

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

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole

DATE: November 2, 2021

SUBJECT: Report on PR 24-246, “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Gretchen Wharton Confirmation Resolution of 2021”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 24-246, “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Gretchen Wharton Confirmation Resolution of 2021” was referred, reports favorably thereon and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On May 17, 2021, PR 24-246, the “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Gretchen Wharton Confirmation Resolution of 2021,” was introduced by Chairman Phil Mendelson at the request of the Mayor. PR 24-246 would confirm the Mayor’s nomination of Ms. Gretchen Wharton for reappointment as a member of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities for a term to end June 30, 2024.

Ms. Wharton is a resident of Ward 6. She received her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Maryland and continued her education at Harvard University, The University of Pennsylvania Wharton School, and Georgetown University. She is retired from Xerox Corporation where she worked in marketing and sales for 30 years. She managed national and global trade shows, industry seminars, and special sales and marketing events for a number of clients. She also worked with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and the District government. Ms. Wharton has also been a member of charitable and community organizations

and on the Board of the DC Special Olympics and the Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home. She is an active member of the Shaw Community and the Convention Center Community Association.

The Commission on the Arts and Humanities (Commission) was established by the Commission on the Arts and Humanities Act, effective October 21, 1975 (D.C. Law 1-22; D.C. Official Code § 39-201 *et seq.*). The Commission is now an independent agency within the District government¹ and is designated by the National Endowment for the Arts as the state arts agency for the District of Columbia. Its role is to evaluate and initiate action on matters relating to the arts and humanities and to encourage programs and the development of programs that promote progress in the arts and humanities.²

The Commission is tasked with appointing an Executive Director who serves as the chief administrative officer of the Commission.³ In addition, the mission of the Commission is to provide grants, programs, and educational activities that encourage diverse artistic expressions and learning opportunities so that all District of Columbia residents and visitors can experience the District's rich arts and humanities community.⁴

For fiscal year 2022, the Commission has an appropriated budget of \$38.7 million, of which not less than 78% shall be allocated as grants. The Commission has a dedicated source of funding, which is 5% of the District's general sales tax revenue.⁵

The Commission consists of 18 members appointed by the Mayor for three-year terms after the advice and consent of the Council.⁶ Members of the Commission must be District residents and must have displayed interest or ability in the arts and humanities or must be active in the furtherance of the arts or humanities.⁷ Moreover, the Mayor has to give due consideration to recommendations made by the arts and humanities community and has to ensure that there is a reasonable representation of all the wards in the District when considering appointments to the Commission.⁸ Further, no employee of the District government can serve as a member of the Commission.⁹

When established by the Council in 1975, the Commission originally had two members appointed from each ward. Some time ago the ward allocation was eliminated, but still, 18

¹ The Commission became an independent agency on July 22, 2019. *See* section 2204 of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities Independence and Funding Restructuring Amendment Act of 2019, effective September 11, 2019 (D.C. Law 23-16; 66 DCR 9621). *See also* the Commission on the Arts and Humanities Budget Subtitle Technical Emergency Amendment Act of 2019, effective October 20, 2019 (D.C. Act 23-129; 66 DCR 14808); and the Commission on the Arts and Humanities Budget Subtitle Technical Temporary Amendment Act of 2019, effective December 24, 2019 (D.C. law 23-39; 67 DCR 14816).

² D.C. Official Code § 39-203(a).

³ D.C. Official Code § 39-205.

⁴ Commission on the Arts and Humanities - About CAH, <https://dcarts.dc.gov/page/about-cah> (last visited January 11, 2020).

⁵ D.C. Official Code § 47-2002(d) and § 47-2202(b).

⁶ D.C. Official Code § 39-203.

⁷ *Supra* note 4.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

members is large by comparison to other boards and commissions, especially those with a large operating budget. Twenty years ago, the Commission’s annual budget was only \$2.2 million. Five years ago, the Commission’s annual budget was \$16.9 million. The current budget is nearly \$40 million. To address this issue, the Council adopted a provision as part of the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Support Act of 2021 (D.C. Act 24-176) that will reduce the size of the Commission by six members, two per year for three years, starting on June 30, 2022.

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

Resolution #	Commissioner	Term End Date	Ward
PR 24-246	Gretchen Wharton	June 30, 2024*	6
R. 24-122	Reggie Van Lee (Chairperson)	June 30, 2024	2
R. 23-153	Kymber Lovett-Menkiti	June 30, 2021	1
R. 23-323	Dr. Natalie Hopkinson	June 30, 2021	1
R. 23-324	Cora Masters Barry	June 30, 2021	8
	Vacant	June 30, 2021	
R. 23-62	Derek Younger	June 30, 2022	5
R. 23-318	Alma Gates	June 30, 2022	3
R. 23-319	Rhona Friedman	June 30, 2022	2
R. 23-320	Jose Alberto Ucles	June 30, 2022	5
R. 23-321	Mary Ann Miller	June 30, 2022	3
R. 23-322	Cicie Sattarnilasskorn	June 30, 2022	1
R. 23-569	Quanice Floyd	June 30, 2023	6
R. 23-570	Maggie Fitzpatrick	June 30, 2023	1
R. 23-571	Maria Hall Rooney	June 30, 2023	4
R. 23-572	Hector Torres	June 30, 2023	6
R. 24-573	Carla Sims	June 30, 2023	6
R. 23-574	Stacie Lee Banks	June 30, 2023	3

* If confirmed by the Council. Current term ended June 30, 2021.

In the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Support Act of 2019,¹⁰ the Council approved additional requirements for individuals to be eligible to serve on the Commission. By July 1, 2019, six of the 18 members appointed to the Commission were required to meet the following qualifications: (1) two members with specific interest, ability, or experience in the humanities; (2) two members with specific interest, ability, or experience in arts or humanities education; and (3) two members with specific interest, ability, or experience in theatre and performing arts.¹¹ By July 1, 2020, four of the 18 members appointed to the Commission were required to meet the following requirements: (1) two members with specific interest, ability, or experience in public art; and (2) two members with specific experience in arts or humanities organizational administration or governance.¹²

Ms. Wharton meets the requirements to serve as a member of the Commission pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 39-203. Her experience on the Board, as well as her record of extensive civic engagement, is well suited for the work of the Commission. Therefore, the Committee recommends the adoption of PR 24-246.

¹⁰ Effective September 11, 2019 (D.C. Law 23-16; D.C. Code § 39-201 *et seq.*).

¹¹ *Supra* note 4.

¹² *Id.*

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- May 17, 2021 PR 24-246, the “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Gretchen Wharton Confirmation Resolution of 2021” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of Mayor Bowser.
- May 18, 2021 PR 24-246 is “read” at the May 18, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting; on this date the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official, and the 90-day period for Council review begins. If this measure is not affirmatively approved before November 3, 2021, PR 24-246 will be deemed disapproved.
- May 21, 2021 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 24-246 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- November 2, 2021 The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 24-246.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ms. Gretchen Wharton is the Mayor’s nomination for appointment to the Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 24-246.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee has received no testimony or comments regarding Ms. Wharton’s appointment.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

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

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

PR 24-246 will have no fiscal impact on the District of Columbia budget or financial plan. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 39-203(e), members of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities do not receive compensation.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of Proposed Resolution 24-246.
<u>Section 2</u>	Confirms the appointment of Gretchen Wharton as a member of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities for a three-year term to end June 30, 2024.
<u>Section 3</u>	Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the nominee, the Commission and to the Office of the Mayor.
<u>Section 4</u>	Provides that the resolution will take effect once approved by the Council.

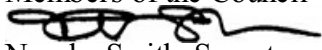
IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 24-246 as introduced.
2. Legal Sufficiency Determination.
3. Committee Print for PR 24-246.

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

Memorandum

To : Members of the Council
From :  Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council
Date : Tuesday, July 27, 2021
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Monday, May 17, 2021. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Commission on the Arts and Humanities Gretchen Wharton Confirmation Resolution of 2021", PR24-0246

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson, at the request of Mayor

The Chairman is referring this legislation to Committee of the Whole. This resolution will be deemed disapproved on Wednesday, November 03, 2021 without Council action.

Attachment
cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

May 17, 2021
The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

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

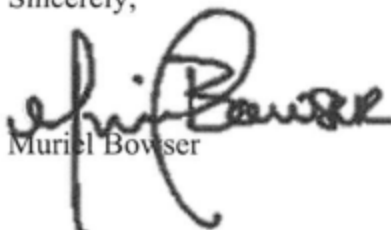
Ms. Gretchen Wharton
5th Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
Ward 6

for reappointment as a member of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities, for a term ending June 30, 2024.

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

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

Sincerely,


Muriel Bowser



Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To confirm the reappointment of Ms. Gretchen Wharton to the Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Commission on the Arts and Humanities Gretchen Wharton Confirmation Resolution of 2021".

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

Ms. Gretchen Wharton
5th Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
Ward 6

as a member of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities, established by section 4 of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities Act, effective October 21, 1975 (D.C. Law 1-22; D.C. Official Code § 39-203), for a term ending June 30, 2024.

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

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Gretchen B. Wharton

Gretchen Wharton, a native Washingtonian and life-long Shaw resident, retired from Xerox Corporation after a successful career in marketing and sales that spanned 30 years. She excelled at program implementation, public relations and communications, customer relationship management, and cross-functional teamwork, winning multiple awards, including two President's Awards for extraordinary achievements in customer service.

Ms. Wharton's long and diverse career at Xerox included management of National and Global trade shows, industry seminars and special sales and marketing events. She managed marketing integration, marketing and sales management for the US Navy and major government and commercial accounts, marketing & channel development, strategic alliance development, bid opportunity, marketing operations, collaterals and multi-media presentation design and delivery, customer engagement, and training program design and delivery.

Her tenure also included management of the hugely successful Xerox Corporation worldwide customer education series known as *Innovate*. *Innovate* seminars were attended by over 75,000 people in more than 60 North American cities and some 200 international locations in Central and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. US ROI for the seminar series exceeded 1000%. She developed budgets, managed speaker selection, directed development of module content, website design, registration, site selection, advertising, and coordinated audience acquisition, direct and electronic mailing, menu selection, language translation and customer satisfaction surveys.

While at Xerox, she was placed on loan to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) where she managed program development for the Graduate Legislative Intern Program. Additionally, she served for five years as the primary fundraiser and manager of the highly successful CBCF fashion show that funded the Intern Program. She was responsible for fundraising and securing sponsorship, as well as managing the operational and logistical aspects of the fashion shows, which were attended by more than 5,000 people each year.

Also, Ms. Wharton was loaned to the Government of the District of Columbia where she served as Transition Director for the new Mayor. In this capacity, during a three month timeframe, she designed the transition process, and managed a team of 400 people, producing comprehensive assessments of and recommendations for improving DC government agencies. At the request of the Mayor-Elect she remained for an additional year as Special Assistant to the Mayor where she spearheaded several initiatives requiring coordination between the Mayor's office, cabinet officials and the City Council. Ms. Wharton introduced the Total Quality Management principals and techniques, used by Xerox in winning the Baldrige Award, to DC government, and served as facilitator for the Procurement Regulations Reform taskforce.

Ms. Wharton, an active member of the Shaw community and member of numerous charitable and community organizations, was formerly Vice President, Board of Directors, DC Special Olympics and Vice President, Board of Directors, Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home. Presently, Ms. Wharton serves as a Mayoral Appointed Commissioner, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities; Chair, Shaw Main Streets and Board member of City Dance.



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

Gretchen Wharton



Gretchen Wharton is a current member of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

Ms. Wharton, a native Washingtonian and life-long resident, retired from Xerox Corporation after a successful career in marketing and sales that spanned 30 years. She excelled at program implementation, customer relationship management, public relations and communications, and cross-functional teamwork, winning multiple awards, including two President's Awards for extraordinary achievements in customer service.

Ms. Wharton's long and diverse career at Xerox included management of national and global trade shows, industry seminars and special sales and marketing events. She also managed marketing integration, marketing and sales management for major military, government and commercial accounts, marketing and channel development, strategic alliance development, bid opportunity review, marketing operations, marketing collateral and multimedia presentation design and delivery, customer engagement, and training program design and delivery. Ms. Wharton has also worked with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and the District of Columbia government. She has been a member of numerous charitable and community organizations and on the board of directors for DC Special Olympics and the Lisner-Louise- Dickson- Hurt Home and is an active member of the Shaw Community and the Convention Center Community Association.

A Ward 6 resident, Ms. Wharton obtained a Bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland and continued her education at Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania Wharton School, and Georgetown University.



1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 **Committee of the Whole**
3 **November 2, 2021**
4

5
6 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

7
8 24-246
9

10 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
11

12 _____
13
14 To confirm the reappointment of Ms. Gretchen Wharton to the Commission on the Arts and
15 Humanities.

16
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18 resolution may be cited as the “Commission on the Arts and Humanities Gretchen Wharton
19 Confirmation Resolution of 2021”.

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

21
22 Ms. Gretchen Wharton
23 5th Street, NW
24 Washington, DC 20001
25 (Ward 6)

26 as a member of the Commission on the Arts and Humanities, established by section 4 of the
27 Commission on the Arts and Humanities Act, effective October 21, 1975 (D.C. Law 1-22; D.C.
28 Official Code § 39-203), for a term ending June 30, 2024.

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

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