weekly class in genres such as modern, hip hop, Cuban, tap, and African. Since March 19, seven of our adult class educators have taught a total of 68 dance classes (8 classes per week) via Facebook Live for 1,773 dancers across the globe.

Whether in person, or online, Dance Place continues to connect communities. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have been providing our community for decades.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Janice Marks
3219 7th Street NE
WDC 20017

The Go-Go Collective franksiriusmail@gmail.com
Don't Mute DC info@dontmutedc.com
Make Go-Go Forever Task Force simplybpresent@gmail.com

May 6, 2020

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE GO-GO COMMUNITY: LET OUR MUSIC LIVE

To: The Honorable Mayor Muriel Bowser

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Councilmember Charles Allen
Councilmember Anita Bonds
Councilmember Mary M. Cheh
Councilmember David Grasso
Councilmember Vince C. Gray
Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie
Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau
Councilmember Elissa Silverman
Councilmember Brandon T. Todd
Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.
Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

Dear Mayor Bowser and Council of DC,

Just a few short months ago in February, we were all celebrating the new law Making Go-Go the Official Music of DC. Then COVID-19 dropped a bomb on our industry.

This letter is a request that you include in the FY2021 budget the resources to make this new law a reality and ensure our music survives the coronavirus. A report released on April 10th by Don't Mute DC's Charles C. Stephenson Jr. and Dr. Suzanne Goodnea Lea makes two recommendations:

- Create a **\$40 million endowment for the Go-Go Performing Arts** that would generate annual grants to preserve and protect our music and support education initiatives such as Teach the Beat for future generations of Washingtonians.
- Create a **“Go-Go Cohort” within the DC Arts and Humanities Commission (DCAHC)** that would receive 15 percent of all arts and humanities grants annually.

These recommendations are crucial to saving our music. They are also a matter of basic fairness and equity. In the past year, you unanimously passed two major pieces of cultural legislation: 1) Bill 23-0317 made Go-Go the Official Music of Washington, D.C. This law came with no budget or resources. 2) In May 2019, you passed another law that sets aside 28 percent of all public arts grant funding to a group called the National Capital Arts Cohort (NCAC). In this year's FY2020 budget alone, this entitlement was \$8 million.

The NCAC cohort is comprised of 20 D.C. organizations spanning the genres of ballet, visual art, architecture, dance, choral music, theatre and two Shakespeare organizations. To be a member of NCAC, the DC arts organization must have budgets of over \$1 million, and this

The Go-Go Collective franksiriusmail@gmail.com
Don't Mute DC info@dontmutedc.com
Make Go-Go Forever Task Force simplybpresent@gmail.com

group also successfully lobbied for federal funding in addition to their guaranteed money from DC taxpayers. This law means that NCAC arts organizations don't have to compete for public grants as we Go-Go artists and every other DC arts organizations must.

We understand that COVID-19 has made it challenging to honor your commitment to the arts in these two pieces of legislation. You must find the money to pay \$8 million for this new NCAC entitlement in this FY2020 year alone, and forever moving forward. We are simply asking: where is the equity for Go-Go?

Because Go-Go has never been part of DC arts funding, investing in a Go-Go endowment would allow our industry to catch up. If you make an investment now in establishing an endowment, the go-go community can live off the interest forever. In addition, establishing a 15-percent set-aside from the DCAHC, similar to the NCAC deal, will bring equity to go-go.

Despite these funding inequities, and with nearly zero public investments in the past four decades, we take pride in creating what no other city has: its very own music genre. Shakespeare was a genius, but he wasn't from here. Chuck Brown was both, and the new law making Go-Go the Official Music honors his legacy. But without making the same financial investments the city has made to other art forms, this honor is an empty symbolic exercise.

We deserve more than a celebration. We deserve equitable investment.

Let the music live in the hearts and souls of our DC natives, newcomers and visitors. We seek to engrave the sound of the city into every aspect of Washington D.C., reflecting this honored new status. Being the "Official Music of DC" means supporting policies that ensure that music is heard both in DC and around the world. These investments will provide a much-needed economic stimulus to our communities, as [recommended by the DC Fiscal Policy Institute COVID-19 budget recommendations to save Black businesses](#), and will pay the city back in future tourism revenues similar to other music cities such as Nashville, Austin and New Orleans.

The decisions you make in this budget and legislative cycle will determine whether all of our celebrations that happened on Feb. 19 were bitter or sweet. Please make them sweet. Support the recommendations of the Stephenson/Lea report.

Signed,

Anwan "Big G" Glover, **BACKYARD BAND**
Cherie Mitchell-Augur **BE'LA DONA**
Tom Goldfogle, manager **CHUCK BROWN BAND**
Gregory "Sugar Bear" Elliot **E.U.**
Maurice Shorter, **JUNKYARD BAND**
Michelle Blackwell, **WHAT? Band**
Jody Poe, **NEW IMPRESSIONZ**
Jas. Funk, **RARE ESSENCE**
"Big Tony" Fisher **TROUBLE FUNK**
Michael Bailey, **UCB**
Derrick Holmes, **DC VYBE BAND**

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Jennifer Kiefer Thomas <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 4:48 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Arts Funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am a member of the DC arts Community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Jennifer

Jennifer Kiefer Thomas
Deputy Director of Development,
Special Events and Administration
Ford's Theatre | Where Lincoln's Legacy Lives
Mailing Address: 514 10th St. NW, Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) [REDACTED] | Fax: (202) [REDACTED]
Cell: (301) [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
www.fords.org

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Sarah Jencks <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 5:06 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: FY21 arts funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the D.C. arts Community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

As a Ward 1 resident working in Ward 2, a diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many District students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

--

Sarah Jencks
Director of Education and Interpretation
Ford's Theatre Society | Where Lincoln's Legacy Lives
514 Tenth Street NW
Washington DC 20004

O [REDACTED]
M 2 [REDACTED]
Follow us on Twitter [@FordsEdu](https://twitter.com/FordsEdu)

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Jamie Pate <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 11:05 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for the Arts in the DC Budget

May 21, 2020

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of Studio Theatre, which is a member of Arts Action DC and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for in increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Studio Theatre has been an anchor institution on the 14th Street Corridor for over 40 years. Each year we serve over 60,000 patrons from across the District and the Washington region, 20% of whom attend with free or deeply discounted tickets made available through public schools, partnerships with organizations like N Street Village and Whitman-Walker Health, and the offices of DC Councilmembers with our Ward Night program. This budget proposal will allow us to continue fulfilling our mission to foster a more thoughtful, more empathetic, and more connected community through live theatre for the thousands of audience members, hundreds of students, and scores of artists that we serve each year.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Sincerely,

Jamie Pate
2700 Woodley Road, Apt. 214
Washington, DC 20008

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Joshua Drew <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 8:25 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: FY21 budget and support of proposal for funding the arts

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the DC arts Community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Joshua Drew
Associate Director of Finance
Ford's Theatre | Where Lincoln's Legacy Lives
Mailing Address: 514 10th St. NW, Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
www.fords.org

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Brandon Prendergast <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 11:21 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: FY21 Arts Funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the DC arts community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Brandon Prendergast

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Noemi Neidorff <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 11:39 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for DC Mayor's proposal for Arts Funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of Ford's Theatre, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Ford's Theatre has operated and served the District of Columbia for more than 50 years. Each year, we reach over 650,000 patrons annually from across the city and this nation. Our education programs have made a particular impact on the public schools in the District. Additionally, we employ nearly 100 employees and, for the last several years, have focused on employing primarily local actors. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken for more than 50 years. Despite the current challenges, Ford's Theatre is still working to serve students, teachers and learning enthusiasts from D.C. and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep our mission moving forward, we have created new additional online tools, programs and resources. Our education team is working directly with their network of teachers to find out how we can best support them.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Noémi K. Neidorff

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Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Amy Weinberg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 11:52 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for continued arts funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am a DC resident and member of the Board of Trustees of Studio Theatre. Studio is a member of Arts Action DC and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been a leader for increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Studio Theatre has been an anchor institution on the 14th Street Corridor for over 40 years. Each year we serve over 60,000 patrons from across the District and the Washington region, 20% of whom attend with free or deeply discounted tickets made available through public schools, partnerships with organizations like N Street Village and Whitman-Walker Health, and the offices of DC Councilmembers with our Ward Night program. This budget proposal will allow us to continue fulfilling our mission to foster a more thoughtful, more empathetic, and more connected community through live theatre for the thousands of audience members, hundreds of students, and scores of artists that we serve each year.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve

District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Amy Weinberg

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Wu, Patricia <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 12:44 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget ~The Washington Ballet

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a resident of Ward 3 and a member of the Board of The Washington Ballet, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group.

I am writing this time to ask for your support for Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal, which includes funding for the arts. This budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The Washington Ballet has operated and served the District of Columbia for 75 years. Each year, we reach over 90,000 patrons annually as part of our main stage productions from across the city and this nation. Additionally, our nationally acclaimed school of ballet reaches nearly 2,000 students annually and our outreach programs have made a particular impact on more than 150,000 DC Public School students over the last 15 years. We employ 190 artistic and administrative staff many of whom are DC residents. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken for more than 75 years. Despite the current challenges, The Washington Ballet is still working to serve students, teachers and learning enthusiasts from D.C. and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep our mission moving forward, we have created new additional online tools, programs and resources. Our education team is working directly with their network of teachers to find out how we can best support them.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Patricia Wu Bacigalupo

Patricia Wu

Vice President and Managing Director

C&M International | www.cmintl.com

o: [REDACTED] c: [REDACTED]

[Bio](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

C&M INTERNATIONAL LLC
— Crowell & Moring —

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Navroz Gandhi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 12:51 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for the Mayor's FY21 budget proposal for funding the Arts

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of Studio Theatre, which is a member of Arts Action DC and the National Capital Arts group, and I am writing to support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget proposal for funding the arts.

The Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are in much need of during this unprecedented time in history. I also support greater equity in the arts. I believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts group has been a leader for an increase in arts funding for **ALL** organizations across the city. Studio supports greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. Studio also supports the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as Studio has stated, during last year's budget process, **All Boats Rise**—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is key to the life of any city, but especially to the District. As such, stable institutions such as Studio Theatre are required as we help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next fiscal year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming are even more crucial than ever before to ensure that the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and that the tax revenue (both direct and indirect) generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Studio Theatre has been an anchor institution on the 14th Street Corridor for over 40 years. Each year, Studio serves over 60,000 patrons from across the District and the Washington region, 20% of whom attend with free or deeply discounted tickets made available through public schools, partnerships with organizations like N Street Village and Whitman-Walker Health, and the offices of DC Councilmembers with our Ward Night program. The Mayor's budget proposal will allow us to continue this tradition and help us fulfill our mission to foster a more thoughtful, more empathetic, and more connected community through live theatre for the thousands of audience members, hundreds of students, and scores of artists that we serve each year.

There are huge challenges ahead for Studio during this next year and this is why the continuity of a dedicated funding source for the arts is more critical than ever before to allow us to continue to serve District residents. I

hope you will support continued dedicated funding for us as well as all D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Navroz Gandhi

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Eric Spiegel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: FW: Support for Mayor's Proposal for Arts Funding

Please see the letter below.

Thanks,

Eric

From: Eric Spiegel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 12:55 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Support for Mayor's Proposal for Arts Funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member and former Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Ford's Theatre, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

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Ford's Theatre has operated and served the District of Columbia for more than 50 years. Each year, we reach over 650,000 patrons annually from across the city and this nation. Our education programs have made a particular impact on the public schools in the District. Additionally, we employ nearly 100 employees and, for the last several years, have focused on employing primarily local actors. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken for more than 50 years. Despite the current challenges, Ford's Theatre is still working to serve students, teachers and learning enthusiasts from D.C. and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep our mission moving forward, we have

created new additional online tools, programs and resources. Our education team is working directly with their network of teachers to find out how we can best support them.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Eric A. Spiegel
Former CEO of Siemens USA
Chairman Emeritus Ford's Theatre

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Justin Fyala <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 1:29 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: FY21 DCCAH Funding

Dear Chairperson Mendelson;

I am the Executive Director of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. GMCW is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. GMCW also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in D.C. Moving into FY21, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging, quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

GMCW has been a vital fixture in the cultural landscape of our nation's capital since 1981 and has a great impact on the creative economy in D.C. Not only do we have a robust audience within D.C. and the surrounding regions, we also attract hundreds of tourists to our one-of-a-kind performances each season. Guided by a mission to inspire equality and inclusion for all people, GMCW's 300-member ensemble and five small ensembles (including the GenOUT Youth Chorus for LGBTQ+ and allied young people ages 13-18) travel near and very far to promote justice and dignity for all people. The art we produce is our chosen mechanism for changing the world for the better. Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Justin

—
Justin D. Fyala (he/him)
Executive Director

Federal City Performing Arts Association
GMCW | Potomac Fever | Rock Creek Singers | GenOUT Youth Chorus | 17th Street Dance | Seasons of Love

www.gmcw.org

What have you done today to make you feel proud?

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Thea Kano <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 1:36 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: FY21 DCCAH Funding

Dear Chairperson Mendelson,

I am a member of the staff of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. GMCW is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. GMCW also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

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Respectfully,

Dr. Thea Kano (she/her/hers)
Artistic Director

Federal City Performing Arts Association

Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC | Potomac Fever | Rock Creek Singers | GenOUT Youth Chorus | 17th Street Dance | Seasons of Love

1140 3rd Street NE, 2nd Floor

Washington, DC 20002

██████████ (office)

www.gmcw.org

www.facebook.com/GayMensChorusofWashington

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: kevin watts <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Supporting Mayor's FY21 Budget

Dear Chairman Phil Mendelson;

I am a member of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. GMCW is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. GMCW also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

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Respectfully,

Kevin Watts

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Rob Serpa, Jr. <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 1:44 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC and DC Commission on Arts and Humanities budget

Dear Chairperson Mendelson,

I am a singing member, donor, and former Membership President of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. GMCW is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. GMCW also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

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We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Rob Serpa
(757) 348-6522

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Joseph Vignali <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 1:46 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and the Gay Men Chorus of Washington, DC

Dear Chairperson Mendelson:

I am a member for 27 years and former production manager of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. GMCW is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. GMCW also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in D.C. Moving into FY21, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging, quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

GMCW has been a vital fixture in the cultural landscape of our nation's capital since 1981 and has a great impact on the creative economy in D.C. Not only do we have a robust audience within D.C. and the surrounding regions, we also attract hundreds of tourists to our one-of-a-kind performances each season. Guided by a mission to inspire equality and inclusion for all people, GMCW's 300-member ensemble and five small ensembles (including the GenOUT Youth Chorus for LGBTQ+ and allied young people ages 13-18) travel near and very far to promote justice and dignity for all people. The art we produce is our chosen mechanism for changing the world for the better. Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Joseph V Vignali
[REDACTED]

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Larry Naake <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: SUPPORT MAYOR BOWSER'S FY21 BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR THE ARTS

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am Chair of the Board of Trustees of Studio Theatre, which is a member of Arts Action DC and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for in increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Studio Theatre has been an anchor institution on the 14th Street Corridor for over 40 years. Each year we serve over 60,000 patrons from across the District and the Washington region, 20% of whom attend with free or deeply discounted tickets made available through public schools, partnerships with organizations like N Street Village and Whitman-Walker Health, and the offices of DC Councilmembers with our Ward Night program. This budget proposal will allow us to continue fulfilling our mission to foster a more thoughtful, more empathetic, and more connected community through live theatre for the thousands of audience members, hundreds of students, and scores of artists that we serve each year.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Larry Naake
Chair, Studio Board of Trustees

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Carl Mitchell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 2:06 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Carl Mitchell; Justin Fyala
Subject: My Support for DC's Arts Budget
Attachments: image001.png

Dear DC Council Members

As a member of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, which participates in Arts Action and National Capital Arts, I am writing today to express my support of the Mayor FY21 budget proposal for funding the arts. This budget continues policies for arts funding set last year by the Council. It also provides an increase financial support needed by the arts in these troubled times. The NCA includes many stable organizations and this budget supports their equitable funding. The Mayor's approach supports all groups under established arts funding laws. Stable institutions such as ours foster an inclusive culture in our nation's capital. FY 2021, funds will be more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of DC and ensure our role in city revenues.

GMCW has been a constant in this vital city for nearly four decades with great impact on its creative economy. Our performances attract long-standing local fans and numerous first visitor tourists each season. Not only do we have a robust audience within D.C. and the surrounding regions, we have found that we attract hundreds of tourists to our unique performances each season. Inspiring equality and inclusion, our foundational 300-member chorale and its five smaller ensembles (including the GenOUT Youth Chorus) travel broadly to support justice and dignity for all people. The art we produce is our chosen mechanism for changing our world for the better. Your support will allow us to continue this creative work in new and innovative ways despite the challenges of this year.

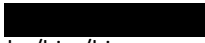
I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reach so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city, along with our fair city's many visitors.

Respectfully,
Carl Mitchell

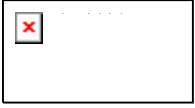


*Can your learned head take leaven
From the wisdom of your heart?*

Carl Eric Mitchell
ECOS Analysis Consulting
11200 Beaver Trail Court
Reston, VA 20191
[REDACTED] 3 Office



he/him/his pronouns



Find Native Plant Landscapers

<http://www.plantnovanatives.org>

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Alex Tang <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 2:17 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Mayor Bowser's FY21 Arts Budget

Dear Chairperson Mendelson:

I am an accompanist for the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. a Ward 2 homeowner in Sheridan-Kalorama, and a DC resident of more than 35 years.

GMCW is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. **I am writing to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.**

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history.

GMCW also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

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Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. **The arts are an undeniable part of DC's vitality, a key attraction for both tourists and residents, and clearly indispensable to achieving full economic recovery for the District.** I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Alex Tang
2234 California Street NW
Washington, DC 20008

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Deborah Sternberg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 3:09 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Mayor Bowser's Budget

Dear Chairperson Mendelson:

I am a staff member (Freelance Voice Teacher and Professional Singer) of The Washington Chorus. TWC is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. TWC also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future. Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

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The Washington Chorus has been a continuously operating nonprofit serving and partnering with the D.C. community for 59 years. We welcome tens of thousands of audience members annually to our concerts at The Kennedy Center, Live! at 10th and G, National Presbyterian Church, Atlas Center for the Performing Arts, and many more DC venues. We also work every day to bring music and the unique power and joy of singing together to as many people as possible across D.C., including students and families through our DC Honor Chorus program with DC Public Schools and our Side by Side program. This summer, we welcome Dr. Eugene Rogers as our fifth Artistic Director, and his vision for centering inclusive excellence in our work has the power to positively transform the lives of even more DC residents through our online and in-person programs. Our community of over 160 citizen artist singers are teachers, recent graduates, doctors, government workers, and more - we all come together with DC as our home base, to realize TWC's mission to create a better world through singing together.

Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

From all of at The Washington Chorus, thank you for your support of the mayor's FY21 budget proposal and its increase for arts/culture funding.

Respectfully,
Deborah Sternberg

--

News: First solo CD released on Naxos Records, see my website for details!

<https://www.singingdeb.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/SingingDebSternberg>

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Guyafa <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 3:28 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council); McDuffie, Kenyan (Council); Bonds, Anita (Council); Grosso, David (Council); Silverman, Elissa (Council); White, Robert (Council); Nadeau, Brianne K. (Council); Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL); Todd, Brandon (Council); Allen, Charles (Council); Gray, Vincent (Council); White, Sr., Trayon (Council)
Subject: Funding for the arts in Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget proposal.

Dear Chairperson Mendelson;

I am a member of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. GMCW is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

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We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Guy Bosworth
4000 Cathedral Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20016

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Deborah Sternberg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 3:31 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Mayor Bowser's Budget

Dear Chairperson Mendelson:

I am a staff member (Freelance Voice Teacher and Professional Singer) of The Washington Chorus. TWC is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

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The Washington Chorus has been a continuously operating nonprofit serving and partnering with the D.C. community for 59 years. We welcome tens of thousands of audience members annually to our concerts at The Kennedy Center, Live! at 10th and G, National Presbyterian Church, Atlas Center for the Performing Arts, and many more DC venues. We also work every day to bring music and the unique power and joy of singing together to as many people as possible across D.C., including students and families through our DC Honor Chorus program with DC Public Schools and our Side by Side program. This summer, we welcome Dr. Eugene Rogers as our fifth Artistic Director, and his vision for centering inclusive excellence in our work has the power to positively transform the lives of even more DC residents through our online and in-person programs. Our community of over 160 citizen artist singers are teachers, recent graduates, doctors, government workers, and more - we all come together with DC as our home base, to realize TWC's mission to create a better world through singing together.

Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

From all of at The Washington Chorus, thank you for your support of the mayor's FY21 budget proposal and its increase for arts/culture funding.

Respectfully,
Deborah Sternberg

--

News: First solo CD released on Naxos Records, see my website for details!

<https://www.singingdeb.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/SingingDebSternberg>

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Sherri Bale <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: DC Commission on Arts and Humanities funding/GMCW

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. GMCW is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. GMCW also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

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GMCW has been a vital fixture in the cultural landscape of our nation's capital since 1981 and has a great impact on the creative economy in D.C. Not only do we have a robust audience within D.C. and the surrounding regions, we also attract hundreds of tourists to our one-of-a-kind performances each season. Guided by a mission to inspire equality and inclusion for all people, GMCW's 300-member ensemble and five small ensembles (including the GenOUT Youth Chorus for LGBTQ+ and allied young people ages 13-18) travel near and very far to promote justice and dignity for all people. The art we produce is our chosen mechanism for changing the world for the better. Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.

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Respectfully,

Sherri J. Bale, PhD
Member, Board of Directors

GMCW

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Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: RICHARD MCMILLAN <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 4:25 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: McDuffie, Kenyan (Council); Bonds, Anita (Council); Grosso, David (Council); Silverman, Elissa (Council); White, Robert (Council); Nadeau, Brianne K. (Council); Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL); Todd, Brandon (Council); Allen, Charles (Council); Gray, Vincent (Council); Cash, Evan W. (Council); White, Sr., Trayon (Council)
Subject: [SUSPECTED SPAM] Funding for the Arts

Dear Chairperson Mendelson and Councilmembers,

I am writing in support of Mayor Bowser's proposed funding for the arts contained in her recently released FY21 budget.

Our City has a flourishing and diverse arts culture. Performing arts, in particular, have become integral to our community, furnishing jobs to some, entertainment to others, and a basis for community outreach to even the most underprivileged among us.

The Coronavirus pandemic presents unprecedented challenges for every arts organization in this City. Arts organizations often face financial challenges in the best of times, but with performance venues mostly shuttered, the need for adequate financing has now become paramount. Many of these organizations will face enormous financial difficulties, if not outright collapse, without adequate funding support.

I am a member of The Washington Chorus. TWC is a member of Arts Action and of the National Capital Arts cohort. For 59 years, we have served the DC community with live performances at the Kennedy Center and many other local DC venues. Our community outreach includes our DC Honor Chorus program and our Side by Side program. Our new Choral Director, Eugene Rogers, is renowned as one of the most accomplished African American Choral Directors in the United States. Our commitment to our community, and to bringing the unique power of singing to as broad an audience as possible, has long been at the center of our mission.

The Mayor's budget continues the grant architecture, equity, transparency and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also seeks to recognize the historic challenge now before us by increasing the most critical financial support during this particular time of need.

Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time. Together with my many colleagues and friends at The Washington Chorus, we thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Richard McMillan

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 4:39 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Mayor Bowser's FY21 Budget and Proposal for Funding the Arts

Dear Chairman Phil Mendelson,

I am a Bradley Cullen, a member of The Washington Chorus. TWC is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my strong support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established in 2019. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. TWC also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

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We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

From all of us at The Washington Chorus, we thank you for your support of the mayor's FY21 budget proposal and its increase for arts/culture funding.

Respectfully,

Bradley L. Cullen

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Melissa Sheinman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 4:37 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: National Capital Arts Funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a staff member at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for in increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

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The National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) has operated in and served the District of Columbia since 1987. NMWA attracts over 150,000 attendees annually, with visitors from across the city and the DC region, as well as throughout the country and around the world. Education programming, with a special emphasis on local needs, has been a key part of NMWA's mission since its inception; each year, the museum reaches thousands of DCPS and DCPCS students through school tours and teacher training. NMWA employs over 80 employees, more than half of whom are DC residents. The proposed budget will enable NMWA—the only major museum in the world solely dedicated to championing women through the arts—to continue to expand, strengthen, and enhance the important work that we have undertaken for over 30 years. Although the museum currently faces incredible challenges, we are committed to serving learners of all ages from D.C. and across the country through an exciting variety of digitally-based activities and materials, including interactive weekly Art Chats, an array of online exhibitions, See for Yourself cards, a vibrant award-winning Instagram presence, blog entries geared towards "Creative Coping" during this difficult time, and much, much more.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Melissa Sheinman

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Carroll Hanson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 4:42 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 Budget Proposal

Dear Chairperson Mendelson:

I am a volunteer board member of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. GMCW is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. GMCW also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

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We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Mr. Carroll Hanson

Sent from [Outlook](#)

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Christina Knowles <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 4:51 PM
To: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: FW: Urgent Action Needed: Mayor's Budget

From: Christina Knowles
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 4:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Urgent Action Needed: Mayor's Budget

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of National Museum of Women in the Arts, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for in increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

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The National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) has operated in and served the District of Columbia since 1987. NMWA attracts over 150,000 attendees annually, with visitors from across the city and the DC region, as well as throughout the country and around the world. Education programming, with a special emphasis on local needs, has been a key part of NMWA's mission since its inception; each year, the museum reaches thousands of DCPS and DCPCS students through school tours and teacher training. NMWA employs over 80 employees, more than half of whom are DC residents. The proposed budget will enable NMWA—the only major museum in the world solely dedicated to championing women through the arts—to continue to expand, strengthen, and enhance the important work that we have undertaken for over 30 years. Although the museum currently faces incredible challenges, we are committed to serving learners of all ages from D.C. and across the country through an exciting variety of digitally-based activities and materials, including interactive weekly Art Chats, an array of online

exhibitions, See for Yourself cards, a vibrant award-winning Instagram presence, blog entries geared towards “Creative Coping” during this difficult time, and much, much more.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Christina Knowles

Director of Development, Annual Giving and Membership

National Museum of Women in the Arts

1250 New York Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20005

202-783-7984



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Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Sam Zhao <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 11:16 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Mayor's Funding for the Arts

Dear Chairperson Mendelson,

I am a singer and board member of The Washington Chorus. TWC is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. TWC also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

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We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

From all of at The Washington Chorus, thank you for your support of the mayor's FY21 budget proposal and its increase for arts/culture funding.

With gratitude,

Sam Zhao, MD

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Matthew Stevenson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2020 9:17 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); McDuffie, Kenyan (Council)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for the mayor's FY21 budget

Dear Chairman Mendelson & Councilmember McDuffie

I am a resident of ward 5 and former resident of ward 1 and a supporter of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

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Respectfully,
Matthew Stevenson

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Natalia Kojanova <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2020 10:47 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Budget proposal: The Washington Chorus

Dear Chairperson Mendelson,

I am a member of The Washington Chorus. TWC is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. TWC also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

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Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

From all of at The Washington Chorus, thank you for your support of the mayor's FY21 budget proposal and its increase for arts/culture funding.

Respectfully,
Natalia Kojanova

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Griha Singla <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2020 11:00 AM
To: McDuffie, Kenyan (Council)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 Budget and Proposal for Funding the Arts

Dear Councilmember McDuffie,

I am a Board Member of and singer for The Washington Chorus. TWC is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. TWC also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in D.C. Moving into FY21, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging, quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The Washington Chorus has been a continuously operating nonprofit serving and partnering with the D.C. community for 59 years. We welcome tens of thousands of audience members annually to our concerts at The Kennedy Center, Live! at 10th and G, National Presbyterian Church, Atlas Center for the Performing Arts, and many more DC venues. We also work every day to bring music and the unique power and joy of singing together to as many people as possible across D.C., including students and families through our DC Honor

Chorus program with DC Public Schools and our Side by Side program. This summer, we welcome Dr. Eugene Rogers as our fifth Artistic Director, and his vision for centering inclusive excellence in our work has the power to positively transform the lives of even more DC residents through our online and in-person programs. Our community of over 160 citizen artist singers are teachers, recent graduates, doctors, government workers, and more - we all come together with DC as our home base, to realize TWC's mission to create a better world through singing together.

Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

From all of at The Washington Chorus, thank you for your support of the mayor's FY21 budget proposal and its increase for arts/culture funding.

Respectfully,

Griha Singla

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Patti White <patti@4whites.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2020 1:33 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Mayor's Budget proposal

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of National Museum of Women in the Arts, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's newly released FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) has operated in and served the District of Columbia since 1987. NMWA attracts over 150,000 attendees annually, with visitors from across the city and the DC region, as well as throughout the country and around the world. Education programming, with a special emphasis on local needs, has been a key part of NMWA's mission since its inception; each year, the museum reaches thousands of DCPS and DCPCS students through school tours and teacher training. NMWA employs over 80 employees, more than half of whom are DC residents. The proposed budget will enable NMWA—the only major museum in the world solely dedicated to championing women through the arts—to continue to expand, strengthen, and enhance the important work that we have undertaken for over 30 years. Although the museum currently faces incredible challenges, we are committed to serving learners of all ages from D.C. and across the country through an exciting variety of digitally-based activities and materials, including interactive weekly Art Chats, an array of online exhibitions, See for Yourself cards, a vibrant award-winning Instagram presence, blog entries geared towards “Creative Coping” during this difficult time, and much, much more.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Patti White, Trustee
National Museum of Women in the Arts

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Alison Combes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2020 7:37 PM
To: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: copy of email to Chairperson Mendelson

Dear Chairperson Mendelson,

My name is Alison Combes and I am a long-time member of over 20 years of The Washington Chorus (TWC), which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing to you to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly-released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. TWC also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the DC arts community now and into the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the DC arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in DC. Moving into FY21, funds from the DC Government and CAH in support of engaging, quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure that the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The Washington Chorus has been a continuously operating nonprofit serving and partnering with the DC community for 59 years and I was privileged to work for this outstanding organization for 13 years before going on to be the Executive Director of the Cathedral Choral Society for a number of years and then returning to TWC as a volunteer singer. We welcome tens of thousands of audience members annually to our concerts at The Kennedy Center, Live! at 10th and G, National Presbyterian Church, Atlas Center for the Performing Arts, and many more DC venues. We also work every day to bring music and the unique power and joy of singing together to as many people as possible across DC, including students and families through our DC Honor Chorus program with DC Public Schools and our Side by Side program. This summer, we will welcome Dr. Eugene Rogers as our fifth Artistic Director and his vision for centering inclusive excellence in our work has the power to positively transform the lives of even more DC residents through our online and in-person programs. Our community of over 160 citizen artist singers are teachers, recent graduates, doctors, government workers, and more - we all come together with DC as our home base, to realize TWC's mission to create a better world through singing together.

Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve DC residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for DC arts organizations, which reach so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

From all of us at The Washington Chorus, thank you for your support of the mayor's FY21 budget proposal and its increase for arts/culture funding.

Respectfully,
Alison Combes

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: D.M. Keppler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2020 9:30 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Please Support the Mayor's Proposed Budget and Arts Funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the Board of Directors of The Washington Ballet, which is a member of the National Capital Arts group. **I write to express our support for Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts and to ask you to do the same.**

The Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that D.C. arts and cultural organizations need during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe that equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts group has been a leader in advocating for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever to ensure that the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The Washington Ballet has operated and served the District of Columbia for 75 years. Each year, we reach more than 90,000 patrons annually as part of our main stage productions from across the city and this nation. Additionally, our nationally acclaimed school of ballet reaches nearly 2,000 students annually, and our outreach

programs have made a particular impact on more than 150,000 D.C. Public School students over the last 15 years. We employ 190 artistic and administrative staff, many of whom are D.C. residents. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken for more than 75 years.

Despite the current challenges, The Washington Ballet is still working to serve students, teachers, and learning enthusiasts from D.C. and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep our mission moving forward, we have created new additional online tools, programs, and resources. Our education team members are working directly with their network of teachers to best support them.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year, and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever to allow our organization to continue to serve District residents.

I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Dianne M. Keppler

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Teresa Schwartz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2020 11:24 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Mayor's FY 21 budget for the arts

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am writing you, as a member of Studio Theatre's Board of Trustees, to urge your support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts.

The Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source of arts funding that the Council established last year and provides an increase in support that will benefit arts organizations across all wards of the city.

The proposal is key to helping sustain the city's vibrant cultural life during these difficult times when theaters and other arts organizations are being hit very hard. It also is important for the city to be able to continue benefiting from the tax revenues generated by the arts community.

For individual theaters like Studio, an anchor institution on the 14th Street Corridor for over 40 years, the Mayor's budget proposal will help us continue to serve our base of over 60,000 patrons, 20% of whom attend with free or deeply discounted tickets. And it will help us continue to fulfill Studio's mission to broaden our impact and foster a more thoughtful, empathetic, and connected community.

Thank you for your time consideration.

Respectfully,

Teresa Moran Schwartz

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Kirk Sobell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2020 2:21 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Mayor Bowser's FY21 Budget and Proposal for Arts Funding

Dear Chairperson Mendelson;

I am on the staff of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. GMCW also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in D.C. Moving into FY21, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging, quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

GMCW has been a vital fixture in the cultural landscape of our nation's capital since 1981 and has a great impact on the creative economy in D.C. Not only do we have a robust audience within D.C. and the surrounding regions, we also attract hundreds of tourists to our one-of-a-kind performances each season. Guided by a mission to inspire equality and inclusion for all people, GMCW's 300-member ensemble and five small ensembles (including the GenOUT Youth Chorus for LGBTQ+ and allied young people ages 13-18) travel near and very far to promote justice and dignity for all people. The art we produce is our chosen mechanism for changing the world for the better. Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Kirk Sobell
Director of Patron Services
Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC



www.gmcw.org

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Lois Ceccarini <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, May 24, 2020 3:48 PM
To: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Fwd: Arts Funding in Mayor Bowser's FY21 Budget

Meant to CC you on this. Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lois Ceccarini <[REDACTED]>
Date: Sun, May 24, 2020 at 2:44 PM
Subject: Arts Funding in Mayor Bowser's FY21 Budget
To: <[REDACTED]>

Dear Chairperson Mendelson:

I am a volunteer of The Washington Chorus. TWC is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. TWC also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

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The Washington Chorus has been a continuously operating nonprofit serving and partnering with the D.C. community for 59 years. We welcome tens of thousands of audience members annually to our concerts at The Kennedy Center, Live! at 10th and G, National Presbyterian Church, Atlas Center for the Performing Arts, and many more DC venues. We also work every day to bring music and the unique power and joy of singing together to as many people as possible across D.C., including students and families through our DC Honor Chorus program with DC Public Schools and our Side-by-Side program. This summer, we welcome Dr. Eugene Rogers as our fifth Artistic Director, and his vision for centering inclusive excellence in our work has the power to positively transform the lives of even more DC residents through our online and in-person programs. Our community of over 160 citizen artist singers are teachers, recent graduates, doctors, government workers, and more - we all come together with DC as our home base, to realize TWC's mission to create a better world through singing together.

Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time and to allow D.C. arts organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents throughout all wards of the city for decades to come.

From all of at The Washington Chorus, thank you for your support of the mayor's FY21 budget proposal and its increase for arts/culture funding.

Respectfully,
Lois Ceccarini

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Michael Hughes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2020 9:22 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Mayor's budget request for DCCA

Dear Chairperson Mendelson:

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. I am also a singing member of the chorus and a DC Ward 1 resident. GMCW is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. GMCW also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

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We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Michael Hughes

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Chantal Davis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2020 1:28 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Mayor Bowser's FY21 Budget and Financial Plan

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am a member of The Washington Chorus. TWC is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. TWC also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

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We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

From all of at The Washington Chorus, thank you for your support of the mayor's FY21 budget proposal and its increase for arts/culture funding.

Respectfully,

Chantal Davis

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Julia Graham <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2020 3:10 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: FY21 budget and funding for DC Arts and Humanities

Dear Chairperson Mendelson,

First, I hope you are enjoying the holiday!

I am a member of The Washington Chorus. TWC is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. TWC also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

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From all of at The Washington Chorus, thank you for your support of the mayor's FY21 budget proposal and its increase for arts/culture funding.

Respectfully,
Julia Moore

Sent from my iPhone

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Susan Fisher Sterling <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 7:24 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Yes to Support for the Arts in Mayor Bowser's FY21 Budget

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am the director of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) has operated in and served the District of Columbia since 1987. NMWA attracts over 150,000 attendees annually, with visitors from across the city and the DC region, as well as throughout the country and around the world. Education programming, with a special emphasis on local needs, has been a key part of NMWA's mission since its inception; each year, the museum reaches thousands of DCPS and DCPCS students through school tours and teacher training. NMWA employs over 80 employees, more than half of whom are DC residents. The proposed budget will enable NMWA—the only major museum in the world solely dedicated to championing women through the arts—to continue to expand, strengthen, and enhance the important work that we have undertaken for over 30 years. Although the museum currently faces incredible challenges, we are committed to serving learners of all ages from D.C. and across the country through an exciting variety of digitally-based activities and materials, including interactive

weekly Art Chats, an array of online exhibitions, See for Yourself cards, a vibrant award-winning Instagram presence, blog entries geared towards “Creative Coping” during this difficult time, and much, much more.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,



Susan Fisher Sterling

The Alice West Director
National Museum of Women in the Arts
1250 New York Ave NW
Washington, DC 20005



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Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: faith.coutier <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 8:16 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Budget Proposal

Dear Chairperson Mendelson,

I am a member of The Washington Chorus (TWC). TWC is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. TWC also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in D.C. Moving into FY21, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging, quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The Washington Chorus has been a continuously operating nonprofit serving and partnering with the D.C. community for 59 years. We welcome tens of thousands of audience members annually to our concerts at The Kennedy Center, Live! at 10th and G, National Presbyterian Church, Atlas Center for the Performing Arts, and many more DC venues. We also work every day to bring music and the unique power and joy of singing together to as many people as possible across D.C., including students and families through our DC Honor Chorus program with DC Public Schools and our Side by Side program. This summer, we welcome Dr. Eugene Rogers as our fifth Artistic Director, and his vision for centering inclusive excellence in our work has the power to positively transform the lives of even more DC residents through our online and in-person programs. Our community of over 160 citizen artist singers are teachers, recent graduates, doctors, government workers, and more - we all come together with DC as our home base, to realize TWC's mission to create a better world through singing together.

Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

From all of at The Washington Chorus, thank you for your support of the mayor's FY21 budget proposal and its increase for arts/culture funding.

Respectfully,

Faith Coutier

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Kristin Fox <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 8:58 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: DC Arts Funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the DC arts Community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Kristin Fox-Siegmund
Deputy Director and Director of Programming
Ford's Theatre | Where Lincoln's Legacy Lives
Mailing Address: 514 10th St. NW, Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) [REDACTED] | Cell: (202) [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
www.fords.org

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Kourtney Ginn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 10:32 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Allen, Charles (Council)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Mayor Bowser's FY21 Budget

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember Allen:

I am a staff member at The Washington Ballet, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for in increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

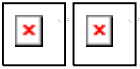
The Washington Ballet has operated and served the District of Columbia for 75 years. Each year, we reach over 90,000 patrons annually as part of our main stage productions from across the city and this nation. Additionally, our nationally acclaimed school of ballet reaches nearly 2,000 students annually and our outreach programs have made a particular impact on more than 150,000 DC Public School students over the last 15 years. We employ 190 artistic and administrative staff many of whom are DC residents. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken for more than 75 years. Despite the current challenges, The Washington Ballet is still working to serve students, teachers and learning enthusiasts from D.C. and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep

our mission moving forward, we have created new additional online tools, programs and resources. Our education team is working directly with their network of teachers to find out how we can best support them.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Kourtney Ginn
(Resident of Ward 6)

Kourtney Ginn | School Manager, Joseph C. Coleman Studios
(she/her/hers)



Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Betsy O'Brien Anderson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 10:48 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Thank you for your support.

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

Thank you for your past support of the arts. As a member of the D.C. arts Community, I fully support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. This is especially true during this unprecedented time in our history.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Stay well.

Respectfully,
Betsy Anderson

Betsy O'Brien Anderson
Director of Development
Ford's Theatre | Where Lincoln's Legacy Lives
Mailing Address: 514 10th St. NW, Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) [REDACTED] | Fax: (202) [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
www.fords.org

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Heather Cipu <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 10:50 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Mayor Bowser's FY21 Budget for Arts Funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the DC arts Community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Heather Cipu

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: RuthAnn Clark <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:02 AM
To: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Arts Funding Proposal

Dear Chairman Phil Mendelson,

I am a member of the DC arts Community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

RuthAnn Clark

**Associate Director of Individual and Foundation Giving
Ford's Theatre | Where Lincoln's Legacy Lives**

Mailing Address: 514 10th St. NW, Washington, DC 20004

Phone: (202) [REDACTED] | Fax: (202) [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

www.fords.org

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Hannah Shambroom <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:30 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support of Mayor's Budget

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am on the staff of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for in increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) has operated in and served the District of Columbia since 1987. NMWA attracts over 150,000 attendees annually, with visitors from across the city and the DC region, as well as throughout the country and around the world. Education programming, with a special emphasis on local needs, has been a key part of NMWA's mission since its inception; each year, the museum reaches thousands of DCPS and DCPCS students through school tours and teacher training. NMWA employs over 80 employees, more than half of whom are DC residents. The proposed budget will enable NMWA—the only major museum in the world solely dedicated to championing women through the arts—to continue to expand, strengthen, and enhance the important work that we have undertaken for over 30 years. Although the museum currently faces incredible challenges, we are committed to serving learners of all ages from D.C. and across the country through an exciting variety of digitally-based activities and materials, including interactive weekly Art Chats, an array of online exhibitions, See for Yourself cards, a vibrant award-winning Instagram presence, blog entries geared towards “Creative Coping” during this difficult time, and much, much more.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Hannah Shambroom

Hannah Shambroom

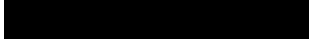
Exhibition Coordinator

National Museum of Women in the Arts

1250 New York Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20005

202-783-7375



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Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Brittany Stone <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:36 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Budget support

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am a member of the Washington Ballet and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for in increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The Washington Ballet has operated and served the District of Columbia for 75 years. Each year, we reach over 90,000 patrons annually as part of our main stage productions from across the city and this nation. Additionally, our nationally acclaimed school of ballet reaches nearly 2,000 students annually and our outreach programs have made a particular impact on more than 150,000 DC Public School students over the last 15 years. We employ 190 artistic and administrative staff many of whom are DC residents. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken for more than 75 years. Despite the current challenges, The Washington Ballet is still working to serve students, teachers and learning enthusiasts from D.C. and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep our mission moving forward, we have created new additional online tools, programs and resources. Our education team is working directly with their network of teachers to find out how we can best support them.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Brittany Stone
Ward 3

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Katie Burns-Yocum <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:41 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Arts Funding Proposal

Dear Chairman Mendelson-

I am a member of the DC arts Community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Katie Burns- Yocum

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: alexa marie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:45 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Budget

Dear Chairman Mendelson

I am a member of the Washington Ballet and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for in increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The Washington Ballet has operated and served the District of Columbia for 75 years. Each year, we reach over 90,000 patrons annually as part of our main stage productions from across the city and this nation. Additionally, our nationally acclaimed school of ballet reaches nearly 2,000 students annually and our outreach programs have made a particular impact on more than 150,000 DC Public School students over the last 15 years. We employ 190 artistic and administrative staff many of whom are DC residents. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken for more than 75 years. Despite the current challenges, The Washington Ballet is still working to serve students, teachers and learning enthusiasts from D.C. and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep our mission moving forward, we have created new additional online tools, programs and

resources. Our education team is working directly with their network of teachers to find out how we can best support them.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Alexa Torres

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Peter Clunie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 11:56 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: The Washington Chorus

Dear Chairperson Mendelson:

I am a member of The Washington Chorus. TWC is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. TWC also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in D.C. Moving into FY21, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging, quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

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Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

From all of us at The Washington Chorus, thank you for your support of the mayor's FY21 budget proposal and its increase for arts/culture funding.

Respectfully,

Peter Clunie

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Wendy Hagen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 12:07 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Mayor Bowser's FY21 Budget: Arts Funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, which is a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts group has supported an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—all boats rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Woolly Mammoth has operated in and served the District of Columbia for 40 years. Each year, we serve over 50,000 patrons annually from across the city, the region, and this nation. Essential funds from the Commission have supported hundreds of local artists and administrators who create the productions on our stage; have advanced our community programming, which serves thousands throughout the District; and have made our Pay-What-You-Can ticketing program possible, so cost is never a barrier for anyone wanting to see a Woolly show and participate in the essential dialogue that theatre ignites at the heart of our democracy.

This budget proposal will allow us to continue to deepen, expand, and improve upon the impactful work we have undertaken for 40 years. Despite not being able to gather in person, we have remained committed to embodying our mission by serving the community and continuing to innovate and adapt. Woolly Mammoth is developing new and exciting online programming, most of it at no cost to viewers and participants, including monthly open mic events with our partners at Spit Dat and plans for an array of interactive workshops and classes.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts is more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to

serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reach so many district residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Wendy Hagen
Board Member, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company

h a g e n i n c

1733 20th Street, NW
#102
Washington DC 20009


www.wendyhagen.com

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Tricia Glaser <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 12:22 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for the Arts in FY 21 Budget

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am a resident of Hyattsville, MD, and a member of the staff of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and **we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.**

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) has operated in and served the District of Columbia since 1987. NMWA attracts over 150,000 attendees annually, with visitors from across the city and the DC region, as well as throughout the country and around the world. Education programming, with a special emphasis on local needs, has been a key part of NMWA's mission since its inception; each year, the museum reaches thousands of DCPS and DCPCS students through school tours and teacher training. NMWA employs over 80 employees, more than half of whom are DC residents. The proposed budget will enable NMWA—the only major museum in the world solely dedicated to championing women through the arts—to continue to expand, strengthen, and enhance the important work that we have undertaken for over 30 years. Although the museum currently faces incredible challenges, we are committed to serving learners of all ages from D.C. and across the country through an exciting variety of digitally-based activities and materials, including interactive weekly Art Chats, an array of online exhibitions, See for Yourself cards, a vibrant award-winning

Instagram presence, blog entries geared towards “Creative Coping” during this difficult time, and much, much more.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Tricia Glaser

Librarian

National Museum of Women in the Arts

1250 New York Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20005



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Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Emily Moore <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 12:24 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for the Arts

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am a member of the staff of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

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cards, a vibrant award-winning Instagram presence, blog entries geared towards “Creative Coping” during this difficult time, and much, much more.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Emily Moore

--

MLIS Candidate, University of Maryland
Archival Assistant, National Museum of Women in the Arts

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Erika Scott <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Arts Funding Proposal

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the DC arts Community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Erika Scott

Erika Scott

Artistic Programming Manager

Ford's Theatre | Where Lincoln's Legacy Lives

Mailing Address: 514 10th St. NW, Washington, DC 20004

Phone: [REDACTED] 82

Email: [REDACTED]

www.fords.org

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Craig Cipollini <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 12:46 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: FY21 DCCAH Funding

Dear Chairperson Mendelson;

I am a member of the staff of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. GMCW is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. GMCW also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in D.C. Moving into FY21, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging, quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

GMCW has been a vital fixture in the cultural landscape of our nation's capital since 1981 and has a great impact on the creative economy in D.C. Not only do we have a robust audience within D.C. and the surrounding regions, we also attract hundreds of tourists to our one-of-a-kind performances each season. Guided by a mission to inspire equality and inclusion for all people, GMCW's 300-member ensemble and five small ensembles (including the GenOUT Youth Chorus for LGBTQ+ and allied young people ages 13-18) travel near and very far to promote justice and dignity for all people. The art we produce is our chosen mechanism for changing the world for the better. Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Craig Cipollini

Craig Cipollini

Director of Marketing
Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC
1140 3rd Street NE, Second Floor
Washington, DC 20002
pronouns: he/him

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Emma Filar <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 1:48 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: FY21 arts funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am a member of the staff of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and I support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for in increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

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We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to

serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Emma Filar

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Amanda Vercruysse <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 1:52 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for the Arts in Mayor Bowser's FY21 Budget

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am a member of the staff of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

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We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Amanda Vercruysse

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Stephanie Sorota <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Budget Proposal Expanding Support for the Arts

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the Washington Ballet, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for in increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

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The Washington Ballet has operated and served the District of Columbia for 75 years. Each year, we reach over 90,000 patrons annually as part of our main stage productions from across the city and this nation. Additionally, our nationally acclaimed school of ballet reaches nearly 2,000 students annually and our outreach programs have made a particular impact on more than 150,000 DC Public School students over the last 15 years. We employ 190 artistic and administrative staff many of whom are DC residents. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken for more than 75 years. Despite the current challenges, The Washington Ballet is still working to serve students, teachers and learning enthusiasts from D.C. and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep our mission moving forward, we have created new additional online tools, programs and resources. Our education team is working directly with their network of teachers to find out how we can best support them.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Stephanie Sorota
Ward 3

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Mollie Haines <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 2:11 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Funding for DC Arts organizations

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the DC arts Community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Mollie H. Haines

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Cafurello, Janet <[REDACTED]> on behalf of Long, David <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 2:21 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Funding for D.C. Arts

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of Ford's Theatre, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Ford's Theatre has operated and served the District of Columbia for more than 50 years. Each year, we reach over 650,000 patrons annually from across the city and this nation. Our education programs have made a particular impact on the public schools in the District. Additionally, we employ nearly 100 employees and, for the last several years, have focused on employing primarily local actors. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken for more than 50 years. Despite the current challenges, Ford's Theatre is still working to serve students, teachers and learning enthusiasts from D.C. and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep our mission moving forward, we have created new additional online tools, programs and resources. Our education team is working directly with their network of teachers to find out how we can best support them.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

David H. Long, Chairman & CEO
Liberty Mutual Insurance

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: CLAUDIA MCKOIN <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 2:31 PM
To: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Humanities Council Budget

Mr. Cash:

My name is Claudia McKoin. I am a consultant with the DC Humanities Council (HumanitiesDC). I have represented the Humanities Council for the last three years working on the development of the budget allocation for the organization. I worked with Peter Johnson in the past. I understand he is no longer with the Council and you have assumed the responsibilities for the budget. The Humanities Council's budget is incorporated in the budget for the Commission on the Arts and Humanities. The Council is one of four groups that receive a percentage of the Commission's budget as an allocation. This allocation was created in FY2020 Budget Support Act. I would like a few moments to talk to you along with the new Interim Executive Director at the Council about the FY2021 proposed budget.

I can be reached on [REDACTED] or if you would give me a date, time and phone number I can call you to discuss the budget. I know you are busy during this time but if we could have a few minutes with you it would be appreciated.

Thank you,
Claudia McKoin
Consultant
HumanitiesDC
[REDACTED]

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 2:53 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council); Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Subject: arts funding - support for proposed budget

I'm a resident of 638 5th St, NE, Ward 6, and a dance teacher. I work with the Washington School of Ballet with their trainees and professional students. TWSB is the official school of the Washington Ballet and our students are featured in our annual Nutcracker and other community events.

Thank you for your FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts.

I was so glad to see that your budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that you and the Council established last year. Your proposal would provide an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

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This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken for more than 75 years. Despite the current challenges, The Washington Ballet is still working to serve students, teachers and learning enthusiasts from D.C. and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep our mission moving forward, we have created new additional online tools, programs and resources. Our education team is working directly with their network of teachers to find out how we can best support them.

I have taught some of the students from my living room in Ward 6. It is vital that funding continue so we can support the community and our students.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Thank you for your time and consideration and support for the arts. Best of luck during the COVID 19 crisis. Please stay strong and keep us healthy.

Kind regards,

Lisae

Lisae C Jordan
638 5th Street NE
Ward 6

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Company to Fiance After Fatal Crash: Hope You 'Cry All Day'

<http://thirdpartyoffers.netzero.net/TGL3241/5ecd65bf3c45c65bf403est04duc1>

Attendees of 'Zero Ducks Given' Pool Party Told to Quarantine

<http://thirdpartyoffers.netzero.net/TGL3241/5ecd65bf57a3465bf403est04duc2>

Widower of Scarborough Aide Asks Twitter to Act on Trump

<http://thirdpartyoffers.netzero.net/TGL3241/5ecd65bf72b6965bf403est04duc3>

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Brooke Creek <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 3:34 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for arts funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the DC arts Community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Brooke Creek

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Heather Podesta <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 4:17 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for DC Mayor's proposal for arts funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of Ford's Theatre, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

The Mayor's budget continues the dedicated and reliable arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated financial support that D.C. arts and cultural organizations are in need of during this time. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community.

The National Capital Arts (CAH) group are leaders for an increase in arts funding for all organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law, All Boats Rise.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become crucial to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Ford's Theatre has operated and served the District for more than 50 years. Each year, we reach over 650,000 patrons annually from across the city and country. Our education programs have made a particular impact on the public schools in the District. Additionally, we employ nearly 100 employees and, for the last several years, have focused on employing primarily local actors. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken. Despite the current challenges, Ford's Theatre is still working to serve students, teachers, and learning enthusiasts from D.C. and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep our mission moving forward, we have created new additional online tools, programs, and resources. Our education team is working directly with their network of teachers to find out how we can best support them.

We know that there are challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be critical to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Best,
Heather

Heather Podesta
Invariant

[Redacted]

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Chief of Staff: Janie Blanco | [Redacted] | [Redacted]

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Craig Ruskin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 4:19 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Proposed Increase in DCCAH Funding

Dear Chairperson Mendelson,

I am a member of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. GMCW is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. GMCW also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in D.C. Moving into FY21, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging, quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

GMCW has been a vital fixture in the cultural landscape of our nation's capital since 1981 and has a great impact on the creative economy in D.C. Not only do we have a robust audience within D.C. and the surrounding regions, we also attract hundreds of tourists to our one-of-a-kind performances each season. Guided by a mission to inspire equality and inclusion for all people, GMCW's 300-member ensemble and five small ensembles (including the GenOUT Youth Chorus for LGBTQ+ and allied young people ages 13-18) travel near and very far to promote justice and dignity for all people. The art we produce is our chosen mechanism for changing the world for the better. Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Craig Ruskin
Washington, DC

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Craig Ruskin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 4:39 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support of Proposed Increase in DCCAH Funding

Dear Chairperson Mendelson,

I am a member of The Washington Chorus. TWC is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. TWC also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in D.C. Moving into FY21, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging, quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The Washington Chorus has been a continuously operating nonprofit serving and partnering with the D.C. community for 59 years. We welcome tens of thousands of audience members annually to our concerts at The Kennedy Center, Live! at 10th and G, National Presbyterian Church, Atlas Center for the Performing Arts, and many more DC venues. We also work every day to bring music and the unique power and joy of singing together to as many people as possible across D.C., including students and families through our DC Honor Chorus program with DC Public Schools and our Side by Side program. This summer, we welcome Dr. Eugene Rogers as our fifth Artistic Director, and his vision for centering inclusive excellence in our work has the power to positively transform the lives of even more DC residents through our online and in-person programs. Our community of over 160 citizen artist singers are teachers, recent graduates, doctors, government workers, and more - we all come together with DC as our home base, to realize TWC's mission to create a better world through singing together.

Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

From all of at The Washington Chorus, thank you for your support of the mayor's FY21 budget proposal and its increase for arts/culture funding.

Respectfully,
Craig Ruskin
Washington, DC

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Ashley Harris <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 4:56 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: RE: Mayor's Budget

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the staff of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) has operated in and served the District of Columbia since 1987. NMWA attracts over 150,000 attendees annually, with visitors from across the city and the DC region, as well as throughout the country and around the world. Education programming, with a special emphasis on local needs, has been a key part of NMWA's mission since its inception; each year, the museum reaches thousands of DCPS and DCPCS students through school tours and teacher training. NMWA employs over 80 employees, more than half of whom are DC residents. The proposed budget will enable NMWA—the only major museum in the world solely dedicated to championing women through the arts—to continue to expand, strengthen, and enhance the important work that we have undertaken for over 30 years. Although the museum currently faces incredible challenges, we are committed to serving learners of all ages from D.C. and across the country through an exciting variety of digitally-based activities and materials, including interactive weekly Art Chats, an array of online exhibitions, See for Yourself cards, a vibrant award-winning Instagram presence, blog entries geared towards "Creative Coping" during this difficult time, and much, much more.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Ashley Harris

Ashley W. Harris

Associate Educator
National Museum of Women in the Arts
1250 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005



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Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Bridget Zangueneh <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 8:16 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council); Dorothy Kosinski; Caitlin Hoerr
Subject: FY21 Budget, Arts Funding

A message from Dorothy Kosinski, Vradenburg Director & CEO, The Phillips Collection

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I write on behalf of The Phillips Collection, which I have led as the Executive Director since 2008. The Phillips Collection is a member of both Arts Action DC and the National Capital Arts group. We support Mayor Bowser's FY21 proposal for funding the arts as presented in her newly released budget proposal. The Mayor's budget upholds the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability of arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in support for DC arts and cultural organizations, which is so critical in this unprecedented time in history. Through her budget, Mayor Bowser strongly demonstrates that the arts, arts education, and humanities sectors remain an important part of the District's economy and culture, and must be supported in order to weather and survive this crisis.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts group has been a leading advocate for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. The National Capital Arts group believes that equity among artists and arts organizations is essential for the DC arts community. To that end, we support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in DC, and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated effort across the city's agencies and departments. As we stated during last year's budget process—All Boats Will Rise—and the Mayor's proposed FY21 budget builds on this success.

The Phillips Collection has operated and served the District of Columbia for 99 years—2021 will mark our 100th anniversary. Our PK–12 [education programs](#) serve thousands of DC public school students and teachers each year; and our [art and wellness](#) programs for older adults have made a major impact on residents of DC's senior centers. Our community engagement work is exemplified at [Phillips@THEARC](#), where we co-create and present exhibitions and arts programs with residents of wards 7 and 8. And, despite the current challenges related to the global pandemic, The Phillips Collection continues to serve our community, students, teachers, artists, and arts enthusiasts through virtual resources and programming. We employ 170 employees, many of whom are DC residents and artists themselves. The Mayor's FY21 budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we undertake to keep our mission moving forward.

We understand that there are many challenges in the year ahead. The proposed increase in funds for CAH grants will be critical to ensuring that the cultural life of the city continues to thrive, and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong. I hope you will support the increased dedicated funding for the CAH presented in the Mayor's FY21 proposed budget.

Respectfully,



Dorothy Kosinski, PhD
Vradenburg Director & CEO

The Phillips Collection
1600 21st Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Bridget Zangueneh | DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL GIVING

p. [REDACTED] x320 | c. [REDACTED] PhillipsCollection.org



1600 21st Street, NW | Washington, DC 20009

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Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Jeff Calhoun <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 9:38 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: funding the arts

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am an associate artist at Fords Theater and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
jeff calhoun

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Gail West <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 10:12 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposed Increase in Arts Funding in 2021

Dear DC Councilmember:

I serve on the Board of Trustees for Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, which is a member of Arts Action DC and the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs (NCACA) cohort I am writing on behalf of Hillwood and the NCACA cohort in support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for arts funding.

The Mayor's FY21 budget maintains the important dedicated funding, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. The budget also provides an increase in the critical dedicated financial support DC arts and culture organizations so urgently need during this unprecedented time. In FY21, funds from the DC Government and DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities will be more crucial than ever to ensure that the cultural life of the District continues to thrive and tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Over the last four years, the NCACA cohort has taken the lead in advocating for increased arts funding for every arts organization in the District. We believe a diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours and helps foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture in the District. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-size organizations we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential to the DC arts community. With increased funding, all of DC's arts and culture organizations will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law. As we stated during last year's budget process - all boats rise.

With a permanent collection containing more than 20,000 works of art, including the most comprehensive collection of Russian Imperial art outside of Russia and an outstanding collection of 18th century French decorative arts, as well as changing annual special exhibitions, Hillwood takes great pride in the offerings we provide more than 80,000 visitors each year. But we are perhaps most proud of more than 300 educational programs we offer annually to adults, families, and youth from every Ward in the District. Dedicated arts funding has helped make these programs possible, and increased funding has enabled us to enhance and expand programs to reach new audiences and deepen our engagement with these audiences. In this time of social distancing, Hillwood, like so many arts nonprofits, has endeavored to be both creative and fiscally responsible with our resources while finding innovative ways to remain connected to our patrons and the wider public. Despite the fact that Hillwood is currently closed, staff are still working to serve visitors from across the country through virtual experiences and programming, including video lectures and workshops, mobile tours of Hillwood's Mansion and gardens, printable art projects and activities for families and more. The FY21 budget proposal will enable us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken in DC for more than 43 years.

We know there are huge challenges ahead of us next year, and continuing dedicated funding for the arts will be more critical than ever. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for DC arts organizations which serve hundreds of thousands of DC residents each year through compelling and unique cultural programming.

Most respectfully,

Gail Berry West

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Jake Flack <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 9:35 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Funding for the Arts

Dear Chairman Mendelson *or* Councilmember Mendelson:

I am a member of the DC arts Community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Jake Flack

Jake Flack
Associate Director, Museum Education
Ford's Theatre | Where Lincoln's Legacy Lives
Mailing Address: 514 10th St. NW, Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) [REDACTED] | Fax: (202) [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
www.fords.org

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: STEVEN OATMEYER <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 10:33 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: My support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts

Dear Chairperson Mendelson'

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. GMCW is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. GMCW also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in D.C. Moving into FY21, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging, quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

GMCW has been a vital fixture in the cultural landscape of our nation's capital since 1981 and has a great impact on the creative economy in D.C. Not only do we have a robust audience within D.C. and the surrounding regions, we also attract hundreds of tourists to our one-of-a-kind performances each season. Guided by a mission to inspire equality and inclusion for all people, GMCW's 300-member ensemble and five small ensembles (including the GenOUT Youth Chorus for LGBTQ+ and allied young people ages 13-18) travel near and very far to promote justice and dignity for all people. The art we produce is our chosen mechanism for changing the world for the better. Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Steven Oatmeyer

Steve Oatmeyer Design
1227 N Street NW #B
Washington DC 20005



www.steveoatmeyer.com

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Paola Allais Acree <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 10:38 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cash, Evan W. (Council); McDuffie, Kenyan (Council); Bonds, Anita (Council); Grosso, David (Council); Silverman, Elissa (Council); White, Robert (Council); Nadeau, Brianne K. (Council); Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL); Todd, Brandon (Council); Allen, Charles (Council); Gray, Vincent (Council); White, Sr., Trayon (Council)
Subject: Please support Mayor Bowser's F21 budget proposal

Dear Chairman Council Members:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, which is a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts groups have been leaders for in increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—all boats rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Woolly Mammoth has operated in and served the District of Columbia for 40 years. Each year, we serve over 50,000 patrons annually from across the city, the region, and this nation. Essential funds from the Commission have supported hundreds of local artists and administrators who create the productions on our stage; have advanced our community programming, which serves thousands throughout the District; and have made our Pay-What-You-Can ticketing program possible, so cost is never a barrier for anyone wanting to see a Woolly show and participate in the essential dialogue that theatre ignites at the heart of our democracy.

This budget proposal will allow us to continue to deepen, expand, and improve upon the impactful work we have undertaken for 40 years. Despite not being able to gather in person, we have remained committed to embodying our mission by serving the community and continuing to innovate and adapt. Woolly Mammoth is developing new and exciting online programming, most of it at no cost to viewers and participants, including monthly open mic events with our partners at Spit Dat and plans for an array of interactive workshops and classes.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts is more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reach so many district residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Paola Allais Acree
Board Member, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Samara Foxx <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 11:17 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for FY21 Budget Proposal Funding the Arts

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of Ford's Theatre, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Ford's Theatre has operated and served the District of Columbia for more than 50 years. Each year, we reach over 650,000 patrons annually from across the city and this nation. Our education programs have made a particular impact on the public schools in the District. Additionally, we employ nearly 100 employees and, for the last several years, have focused on employing primarily local actors. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken for more than 50 years. Despite the current challenges, Ford's Theatre is still working to serve students, teachers and learning enthusiasts from D.C. and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep our mission moving forward, we have created new additional online tools, programs and resources. Our education team is working directly with their network of teachers to find out how we can best support them.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Samara Foxx

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Michael Bunce <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 11:17 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cash, Evan W. (Council)

Dear Chairman Mendelson

I am a member of the DC arts Community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Michael Bunce



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Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Anderson, Brian <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 11:35 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council); Anderson, Brian
Subject: Arts Funding in Mayor Bowser's budget proposal

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a DC resident and member of the Board of Trustees of Ford's Theatre Society, a DC non-profit corporation that presents theatrical, education, and museum program at the National Historic Site in partnership with the National Park Service. Ford's Theatre Society is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group. We support the proposal for funding the arts in Mayor Bowser's newly released FY21 budget proposal.

The Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has sought an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Ford's Theatre has operated and served the District of Columbia for more than 50 years. Each year, we reach over 650,000 patrons annually from across the city and this nation. Our education programs have made a particular impact on the public schools in the District. Additionally, we employ nearly 100 employees and, for the last several years, have focused on employing primarily local actors. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken. Despite the current challenges, Ford's Theatre is still working to serve students, teachers and learning enthusiasts from D.C. and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep our mission moving forward, we have created new additional online tools, programs and resources. Our education team is working directly with their network of teachers to find out how we can best support them.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Michael Fitzpatrick <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 11:39 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); McDuffie, Kenyan (Council); Bonds, Anita (Council); Grosso, David (Council); Silverman, Elissa (Council); White, Robert (Council); Nadeau, Brianne K. (Council); Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL); Todd, Brandon (Council); Allen, Charles (Council); Gray, Vincent (Council); White, Sr., Trayon (Council)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: FY '21 Arts Funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Council Members McDuffie, Bonds, Grosso, Silverman, White Jr., Nadeau, Cheh, Todd, Allen, Grey, and White Sr.:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, which is a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—all boats rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Woolly Mammoth has operated in and served the District of Columbia for 40 years. Each year, we serve over 50,000 patrons annually from across the city, the region, and this nation. Essential funds from the Commission have supported hundreds of local artists and administrators who create the productions on our stage; have advanced our community programming, which serves thousands throughout the District; and have made our Pay-What-You-Can ticketing program possible, so cost is never a barrier for anyone wanting to see a Woolly show and participate in the essential dialogue that theatre ignites at the heart of our democracy.

This budget proposal will allow us to continue to deepen, expand, and improve upon the impactful work we have undertaken for 40 years. Despite not being able to gather in person, we have remained committed to embodying our mission by serving the community and continuing to innovate and adapt. Woolly Mammoth is developing new and exciting online programming, most of it at no cost to viewers and participants, including monthly open mic events with our partners at Spit Dat and plans for an array of interactive workshops and classes.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts is more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reach so many district residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Michael Fitzpatrick
First Vice President, Board of Directors, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company



Michael Fitzpatrick
Head of Global Regulatory Affairs



Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Albert Wu <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 11:43 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Atlas Performing Arts Center

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Atlas Performing Arts Center, which is a member of ArtsActionDC and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, organizations included in the National Capital Arts group have been leaders in the push to increase arts funding for ALL arts institutions across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The Atlas Performing Arts Center is a community-based, multidisciplinary venue where artist and audiences connect through the arts. As the artistic heart of the H Street Northeast community, it is integral to the Atlas' mission to connect with and engage artists and patrons alike, and to be relevant to the community while exposing audiences to new art forms and perspectives. Community and economic development are the foundation of everything the Atlas does on both a small and large scale. During our most recent season, the Atlas housed close to 170 productions encompassing close to 600 unique performances that employed and engaged close to 1000 artists in its theatre spaces with annual audiences totaling 60,000 patrons.

In its focus on the impact that the arts can have in regard to positive growth and change in our community, the Atlas together with its resident arts partners offered free and reduced cost programming and services for our Northeast community and the District of Columbia at large valued at \$1.8 million. The Atlas is proud to play a major role in the creative economy of our nation's capital and it is where the arts, culture, and connection happen on H Street.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Albert Wu

Albert Wu, CFP®, ChFC®, AAMS®
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™

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Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Gloria Story Dittus <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 12:13 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council); McDuffie, Kenyan (Council); Bonds, Anita (Council); Grosso, David (Council); Silverman, Elissa (Council); White, Robert (Council); Nadeau, Brianne K. (Council); Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL); Todd, Brandon (Council); Allen, Charles (Council); Gray, Vincent (Council); White, Sr., Trayon (Council)
Subject: Support for the Arts

As a DC resident and business owner, I am thankful for your leadership during these unprecedented times. The entire elected leadership of the city has truly stepped up to the plate and is a testament to your focus and dedication to the city.

I am also a member of the Board of Trustees of Ford's Theatre, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support for the FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in your newly released budget proposal. Thank you for continuing to support the arts through this next year's budget cycle!

Your budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

With increased funding and support, we believe all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue. A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong. Thank you for your steadfast leadership during this challenging time.

Ford's Theatre has operated and served the District of Columbia for more than 50 years. Each year, we reach over 650,000 patrons annually from across the city and this nation. Our education programs have made a particular impact on the public schools in the District. Additionally, we employ nearly 100 employees and, for the last several years, have focused on employing primarily local actors. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken for more than 50 years. Despite the current challenges, Ford's Theatre is still working to serve students, teachers and learning enthusiasts from D.C. and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep our mission moving forward, we have created new additional online tools, programs and resources. Our education team is working directly with their network of teachers to find out how we can best support them.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. Again, we thank you for your continued support for dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Gloria Story Dittus

Wyoming Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Gloria Dittus
Chairman

Story Partners, LLC
The Flour Mill Building
1000 Potomac Street, NW
Suite 102
Washington, DC 20007

Office //

Cell //

StoryPartnersDC.com

[@StoryPartners](https://www.instagram.com/StoryPartners)



Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Erica Harper <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 12:18 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Mayor Bowser's FY21 Proposal for Funding the Arts

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I write on behalf of The Phillips Collection, where I serve as **Head of PK-12 Initiatives**. The Phillips Collection is a member of both Arts Action DC and the National Capital Arts group. We support Mayor Bowser's FY21 proposal for funding the arts as presented in her newly released budget proposal. The Mayor's budget upholds the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability of arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in support for DC arts and cultural organizations, which is so critical in this unprecedented time in history. Through her budget, Mayor Bowser strongly demonstrates that the arts, arts education, and humanities sectors remain an important part of the District's economy and culture, and must be supported in order to weather and survive this crisis.

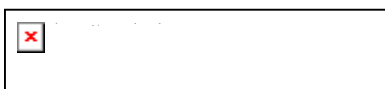
Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts group has been a leading advocate for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. The National Capital Arts group believes that equity among artists and arts organizations is essential for the DC arts community. To that end, we support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in DC, and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated effort across the city's agencies and departments. As we stated during last year's budget process—All Boats Will Rise—and the Mayor's proposed FY21 budget builds on this success.

The Phillips Collection has operated and served the District of Columbia for 99 years—2021 will mark our 100th anniversary. Our PK–12 [education programs](#) serve thousands of DC public school students and teachers each year; and our [art and wellness](#) programs for older adults have made a major impact on residents of DC's senior centers. Our community engagement work is exemplified at [Phillips@THEARC](#), where we co-create and present exhibitions and arts programs with residents of wards 7 and 8. And, despite the current challenges related to the global pandemic, The Phillips Collection continues to serve our community, students, teachers, artists, and arts enthusiasts through virtual resources and programming. We employ 170 employees, many of whom are DC residents and artists themselves. The Mayor's FY21 budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we undertake to keep our mission moving forward.

We understand that there are many challenges in the year ahead. The proposed increase in funds for CAH grants will be critical to ensuring that the cultural life of the city continues to thrive, and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong. I hope you will support the increased dedicated funding for the CAH presented in the Mayor's FY21 proposed budget.

Respectfully,
Erica Harper

Erica Harper | Head of PK12 Initiatives
[REDACTED] x247 | [PhillipsCollection.org](#)



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Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Linette S. Hwu <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 12:56 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cash, Evan W. (Council); Todd, Brandon (Council)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Please support the arts in FY21!!!

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Council member Todd,

I am the board president at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, which is a member of the National Capital Arts group, as well as a 22-year resident of DC (Dupont Circle and Hawthorne), and I am writing to add my voice to the many who are seeking your help to ensure that Mayor Bowser's proposed funding for the arts is included in the FY21 budget.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts groups have been leaders in advocating for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law -- as we stated during last year's budget process, all boats rise.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Woolly Mammoth has operated in and served the District of Columbia for 40 years. Each year, we serve over 50,000 patrons annually from across the city, the region and this nation. Essential funds from the Commission have supported hundreds of local artists and administrators who create the productions on our stage; have advanced our community programming, which serves thousands throughout the District; and have made our Pay-What-You-Can ticketing program possible, so cost is never a barrier for anyone wanting to see a Woolly show and participate in the essential dialogue that theatre ignites at the heart of our democracy.

This budget proposal will allow us to continue to deepen, expand and improve upon the impactful work we have undertaken for 40 years. Despite not being able to gather in person, we have remained committed to embodying our mission by serving the community and continuing to innovate and adapt. Woolly Mammoth is developing new and exciting online programming, most of it at no cost to viewers and participants, including monthly open mic events with our partners at Spit Dat and plans for an array of interactive workshops and classes.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year, and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts is more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reach so many district residents throughout all wards of the city.

Thank you for reading, and thank you for your support.

Wishing you and your loved ones all the best during this surreal moment,
L.

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Jeremy Ney <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 12:56 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Cc: Bridget Zangueneh
Subject: FY21 Budget, Arts Funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I write on behalf of The Phillips Collection, where I serve as Director of Music. The Phillips Collection is a member of both Arts Action DC and the National Capital Arts group. We support Mayor Bowser's FY21 proposal for funding the arts as presented in her newly released budget proposal. The Mayor's budget upholds the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability of arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in support for DC arts and cultural organizations, which is so critical in this unprecedented time in history. Through her budget, Mayor Bowser strongly demonstrates that the arts, arts education, and humanities sectors remain an important part of the District's economy and culture, and must be supported in order to weather and survive this crisis.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts group has been a leading advocate for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. The National Capital Arts group believes that equity among artists and arts organizations is essential for the DC arts community. To that end, we support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in DC, and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated effort across the city's agencies and departments. As we stated during last year's budget process—All Boats Will Rise—and the Mayor's proposed FY21 budget builds on this success.

The Phillips Collection has operated and served the District of Columbia for 99 years—2021 will mark our 100th anniversary. Our PK–12 [education programs](#) serve thousands of DC public school students and teachers each year; and our [art and wellness](#) programs for older adults have made a major impact on residents of DC's senior centers. Our community engagement work is exemplified at [Phillips@THEARC](#), where we co-create and present exhibitions and arts programs with residents of wards 7 and 8. And, despite the current challenges related to the global pandemic, The Phillips Collection continues to serve our community, students, teachers, artists, and arts enthusiasts through virtual resources and programming. We employ 170 employees, many of whom are DC residents and artists themselves. The Mayor's FY21 budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we undertake to keep our mission moving forward.

We understand that there are many challenges in the year ahead. The proposed increase in funds for CAH grants will be critical to ensuring that the cultural life of the city continues to thrive, and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong. I hope you will support the increased dedicated funding for the CAH presented in the Mayor's FY21 proposed budget.

Respectfully,

Jeremy Ney

Jeremy Ney | Director of Music

p. [REDACTED] x283 | c. [REDACTED] PhillipsCollection.org



1600 21st Street, NW | Washington, DC 20009

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The Phillips Collection is closed to the public until further notice. I am working remotely and will be as responsive as possible.

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Barbara Strack <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 1:32 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Mayor's budget proposal - support for arts funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, which is a member of the National Capital Arts (NCA) group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget.

The Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations need during this unprecedented time. We also support greater equity in the arts. As you may know, NCA includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government to support the arts will be more crucial than ever to ensure that the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and that the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Woolly Mammoth has operated in and served the District of Columbia for 40 years. Each year, we serve over 50,000 patrons annually from across the city, the region, and the nation. Funds from the Commission on the Arts & Humanities have supported hundreds of local artists and administrators who create the productions on our stage; advanced our community programming; and have made our "Pay-What-You-Can" ticketing program possible, so cost is never a barrier for anyone wanting to see a Woolly show.

This budget proposal will allow us to continue to deepen, expand, and improve upon the work we have undertaken for 40 years. Despite not being able to gather in person, Woolly has remained committed to our mission, continuing to innovate and adapt. Woolly is developing new and exciting online programming, most of it at no cost to viewers and participants, from monthly open mic events to an array of interactive workshops and classes.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead for all DC residents in the coming year, and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts is more critical than ever. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations.

Respectfully,
Barbara Strack
Board Member, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
Ward 1

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Vesela Sretenovic <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 1:47 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: FW: FY21 Budget, Arts Funding

Dear Chairman Phil Medelson,

I am [writing](#) on behalf of The Phillips Collection, where I serve as senior curator of modern and contemporary art. The Phillips Collection is a member of both Arts Action DC and the National Capital Arts group. We support Mayor Bowser's FY21 proposal for funding the arts as presented in her newly released budget proposal. The Mayor's budget upholds the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability of arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in support for DC arts and cultural organizations, which is so critical in this unprecedented time in history. Through her budget, Mayor Bowser strongly demonstrates that the arts, arts education, and humanities sectors remain an important part of the District's economy and culture, and must be supported in order to weather and survive this crisis.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts group has been a leading advocate for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. The National Capital Arts group believes that equity among artists and arts organizations is essential for the DC arts community. To that end, we support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in DC, and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated effort across the city's agencies and departments. As we stated during last year's budget process—All Boats Will Rise—and the Mayor's proposed FY21 budget builds on this success.

The Phillips Collection has operated and served the District of Columbia for 99 years—2021 will mark our 100th anniversary. Our PK–12 [education programs](#) serve thousands of DC public school students and teachers each year; and our [art and wellness](#) programs for older adults have made a major impact on residents of DC's senior centers. Our community engagement work is exemplified at [Phillips@THEARC](#), where we co-create and present exhibitions and arts programs with residents of wards 7 and 8. And, despite the current challenges related to the global pandemic, The Phillips Collection continues to serve our community, students, teachers, artists, and arts enthusiasts through virtual resources and programming. We employ 170 employees, many of whom are DC residents and artists themselves. The Mayor's FY21 budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we undertake to keep our mission moving forward.

We understand that there are many challenges in the year ahead. The proposed increase in funds for CAH grants will be critical to ensuring that the cultural life of the city continues to thrive, and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong. I hope you will support the increased dedicated funding for the CAH presented in the Mayor's FY21 proposed budget.

Respectfully,

Vesela, DC resident, Word 4

Vesela Sretenovic, Ph.D. | Senior Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art
[REDACTED] x207 | [PhillipsCollection.org](#)



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Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: AMY MEADOWS <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 1:49 PM
Subject: Funding for DC Arts Organizations

Dear Councilmember -

I write on behalf of The Phillips Collection, where I serve on the Board of Trustees. The Phillips Collection is a member of both Arts Action DC and the National Capital Arts group. We support Mayor Bowser's FY21 proposal for funding the arts as presented in her newly released budget proposal. The Mayor's budget upholds the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability of arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in support for DC arts and cultural organizations, which is so critical in this unprecedented time in history. Through her budget, Mayor Bowser strongly demonstrates that the arts, arts education, and humanities sectors remain an important part of the District's economy and culture, and must be supported in order to weather and survive this crisis.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts group has been a leading advocate for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. The National Capital Arts group believes that equity among artists and arts organizations is essential for the DC arts community. To that end, we support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in DC, and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated effort across the city's agencies and departments. As we stated during last year's budget process—All Boats Will Rise—and the Mayor's proposed FY21 budget builds on this success.

The Phillips Collection has operated and served the District of Columbia for 99 years—2021 will mark our 100th anniversary. Our PK–12 education programs serve thousands of DC public school students and teachers each year; and our art and wellness programs for older adults have made a major impact on residents of DC's senior centers. Our community engagement work is exemplified at Phillips@THEARC, where we co-create and present exhibitions and arts programs with residents of wards 7 and 8. And, despite the current challenges related to the global pandemic, The Phillips Collection continues to serve our community, students, teachers, artists, and arts enthusiasts through virtual resources and programming. We employ 170 employees, many of whom are DC residents and artists themselves. The Mayor's FY21 budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we undertake to keep our mission moving forward.

We understand that there are many challenges in the year ahead. The proposed increase in funds for CAH grants will be critical to ensuring that the cultural life of the city continues to thrive, and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong. I hope you will support the increased dedicated funding for the CAH presented in the Mayor's FY21 proposed budget.

Respectfully,

Amy Frenkil Meadows
3800 Yuma Street, NW
Washington, DC
[REDACTED]

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 1:58 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Funding for the Arts in Mayor Bowser's proposed FY21 Budget

TO: Chair Mendelson

I am a patron, donor, and friend of the Atlas Performing Arts Center writing in support of Mayor Bowser's proposed FY21 Budget and the Mayor's proposal contained therein for funding our city's Arts. Before retiring, I worked in arts administration for almost thirty years, the last ten as the Executive Director of the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop (CHAW).

The Atlas Performing Arts Center is a community-based, multidisciplinary venue where artist and audiences connect through the Arts. As the artistic heart of the H Street Northeast community, it is integral to the Atlas' mission to connect with and engage artists and patrons alike, and to be relevant to the community while exposing audiences to new art forms and perspectives. Community and economic development are the foundation of everything the Atlas does on both a small and large scale.

During its most recent season, the Atlas housed nearly 170 productions encompassing close to 600 unique performances which employed and engaged almost 1,000 artists in its theatre spaces with annual audiences totaling 60,000 patrons.

The Atlas is focused on the positive impact that the Arts provide for growth and change in our community. Together with its Resident Arts Partners, the Atlas offered free and reduced cost programming and services for our Northeast community and the at-large DC community valued at \$1.8 million. The Atlas is proud to play a major role in the creative economy of our nation's capital and it is where arts, culture, and connection happen on H Street.

The Mayor's FY21 Budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in Arts funding that the D.C. Council established last year. It also provides an increase in dedicated and critical financial support that D.C. arts and cultural organizations require during this unprecedented time in history.

The Atlas Performing Arts Center is a member of ArtsActionDC and the National Capital Arts Group which includes long-established large and mid-sized arts organizations. Both support greater equity in the Arts as essential for the D.C. Arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, organizations included in the National Capital Arts Group have been leaders in the push to increase arts funding for ALL arts institutions across the city. They support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCA) to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all

organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. They also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law.

A diverse Arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as the National Capital Arts Group which fosters an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into FY21, funds from the D.C. Government and DCCAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial. These funds will ensure the cultural life of our great Arts City continues to thrive, and that tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

There are huge challenges coming in this next year. Continuing the dedicated funding source for the Arts is critical if our organizations are to continue their service to D.C. residents. I urge you to support Mayor Bowser's budgeting proposal for dedicated funding of the vital work of D.C.'s Arts organizations. These organizations touch and change the lives of district students, teachers, and residents throughout all the city's wards.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jill P. Strachan, Ph.D.
141 12th Street NE, Apt. 4
Washington, D.C. 20002



Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Nancy Zhu <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 2:00 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Thank you for your support and funding for the arts

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember Cheh:

I am a pianist at the Washington School of Ballet, and I support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

The Washington Ballet has operated and served the District of Columbia for 75 years. Each year, we reach over 90,000 patrons annually as part of our main stage productions from across the city and this nation. Additionally, our nationally acclaimed school of ballet reaches nearly 2,000 students annually and our outreach programs have made a particular impact on more than 150,000 DC Public School students over the last 15 years. We employ 190 artistic and administrative staff many of whom are DC residents. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken for more than 75 years. Despite the current challenges, The Washington Ballet is still working to serve students, teachers and learning enthusiasts from D.C. and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep our mission moving forward, we have created new additional online tools, programs and resources. Our education team is working directly with their network of teachers to find out how we can best support them.

There are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I am grateful to Mayor Bowser and the City Council for your continued support and dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Shiyi Nancy Zhu (Washington School of Ballet pianist, Ward 3 resident)

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Colleen Prior <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 2:16 PM
To: Falcichio, John (EOM)
Subject: Support for Arts Funding Proposal

Dear Mayor Bowser:

I am a member of D.C. arts community, and I support for the FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in your newly released budget proposal. Thank you for continuing to support the arts through this next year's budget cycle!

Your budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. I also support greater equity in the arts and believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

I know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. Again, thank you for your continued support for dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Colleen Prior
Associate Director of Visitor Experience
Ford's Theatre | Where Lincoln's Legacy Lives
Mailing Address: 514 10th St. NW, Washington, DC 20004
Office Phone: (202) [REDACTED]
Cell Phone: (240) [REDACTED] | Fax: (202) [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
www.fords.org

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Matt Dewberry <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 2:17 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Mayor Bowser's FY21 Budget

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the DC arts Community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Matt Dewberry
Group Sales Manager
Ford's Theatre | Where Lincoln's Legacy Lives
Mailing Address: 514 10th St. NW, Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) [REDACTED] | Fax: (202) [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
www.fords.org

[Group Sales Website](#)

2018-2019 Payment Policies: [Historic Site](#), [Mainstage Shows](#), [History on Foot](#)

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Kim Scharnberg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 2:21 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: DC Arts Funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson-

I am an Associate Artist with the Ford's Theatre and member of D.C. arts community. I support the FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in your newly released budget proposal. Thank you for continuing to support the arts through this next year's budget cycle!

Your budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. I also support greater equity in the arts and believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

I know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. Again, thank you for your continued support for dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Sincerely, Kim Scharnberg

Kim Scharnberg
PO Box 72
Norfolk, CT 06058

www.KimScharnberg.com

On Wed, May 27, 2020 at 2:17 PM Kim Scharnberg <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Chairman Mendelson-

I am an Associate Artist with the Ford's Theatre and member of D.C. arts community. I support the FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in your newly released budget proposal. Thank you for continuing to support the arts through this next year's budget cycle!

Your budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. I also support greater equity in the arts and believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

I know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. Again, thank you for your continued support for dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district

students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Sincerely, Kim Scharnberg

Kim Scharnberg
PO Box 72
Norfolk, CT 06058

 [com](#)

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Jacob S <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 2:23 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Fwd: Support Arts in DC

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am a member of the DC arts Community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Sincerely,
Jacob Schnabel

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Donna Ari <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 3:12 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Mayor's Budget

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, which is a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future. Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—all boats rise—this will continue. A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Woolly Mammoth has operated in and served the District of Columbia for 40 years. Each year, we serve over 50,000 patrons annually from across the city, the region, and this nation. Essential funds from the Commission have supported hundreds of local artists and administrators who create the productions on our stage; have advanced our community programming, which serves thousands throughout the District; and have made our Pay-What-You-Can ticketing program possible, so cost is never a barrier for anyone wanting to see a Woolly show and participate in the essential dialogue that theatre ignites at the heart of our democracy.

This budget proposal will allow us to continue to deepen, expand, and improve upon the impactful work we have undertaken for 40 years. Despite not being able to gather in person, we have remained committed to embodying our mission by serving the community and continuing to innovate and adapt. Woolly Mammoth is developing new and exciting online programming, most of it at no cost to viewers and participants, including monthly open mic events with our partners at Spit Dat and plans for an array of interactive workshops and classes.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts is more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reach so many district residents throughout all wards of the city.

Sincerely,
Donna Ari
Board Member, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
and DC Resident

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Ryan Merkel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 3:25 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Please support the arts in DC

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am writing to express strong support for Mayor Bowser's FY 21 budget proposal for funding the arts, included in her newly released budget plan. As a staff member of an arts organization, this funding is critically important to my employment status.

This funding provides a needed increase in the dedicated and critical financial support to DC arts and cultural organizations, who reach so many District students, teachers and residents in all Wards of the City, and generate significant economic benefits to the City.

This support is particularly critical now when so many arts organizations have closed due to the steps taken to protect our City's residents with social distancing guidelines and other measures.

Our arts ecology is one of the key factors that make our city a wonderful place to live. It's one of the reasons young professionals move here and one of the reasons retired individuals stay. Please support it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Ryan E. Merkel

910 M St NW Unit 1030

Washington, DC 20001

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Susan Haas Bralove <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 3:47 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Mayor Bowser's FY '21 Proposal to Fund the Arts

Dear Council Chairman Mendelson,

As a longtime trustee of Arena Stage and a supporter of the arts in DC, I am writing to endorse Mayor Bowser's FY 21 budget proposal for funding the arts, included in her newly released budget plan.

This funding provides a needed increase in the dedicated and critical financial support to DC arts and cultural organizations, who reach so many District students, teachers and residents in all wards of the city, and generate significant economic benefits to the city.

This support is particularly critical now when so many arts organizations have closed due to the steps taken to protect our city's residents with social distancing guidelines and other measures.

Thank you, ahead of time, for your support.

Sincerely,

Susan Haas Bralove
2934 Glover DR, NW
Washington, DC 20016

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Andrew Fox <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 5:55 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: FY 21 Arts Funding Proposal

Dear Chairman Mendelson

I am a member of the DC arts Community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Andrew Fox

Head Carpenter IATSE

Fords Theatre

Email [REDACTED]

Cell 435-531-1574

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Lisa Fleischman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 5:57 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Lisa Claudy Fleischman; Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: the health of DC arts

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

Greetings and good wishes to you. I am a seventh-generation Washingtonian and a member of the National Advisory Board of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group. We support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for in increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

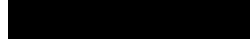
A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) has operated in and served the District of Columbia since 1987. NMWA attracts over 150,000 attendees annually, with visitors from across the city and the DC region, as well as throughout the country and around the world. Education programming, with a special emphasis on local needs, has been a key part of NMWA's mission since its inception; each year, the museum reaches thousands of DCPS and DCPCS students through school tours and teacher training. NMWA employs over 80 employees, more than half of whom are DC residents. The proposed budget will enable NMWA—the only major museum in the world solely dedicated to championing women through the arts—to continue to expand, strengthen, and enhance the important work that we have undertaken for over 30 years. Although the museum currently faces incredible challenges, we are committed to serving learners of all ages from D.C. and across the country through an exciting variety of digitally-based activities and materials, including interactive weekly Art Chats, an array of online exhibitions, See for Yourself cards, a vibrant award-winning Instagram presence, blog entries geared towards "Creative Coping" during this difficult time, and much, much more.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Yours respectfully,

Elisabeth Claudy Fleischman



mobile: (+1) 240 401-8604

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Adam Williams <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 3:31 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Arts Funding in FY21 Budget Proposal

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the DC arts Community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Adam Williams
Manager, Corporate Relations
Ford's Theatre | Where Lincoln's Legacy Lives
Mailing Address: 514 10th St. NW, Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) [REDACTED] | Fax: (202) [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
www.fords.org

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Nancy Hartsock <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 4:31 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Mayor's FY21 budget with dedicated funding for the arts

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, which is a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts groups have been leaders for in increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—all boats rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Woolly Mammoth has operated in and served the District of Columbia for 40 years. Each year, we serve over 50,000 patrons annually from across the city, the region, and this nation. Essential funds from the Commission have supported hundreds of local artists and administrators who create the productions on our stage; have advanced our community programming, which serves thousands throughout the District; and have made our Pay-What-You-Can ticketing program possible, so cost is never a barrier for anyone wanting to see a Woolly show and participate in the essential dialogue that theatre ignites at the heart of our democracy.

This budget proposal will allow us to continue to deepen, expand, and improve upon the impactful work we have undertaken for 40 years. Despite not being able to gather in person, we have remained committed to embodying our mission by serving the community and continuing to innovate and adapt. Woolly Mammoth is developing new and exciting online programming, most of it at no cost to viewers and participants, including monthly open mic events with our partners at Spit Dat and plans for an array of interactive workshops and classes.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts is more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reach so many district residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Nancy Hartsock
Vice President
Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company Board of Directors

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Martha Dippell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 4:33 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for the Arts in Mayor Bowser's FY21 Budget

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of National Museum of Women in the Arts, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) has operated in and served the District of Columbia since 1987. NMWA attracts over 150,000 attendees annually, with visitors from across the city and the DC region, as well as throughout the country and around the world. Education programming, with a special emphasis on local needs, has been a key part of NMWA's mission since its inception; each year, the museum reaches thousands of

DCPS and DCPCS students through school tours and teacher training. NMWA employs over 80 employees, more than half of whom are DC residents. The proposed budget will enable NMWA—the only major museum in the world solely dedicated to championing women through the arts—to continue to expand, strengthen, and enhance the important work that we have undertaken for over 30 years. Although the museum currently faces incredible challenges, we are committed to serving learners of all ages from D.C. and across the country through an exciting variety of digitally-based activities and materials, including interactive weekly Art Chats, an array of online exhibitions, See for Yourself cards, a vibrant award-winning Instagram presence, blog entries geared towards “Creative Coping” during this difficult time, and much, much more.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Martha Dippell

President,

National Museum of Women in the Arts

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Seema Mishra Osielski <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7:12 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: IMPORTANT: Yes to Support for the Arts in Mayor Bowser's FY21 Budget

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a resident of Washington, DC and a member of the staff of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

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We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Seema Mishra Osielski

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Mike Acocella <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7:24 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: DC Commission on Arts and Humanities

Dear Chairperson Mendelson;

I am a member of The Washington Chorus. TWC is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. TWC also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in D.C. Moving into FY21, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging, quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The Washington Chorus has been a continuously operating nonprofit serving and partnering with the D.C. community for 59 years. We welcome tens of thousands of audience members annually to our concerts at The Kennedy Center, Live! at 10th and G, National Presbyterian Church, Atlas Center for the Performing Arts, and many more DC venues. We also work every day to bring music and the unique power and joy of singing together to as many people as possible across D.C., including students and families through our DC Honor Chorus program with DC Public Schools and our Side by Side program. This summer, we welcome Dr. Eugene Rogers as our fifth Artistic Director, and his vision for centering inclusive excellence in our work has the power to positively transform the lives of even more DC residents through our online and in-person programs. Our community of over 160 citizen artist singers are teachers, recent graduates, doctors, government workers, and more - we all come together with DC as our home base, to realize TWC's mission to create a better world through singing together.

Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

From all of us at The Washington Chorus, thank you for your support of the mayor's FY21 budget proposal and its increase for arts/culture funding.

Respectfully,

Mike Acocella (Member, The Washington Chorus)

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Paul Heins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7:35 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: FY21 DCCAH Funding

Dear Chairperson Mendelson:

I am a staff member of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC. GMCW is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. GMCW also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in D.C. Moving into FY21, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging, quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

GMCW has been a vital fixture in the cultural landscape of our nation's capital since 1981 and has a great impact on the creative economy in D.C. Not only do we have a robust audience within D.C. and the surrounding regions, we also attract hundreds of tourists to our one-of-a-kind performances each season. Guided by a mission to inspire equality and inclusion for all people, GMCW's 300-member ensemble and five small ensembles (including the GenOUT Youth Chorus for LGBTQ+ and allied young people ages 13-18, which I conduct) travel near and very far to promote justice and dignity for all people. The art we produce is our chosen mechanism for changing the world for the better. Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Paul Heins

C. Paul Heins, DMA
Associate Conductor, Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC
Director, GenOUT Chorus
1140 3rd St., NE, 2nd floor | Washington, DC 20002
office: (202) 293-1548 | cell: (202) 271-2689
<http://www.gmcw.org/genout>
Pronouns: he/him
* I am usually off on Fridays

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: CATHERINE CLINTON <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7:37 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council); McDuffie, Kenyan (Council); Bonds, Anita (Council); Silverman, Elissa (Council); White, Robert (Council); Nadeau, Brianne K. (Council); Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL); Todd, Brandon (Council); Allen, Charles (Council); Gray, Vincent (Council); White, Sr., Trayon (Council)
Subject: FY21

Dear Chairman Mendelson, and Honorable Councilmen and Councilwomen,

I am a member of the DC Arts Community and support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I have been involved with Ford's Theatre for several decades, and now serve on the advisory board. I was pleased to note that this wonderful institution remains an important asset to the national, regional and city neighborhoods, with dynamic outreach into the community.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Catherine Clinton

Catherine Clinton
Denman Chair of American History
GRADUATE ADVISOR OF RECORD
University of Texas San Antonio
[REDACTED]

www.catherineclinton.com

Prof. Emerita Queen's University Belfast
[REDACTED]

203-981-8310

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Vicki J Hicks <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 8:58 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Please support the arts

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I strongly support the Mayor's budget inclusion of funding for the arts. It is critically imperative that DC provide financial support to our arts and cultural institutions, which are economic engines for the city and make it such a vibrant and wonderful place to live. These organizations also reach so many District students, teachers and residents in all Wards of DC. This support is particularly critical now when so many arts organizations have closed due to the steps taken to protect our City's residents with social distancing guidelines and other measures. Without help from the DC government many of these institutions will be lost forever.

Thank you for considering my position on funding for the arts.

Vicki J. Hicks

47th Place NW

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 11:06 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Mayor's FY 21 Budget Proposal for Funding the Arts.

I write to express strong support for Mayor Bowser's FY 21 budget proposal for funding the arts, included in her newly released budget plan. This funding provides a needed increase in the dedicated and critical financial support to DC arts and cultural organizations which reach so many District students, teachers and residents in all Wards and generate significant economic benefits to the City. This support is particularly critical now when so many arts organizations have closed due to the steps taken to protect our City's residents with social distancing guidelines and other measures.

Thank you very much for your attention. John Lynham

John Lynham
3000 K Street, NW
Wash., D.C. 20007

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Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: stephen rayne <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 5:30 AM
To: Paul Tetreault; Cash, Evan W. (Council); Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Subject: Arts funding

Dear Chairman

I am a British director who has worked at Fords Theatre since 2008.

I wish to express my support for Mayor Bowser's FY21 Budget and proposal for funding the arts in the coming year. I have realised in my time working in DC how important the arts community is to the area and it is only strengthened by stable institutions that help to foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture within the district.

There are huge challenges ahead in all areas of the entertainment and education industry and a continued and dedicated funding source will be more critical than ever to allow all organisations within the district to serve its residents and flourish in the coming years.

With all best wishes for the future

Yours sincerely

Stephen Rayne

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Julie Garcia <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 8:01 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FY21 Budget, Arts Funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I write on behalf of The Phillips Collection, where I serve on the Board of Trustees. The Phillips Collection is a member of both Arts Action DC and the National Capital Arts group. We were thrilled to see and strongly support Mayor Bowser's FY21 proposal for funding the arts as presented in her newly released budget proposal. The Mayor's budget upholds the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability of arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in support for DC arts and cultural organizations, which is so critical in this unprecedented time in history. Through her budget, Mayor Bowser strongly demonstrates that the arts, arts education, and humanities sectors remain an important part of the District's economy and culture, and must be supported in order to weather and survive this crisis.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts group has been a leading advocate for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. The National Capital Arts group believes that equity among artists and arts organizations is essential for the DC arts community. To that end, we support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in DC, and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated effort across the city's agencies and departments. As we stated during last year's budget process—All Boats Will Rise—and the Mayor's proposed FY21 budget builds on this success.

The Phillips Collection has operated and served the District of Columbia for 99 years—2021 will mark our 100th anniversary. Our PK–12 education programs serve thousands of DC public school students and teachers each year; and our art and wellness programs for older adults have made a major impact on residents of DC's senior centers. Our community engagement work is exemplified at Phillips@THEARC, where we co-create and present exhibitions and arts programs with residents of wards 7 and 8. And, despite the current challenges related to the global pandemic, The Phillips Collection continues to serve our community, students, teachers, artists, and arts enthusiasts through virtual resources and programming. We employ 170 employees, many of whom are DC residents and artists themselves. The Mayor's FY21 budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we undertake to keep our mission moving forward.

We understand that there are many challenges in the year ahead. The proposed increase in funds for CAH grants will be critical to ensuring that the cultural life of the city continues to thrive, and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong. I hope you will support the increased dedicated funding for the CAH presented in the Mayor's FY21 proposed budget.

Respectfully,

Julie Garcia
[REDACTED]

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Martha Hodes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 8:04 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Arts funding proposal

Dear Chair Mendelson

As a member of Ford's Theatre Advisory Council, I support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District.

I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Martha Hodes
Professor of History, New York University
John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow, 2018-19
[Martha Hodes: author website](#)
[Martha Hodes: NYU Department of History website](#)

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Gina Dearborn <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 9:04 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: City Budget

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of Ford's Theatre, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

Ford's Theatre has operated and served the District of Columbia for more than 50 years. Each year, we reach over 650,000 patrons annually from across the city and this nation. Our education programs have made a particular impact on the public schools in the District. Additionally, we employ nearly 100 employees and, for the last several years, have focused on employing primarily local actors. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken for more than 50 years. Despite the current challenges, Ford's Theatre is still working to serve students, teachers and learning enthusiasts from D.C. and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep our mission moving forward, we have created new additional online tools, programs and resources. Our education team is working directly with their network of teachers to find out how we can best support them.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Gina Dearborn

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Lucy Nevin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 10:43 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: The Washington Ballet

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of Ford's Theatre, which is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been leaders for in increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The Washington Ballet has operated and served the District of Columbia for 75 years. Each year, we reach over 90,000 patrons annually as part of our main stage productions from across the city and this nation. Additionally, our nationally acclaimed school of ballet reaches nearly 2,000 students annually and our outreach programs have made a particular impact on more than 150,000 DC Public School students over the last 15 years. We employ 190 artistic and administrative staff many of whom are DC residents. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken for more than 75 years. Despite the current challenges, The Washington Ballet is still working to serve students, teachers and learning enthusiasts from D.C. and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep our mission moving forward, we have created new additional online tools, programs and resources. Our education team is working directly with their network of teachers to find out how we can best support them.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Lucy Nevin

Ballerina with The Washington Ballet

(Ward 3)

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Jean-Marie Fernandez <jeanmfernandez@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 10:44 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council); Jean-Marie Fernandez
Subject: Letter of Support for Mayor Bowser's Budget Proposal

Good Morning Chairman Mendelson,

As Chair of the Board of Directors of The Washington Ballet, a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts Group, I wanted to firmly support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This budget proposed by the Mayor continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. I also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long established large and midsized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the DC arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has been a leadership group for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. I support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the DC arts community and support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in DC and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law - as stated, in last year's budget process - All Boats Rise - this will continue.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as The Washington Ballet to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the DC Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The Washington Ballet has operated and served the District of Columbia for 75 years. Each year we reach over 90,000 patrons annually as part of our main stage productions from across the city and this nation. Additionally, our nationally acclaimed School of Ballet reaches nearly 2,000 students annually and our outreach programs have made a particular impact on more than 150,000 DC Public School students over the last 15 years. We employ 190 artistic and administrative staff, many of whom are DC residents. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have undertaken for more than 75 years. Despite the current challenges, The Washington Ballet is still working to serve students, teachers and learning enthusiasts from DC and across the country through virtual resources and programming. To keep our mission moving forward, we have created new additional online tools, programs and resources. Our education team is working directly with their network of teachers to find out how we can best support them.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve district residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for DC arts organizations, which reach so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Jay Gilliam <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 10:01 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget for funding the arts

Dear Chairperson Mendelson:

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the [Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC](#). GMCW is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. **I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.**

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. GMCW also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. **With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.**

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in D.C. **Moving into FY21, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging, quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.**

GMCW has been a vital fixture in the cultural landscape of our nation's capital since 1981 and has a great impact on the creative economy in D.C. Not only do we have a robust audience within D.C. and the surrounding regions, we also attract hundreds of tourists to our one-of-a-kind performances each season. Guided by a mission to inspire equality and inclusion for all people, GMCW's 300-member ensemble and five small ensembles (including the GenOUT Youth Chorus for LGBTQ+ and allied young people ages 13-18) travel near and very far to promote justice and dignity for all people. The art we produce is our chosen mechanism for changing the world for the better. **Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.**

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. **I hope you will support continued dedicated funding**

for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Best,

Jay Gilliam
4926 12th St NE
Washington, DC 20017

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Paul Killian <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 11:48 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council); McDuffie, Kenyan (Council); Bonds, Anita (Council); Silverman, Elissa (Council); [REDACTED] Nadeau, Brianne K. (Council); Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL); Todd, Brandon (Council); Allen, Charles (Council); Gray, Vincent (Council); White, Sr., Trayon (Council); Bridget Zangueneh
Subject: FY21 Budget, Arts Funding; The Phillips Collection

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers:

I write on behalf of The Phillips Collection, where I serve on the Board of Trustees. The Phillips Collection is a member of both Arts Action DC and the National Capital Arts group. We support Mayor Bowser's FY21 proposal for funding the arts as presented in her newly released budget proposal. The Mayor's budget upholds the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability of arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in support for DC arts and cultural organizations, which is so critical in this unprecedented time in history. Through her budget, Mayor Bowser strongly demonstrates that the arts, arts education, and humanities sectors remain an important part of the District's economy and culture, and must be supported in order to weather and survive this crisis.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts group has been a leading advocate for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. The National Capital Arts group believes that equity among artists and arts organizations is essential for the DC arts community. To that end, we support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in DC, and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated effort across the city's agencies and departments. As we stated during last year's budget process—All Boats Will Rise—and the Mayor's proposed FY21 budget builds on this success.

The Phillips Collection has operated and served the District of Columbia for 99 years—2021 will mark our 100th anniversary. Our PK–12 [education programs](#) serve thousands of DC public school students and teachers each year; and our [art and wellness](#) programs for older adults have made a major impact on residents of DC's senior centers. Our community engagement work is exemplified at [Phillips@THEARC](#), where we co-create and present exhibitions and arts programs with residents of wards 7 and 8. And, despite the current challenges related to the global pandemic, The Phillips Collection continues to serve our community, students, teachers, artists, and arts enthusiasts through virtual resources and programming. We employ 170 employees, many of whom are DC residents and artists themselves. The Mayor's FY21 budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we undertake to keep our mission moving forward.

We understand that there are many challenges in the year ahead. The proposed increase in funds for CAH grants will be critical to ensuring that the cultural life of the city continues to thrive, and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong. I hope you will support the increased dedicated funding for the CAH presented in the Mayor's FY21 proposed budget.

Respectfully,

Paul W. Killian
2024 Hillyer Place NW
Washington, DC 20009
[REDACTED]

Cc: Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie
Councilmember Anita Bonds
Councilmember David Grosso
Councilmember Elissa Silverman
Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.
Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau
Councilmember Mary Cheh
Councilmember Brandon T. Todd
Councilmember Charles Allen
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray
Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

Ms. Bridget Zangueneh, Director of Institutional Giving, The Phillips Collection

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Barbara Hall <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 2:40 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Cc: 'Bridget Zangueneh'
Subject: FY 21 Budget, Arts Funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I write on behalf of The Phillips Collection, where I serve on the Board of Trustees, and as a native Washingtonian who has supported DC arts for more than 50 years. The Phillips Collection is a member of both Arts Action DC and the National Capital Arts group. We support Mayor Bowser's FY21 proposal for funding the arts as presented in her newly released budget proposal. The Mayor's budget upholds the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability of arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in support for DC arts and cultural organizations, which is so critical in this unprecedented time in history. Through her budget, Mayor Bowser strongly demonstrates that the arts, arts education, and humanities sectors remain an important part of the District's economy and culture, and must be supported in order to weather and survive this crisis.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts group has been a leading advocate for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. The National Capital Arts group believes that equity among artists and arts organizations is essential for the DC arts community. To that end, we support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in DC, and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated effort across the city's agencies and departments. As we stated during last year's budget process—All Boats Will Rise—and the Mayor's proposed FY21 budget builds on this success.

The Phillips Collection has operated and served the District of Columbia for 99 years—2021 will mark our 100th anniversary. Our PK–12 [education programs](#) serve thousands of DC public school students and teachers each year; and our [art and wellness](#) programs for older adults have made a major impact on residents of DC's senior centers. Our community engagement work is exemplified at [Phillips@THEARC](#), where we co-create and present exhibitions and arts programs with residents of wards 7 and 8. And, despite the current challenges related to the global pandemic, The Phillips Collection continues to serve our community, students, teachers, artists, and arts enthusiasts through virtual resources and programming. We employ 170 employees, many of whom are DC residents and artists themselves. The Mayor's FY21 budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we undertake to keep our mission moving forward.

We understand that there are many challenges in the year ahead. The proposed increase in funds for CAH grants will be critical to ensuring that the cultural life of the city continues to thrive, and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong. I hope you will support the increased dedicated funding for the CAH presented in the Mayor's FY21 proposed budget.

Respectfully,

Barbara A. Hall
Trustee, The Phillips Collection
4000 Cathedral Ave. NW Units 852/853B
Washington, DC 20016

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Jose <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Arts funding proposal

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

My name Jose Carrasquillo— I live in Woodley Park. I am a proud member of the DC arts Community (professional theatre director and teacher of dramatic arts with Theatre Lab). I fully support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Jose Carrasquillo, Theatre Director

[REDACTED]
2900 Connecticut Ave nw apt 108
Washington, DC 20008

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Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Judy Lynn Prince <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 3:09 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support Mayor Bowser's FY 21 Budget

Dear DC Council Chairman Mendelson:

This is a short note to express my **STRONG** support for Mayor Bowser's FY 21 budget proposal that includes funding for the arts. You've seen the statistics – the economic impact of funding for the arts expands exponentially throughout the local community. I've also reached out to Councilmembers Cheh, Grosso, Bonds, and White as well as sending a message to Mayor Bowser's Chief of Staff, John Falcicchio.

As you know, this funding will provide a needed increase in the critical financial support to DC arts and cultural organizations, which reach so many District students, teachers and residents in all Wards of The City. Again, we can't under estimate the significant economic benefits to The City.

As an avid theatre-goer who has five theatre subscriptions in The City, this support is particularly critical now when so many arts organizations have shut-down to take steps protecting our City's residents. Social distancing, masks, and other measures are the order of the day.

I hunger for theatre performances to resume.

Stay healthy and please support Mayor Bowser's FY 21 budget!

Judy Lynn Prince
Ward 3

Judy Lynn Prince
[REDACTED]
2700 Calvert Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008
Tel: (202) [REDACTED]

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Doug Yeuell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 3:16 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Atlas Supports Mayor's Budget and proposal for funding the arts

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

As Executive Director of the Atlas Performing Arts Center, which is a member of ArtsActionDC and also a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. We also support greater equity in the arts. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, organizations included in the National Capital Arts group have been leaders in the push to increase arts funding for ALL arts institutions across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. Moving into this next year, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging and quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.

The Atlas Performing Arts Center is a community-based, multidisciplinary venue where artists and audiences connect through the arts. As the artistic heart of the H Street Northeast community, it is integral to the Atlas' mission to connect with and engage artists and patrons alike, and to be relevant to the community while exposing audiences to new art forms and perspectives. Community and economic development are the foundation of everything the Atlas does on both a small and large scale. During our most recent season, the Atlas housed close to 170 productions encompassing close to 600 unique performances that employed and engaged close to 1000 artists in its theatre spaces with annual audiences totaling 60,000 patrons.

In its focus on the impact that the arts can have in regard to positive growth and change in our community, the Atlas together with its resident arts partners offered free and reduced cost programming and services for our Northeast community and the District of Columbia at large valued at \$1.8 million. The Atlas is proud to play a major role in the creative economy of our nation's capital and it is where the arts, culture, and connection happen on H Street.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,
Douglas Yeuell

--

Douglas Yeuell

Executive Director | [Atlas Performing Arts Center](#)
1333 H Street NE, Washington, D.C. 20002

P: [REDACTED] | E: [REDACTED]

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)



Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Sarah Greenbaum <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 3:34 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support of Mayor's Budget from Dance Place

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I write to you from Dance Place, which is a member of ArtsAction DC and also a member of the National Capital Arts group. As Associate Curator at Dance Place I have been supported professionally for the past six years by this important cultural anchor, while in turn working hard to support the organization's mission of building a strong community of artists and audiences locally, nationally and internationally.

I, alongside Dance Place, support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant programs, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. All members of the National Capital Arts group support greater equity in the arts, and Dance Place has made that a cornerstone of our work for 39 years. As a group that includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years the National Capital Arts group has led advocacy efforts to increase arts funding for all organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the Commission to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all 8 wards, with both funding and resources. We also support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in D.C. and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated intra-agency effort across all of the city's agencies and departments. With increased funding and support, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the arts funding law—as we stated, during last year's budget process—All Boats Rise—this will continue.

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Dance Place pivoted quickly to provide meaningful [virtual content](#) to support our artists, dance teachers, youth and adult dance students, and audiences. To date, Dance Place has provided 28 virtual youth dance classes that have reached 1,452 participants, a dramatic increase from the 720 youth we serve annually for an in-person Kids on the Move series. Since our facility closure and in-person programming suspension in March, our adult dance class series has made the virtual shift to Facebook Live, with our adult dance class teachers each providing a free weekly class in genres such as modern, hip hop, Cuban, tap, and African. Since March 19, seven of our adult class educators have taught a total of 68

dance classes (8 classes per week) via Facebook Live for 1,773 dancers across the globe. Whether in person, or online, Dance Place continues to connect communities. This budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we have been providing our community for decades.

We know that there are huge challenges ahead of us in this next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or would be interested to discuss Dance Place's work.

Respectfully,
Sarah

--
Sarah Greenbaum
Associate Curator & Producer
Pronouns: she/her ([what's this?](#))

Dance Place
3225 8th St NE
Washington, DC 20017

P [REDACTED]
C [REDACTED]
W danceplace.org



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Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Denise Rollins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 4:09 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council); Christopher K. Morgan
Subject: Request Support for National Capital Arts -- Mayors FY21 Budget

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

Dance Place is a member of Arts Action and a member of the National Capital Arts group, and we support the Council's proposal for funding the arts released in today's Committee of the Whole Budget Report. The plan provides equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding and would eliminate the need for earmarks.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as [Dance Place](#), to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture in the District.

Dance Place serves over 35,000 individuals throughout the District of Columbia each year with programs that provide equitable participation in the arts and a nurturing community for people of all backgrounds. We have served as an anchor in our Ward 5 neighborhood for the last 32 years of our 38 year history in the District. Our community is a reflection of the rich, diverse city we live in:

- 64% of our audience members identify as people of color
- 63% of our artists on stage identify as people of color
- over 50% of our board identify as people of color
- over 90% of our youth in our youth enrichment programs identify as black or African American.

In addition, Dance Place is the only major national dance presenter/arts institution in the United States to be led by a Native identified Executive Artistic Director. Our legacy of nurturing our neighborhood youth, the dance community of the District of Columbia, and artists from across the nation have made us a model in the national field.

Highlights from our 2017-2018 season include:

- Presentation series featuring 92 companies over the course of 45 performances, attracting 9,938 audience members to our 144 seat theater
- \$21,000 worth of free rehearsal space provided for artists
- 800 adult dance class students each month
- 900 youth served annually in dance and youth enrichment classes onsite
- 24 weeks of Art on 8th free community programming engaging 2,410 participants
- OutReach classes for 1,566 students at DMV schools
- 7,737 young people and families were provided with direct performing arts experiences through our Family Series, InReach, and OutReach performances

Please continue to support the arts through dedicated funding from the city's sales and use tax, maintaining the independence of DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and helping organizations such as Dance Place serve District residents and visitors.

Respectfully,

Denise Rollins
Chair, Board of Directors, Dance Place
and
Ward 1 Voter (3649 11th Street NW)

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Jay Gilliam <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 10:01 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget for funding the arts

Dear Chairperson Mendelson:

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the [Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC](#). GMCW is a member of Arts Action and also a member of the National Capital Arts cohort. **I am writing today to express my support of Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.**

This Mayor's budget continues the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability in arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in the dedicated and critical financial support that DC arts and cultural organizations are much in need of during this unprecedented time in history. GMCW also supports greater equity in the arts. The National Capital Arts cohort includes long-established large and mid-sized organizations, and we believe equity among artists and arts institutions is essential for the D.C. arts community now and in the future.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts cohort members have served as leaders for increases in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. We support greater community engagement by the D.C. Commission on Arts and Humanities to reach into the D.C. arts community and support all organizations, across all eight wards, with both funding and resources. **With the increased support put forth in the Mayor's budget proposal, all groups will continue to benefit from the structure of the established arts funding law.**

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as ours to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in D.C. **Moving into FY21, funds from the D.C. Government and CAH in support of engaging, quality arts programming will become more crucial than ever before to ensure the cultural life of the city continues to thrive and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong.**

GMCW has been a vital fixture in the cultural landscape of our nation's capital since 1981 and has a great impact on the creative economy in D.C. Not only do we have a robust audience within D.C. and the surrounding regions, we also attract hundreds of tourists to our one-of-a-kind performances each season. Guided by a mission to inspire equality and inclusion for all people, GMCW's 300-member ensemble and five small ensembles (including the GenOUT Youth Chorus for LGBTQ+ and allied young people ages 13-18) travel near and very far to promote justice and dignity for all people. The art we produce is our chosen mechanism for changing the world for the better. **Your support of dedicated funding will allow us to continue our creative work in new and innovative ways during this unprecedented time.**

We know that there are enormous challenges ahead of us in this next year. Continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve D.C. residents for decades to come. **I hope you will support continued dedicated funding**

for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers, and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Best,

Jay Gilliam
4926 12th St NE
Washington, DC 20017

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Paul Killian <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 11:48 AM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council); McDuffie, Kenyan (Council); Bonds, Anita (Council); Silverman, Elissa (Council); [REDACTED] Nadeau, Brianne K. (Council); Cheh, Mary (COUNCIL); Todd, Brandon (Council); Allen, Charles (Council); Gray, Vincent (Council); White, Sr., Trayon (Council); Bridget Zangueneh
Subject: FY21 Budget, Arts Funding; The Phillips Collection

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers:

I write on behalf of The Phillips Collection, where I serve on the Board of Trustees. The Phillips Collection is a member of both Arts Action DC and the National Capital Arts group. We support Mayor Bowser's FY21 proposal for funding the arts as presented in her newly released budget proposal. The Mayor's budget upholds the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability of arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in support for DC arts and cultural organizations, which is so critical in this unprecedented time in history. Through her budget, Mayor Bowser strongly demonstrates that the arts, arts education, and humanities sectors remain an important part of the District's economy and culture, and must be supported in order to weather and survive this crisis.

Over the last four years, the National Capital Arts group has been a leading advocate for an increase in arts funding for ALL organizations across the city. The National Capital Arts group believes that equity among artists and arts organizations is essential for the DC arts community. To that end, we support the elevation of Go-Go as a cultural monument in DC, and believe Go-Go artists and institutions should be supported and funded through a coordinated effort across the city's agencies and departments. As we stated during last year's budget process—All Boats Will Rise—and the Mayor's proposed FY21 budget builds on this success.

The Phillips Collection has operated and served the District of Columbia for 99 years—2021 will mark our 100th anniversary. Our PK–12 [education programs](#) serve thousands of DC public school students and teachers each year; and our [art and wellness](#) programs for older adults have made a major impact on residents of DC's senior centers. Our community engagement work is exemplified at [Phillips@THEARC](#), where we co-create and present exhibitions and arts programs with residents of wards 7 and 8. And, despite the current challenges related to the global pandemic, The Phillips Collection continues to serve our community, students, teachers, artists, and arts enthusiasts through virtual resources and programming. We employ 170 employees, many of whom are DC residents and artists themselves. The Mayor's FY21 budget proposal will allow us to continue to expand and improve the tremendous work we undertake to keep our mission moving forward.

We understand that there are many challenges in the year ahead. The proposed increase in funds for CAH grants will be critical to ensuring that the cultural life of the city continues to thrive, and the tax revenue generated by arts organizations remains strong. I hope you will support the increased dedicated funding for the CAH presented in the Mayor's FY21 proposed budget.

Respectfully,

Paul W. Killian
2024 Hillyer Place NW
Washington, DC 20009
[REDACTED]

Cc: Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie
Councilmember Anita Bonds
Councilmember David Grosso
Councilmember Elissa Silverman
Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.
Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau
Councilmember Mary Cheh
Councilmember Brandon T. Todd
Councilmember Charles Allen
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray
Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

Ms. Bridget Zangueneh, Director of Institutional Giving, The Phillips Collection

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Barbara Hall <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 2:40 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL); Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Cc: 'Bridget Zangueneh'
Subject: FY 21 Budget, Arts Funding

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I write on behalf of The Phillips Collection, where I serve on the Board of Trustees, and as a native Washingtonian who has supported DC arts for more than 50 years. The Phillips Collection is a member of both Arts Action DC and the National Capital Arts group. We support Mayor Bowser's FY21 proposal for funding the arts as presented in her newly released budget proposal. The Mayor's budget upholds the dedicated source, grant architecture, equity, transparency, and reliability of arts funding that the Council established last year. It also provides an increase in support for DC arts and cultural organizations, which is so critical in this unprecedented time in history. Through her budget, Mayor Bowser strongly demonstrates that the arts, arts education, and humanities sectors remain an important part of the District's economy and culture, and must be supported in order to weather and survive this crisis.

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Respectfully,

Barbara A. Hall
Trustee, The Phillips Collection
4000 Cathedral Ave. NW Units 852/853B
Washington, DC 20016

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Jose <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support for Arts funding proposal

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

My name Jose Carrasquillo— I live in Woodley Park. I am a proud member of the DC arts Community (professional theatre director and teacher of dramatic arts with Theatre Lab). I fully support Mayor Bowser's FY21 budget and proposal for funding the arts in her newly released budget proposal.

A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions that help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture here in the District. I understand there are huge challenges ahead in the next year and continuing a dedicated funding source for the arts will be more critical than ever before to allow our organizations to continue to serve District residents. I hope you will support continued dedicated funding for D.C. arts organizations, which reaches so many district students, teachers and residents throughout all wards of the city.

Respectfully,

Jose Carrasquillo, Theatre Director

[REDACTED]
2900 Connecticut Ave nw apt 108
Washington, DC 20008

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Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Judy Lynn Prince <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 3:09 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support Mayor Bowser's FY 21 Budget

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As you know, this funding will provide a needed increase in the critical financial support to DC arts and cultural organizations, which reach so many District students, teachers and residents in all Wards of The City. Again, we can't under estimate the significant economic benefits to The City.

As an avid theatre-goer who has five theatre subscriptions in The City, this support is particularly critical now when so many arts organizations have shut-down to take steps protecting our City's residents. Social distancing, masks, and other measures are the order of the day.

I hunger for theatre performances to resume.

Stay healthy and please support Mayor Bowser's FY 21 budget!

Judy Lynn Prince
Ward 3

Judy Lynn Prince
[REDACTED]
2700 Calvert Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008
Tel: (202) [REDACTED]

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

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Respectfully,
Douglas Yeuell

--

Douglas Yeuell

Executive Director | [Atlas Performing Arts Center](#)
1333 H Street NE, Washington, D.C. 20002

P: [REDACTED] | E: [REDACTED]

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)



Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Sarah Greenbaum <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 3:34 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Support of Mayor's Budget from Dance Place

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Don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or would be interested to discuss Dance Place's work.

Respectfully,
Sarah

--
Sarah Greenbaum
Associate Curator & Producer
Pronouns: she/her ([what's this?](#))

Dance Place
3225 8th St NE
Washington, DC 20017

P [REDACTED]
C [REDACTED]
W danceplace.org



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- twitter.com/danceplace
- instagram.com/danceplacedc

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: Denise Rollins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 4:09 PM
To: Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL)
Cc: Cash, Evan W. (Council); Christopher K. Morgan
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A diverse arts community is strengthened by stable institutions such as [Dance Place](#), to help foster an inclusive arts and humanities culture in the District.

Dance Place serves over 35,000 individuals throughout the District of Columbia each year with programs that provide equitable participation in the arts and a nurturing community for people of all backgrounds. We have served as an anchor in our Ward 5 neighborhood for the last 32 years of our 38 year history in the District. Our community is a reflection of the rich, diverse city we live in:

- 64% of our audience members identify as people of color
- 63% of our artists on stage identify as people of color
- over 50% of our board identify as people of color
- over 90% of our youth in our youth enrichment programs identify as black or African American.

In addition, Dance Place is the only major national dance presenter/arts institution in the United States to be led by a Native identified Executive Artistic Director. Our legacy of nurturing our neighborhood youth, the dance community of the District of Columbia, and artists from across the nation have made us a model in the national field.

Highlights from our 2017-2018 season include:

- Presentation series featuring 92 companies over the course of 45 performances, attracting 9,938 audience members to our 144 seat theater
- \$21,000 worth of free rehearsal space provided for artists
- 800 adult dance class students each month
- 900 youth served annually in dance and youth enrichment classes onsite
- 24 weeks of Art on 8th free community programming engaging 2,410 participants
- OutReach classes for 1,566 students at DMV schools
- 7,737 young people and families were provided with direct performing arts experiences through our Family Series, InReach, and OutReach performances

Please continue to support the arts through dedicated funding from the city's sales and use tax, maintaining the independence of DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and helping organizations such as Dance Place serve District residents and visitors.

Respectfully,

Denise Rollins
Chair, Board of Directors, Dance Place
and
Ward 1 Voter (3649 11th Street NW)