

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS, FY 2021

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

**Budget Justifications
Fiscal Year 2020**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
General Statement.....	CFA-3
Highlights.....	CFA-5
 <u>Appropriation: Salaries and Expenses</u>	
Appropriation Language.....	CFA-6
Justification of Uncontrollable Cost Changes.....	CFA-7
Justification of Program and Performance by Activity: Salaries and Expenses.....	CFA-8
Program and Financing Schedule.....	CFA-11
Object Classification.....	CFA-12
Personnel Summary and Employee Count.....	CFA-13
 <u>Appropriation: National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs</u>	
Appropriation Language.....	CFA-14
Justification of Program and Performance by Activity: Grants.....	CFA-15
Program and Financing Schedule/Object Classification.....	CFA-17
 <u>Appendices</u>	
Evidence Submission	CFA-18

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COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

General Statement

The Commission of Fine Arts was established in 1910 (40 U.S.C. 9101) to fill the need for a permanent agency whose members would be qualified to make available to the Government expert opinion on questions of art and architecture. The Commission's mission is to safeguard and improve the appearance and symbolic significance of Washington, D.C., as the national capital city, for the benefit of the citizens of the United States, and foreign visitors. Specifically, the Commission provides knowledgeable advice, as design proposals are brought before it, on matters pertaining to architecture, landscape architecture, sculpture, painting, and the decorative arts to all branches and departments of the Federal and District of Columbia governments when such matters affect the National Capital. The Commission also must approve of the site and design of all commemorative works and memorials erected in the District of Columbia.

In addition, the Commission advises on the design of circulating and commemorative coinage and must approve the siting and design for national memorials, both in the United States and on foreign soil, in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act and the American Battle Monuments Act.

The Commission is composed of seven members appointed by the President. They serve without compensation, receiving only actual travel expenses relative to attending meetings. Since the Commission's inception, many distinguished architects, landscape architects, painters, sculptors, planners, and others in the field of fine arts have given freely of their time, experience, and professional skills in advising the President, the Congress, and government agencies, both local and national, on matters involving the fine arts.

Specific functions as mandated by law require the Commission to:

- Advise executive departments of the Federal Government on any matters of an aesthetic nature, especially those pertaining to architecture and landscape programs that affect the appearance of the national capital city.
- Advise on any matters of an aesthetic nature that may be put forward by committees of the Congress.
- Advise the President and members of the administration on aesthetic matters upon their request.
- Approve submissions under the Commemorative Works Act on matters pertaining to the location and design of memorials in and around the national capital city.
- Advise the Director of the United States Mint on the design of medals, and circulating and commemorative coinage.
- Approve submissions by the American Battle Monuments Commission on matters pertaining to the location and design of memorials both foreign and domestic.

- Advise the Secretary of the Army on matters pertaining to the location and design of memorials and monuments in Arlington National Cemetery.
- Advise the Secretary of the Army and the U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry on the design of United States military service medals, seals, and insignia.
- Advise the District of Columbia Government on all public construction, as well as private construction and the display of advertising in certain areas of the city as designated by Congress under the Shipstead-Luce and Old Georgetown Acts.
- Advise the Department of State through Section 206 of the Foreign Missions Act on foreign chanceries in all areas under the jurisdiction of the Commission, including the International Center and the Foreign Missions Center.
- Advise the National Capital Planning Commission in the selection of lands suitable for the development of the park, parkway, and playground system of the national capital city.

The Commission has administered the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program since 1988, which was created by the Congress to support local nonprofit cultural institutions whose primary purpose is the presentation, exhibition, or performance of the arts at a professional level of quality in the national capital city.

In addition to those functions mandated by law, the Commission of Fine Arts approves acquisitions as proposed by the Freer Gallery of Art for its permanent collection in accordance with a codicil to the will of Charles Lang Freer.

Program Summary by Budget Activity
(dollar amounts in thousands)

Appropriation	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Request	FY 2021 Change from FY 2020
Salaries and Expenses	2,771	3,240	3,240	0
FTE	12	12	12	0
National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs	2,750	5,000	0	-5,000

Highlights of the FY 2021 Request

The Commission of Fine Arts requests a FY 2021 Salaries and Expenses appropriation of \$3,240,000 for the expenses of the Commission members and the salaries and related costs necessary to support a small staff and maintain an efficient level of operations. This appropriation request represents no increase above the FY 2020 Enacted Budget.

The request reflects a one percent cost-of-living pay increase for civilian employees in FY 2021.

For FY 2021, we estimate the Agency’s uncontrollable cost increases total \$151,000 above the FY 2020 Enacted Budget levels. These cost increases include: \$76,000 for personnel compensation and benefits due to salary adjustments, grade increases, and the annualization of the FY 2020 and FY 2021 cost-of-living pay raises; and a \$75,000 increase in rental payments to the GSA. These increases will be offset by reductions in the categories of purchases of goods and services, supplies and materials and equipment.

This budget submission also includes the request for the authority to use up to one-tenth of one percent of the funds provided for Salaries and Expenses for official reception and representation expenses associate with hosting meeting with international visitors, affiliated professionals, and volunteer supporters engaged in the design, planning, development, preservation and/or study of the history of the Nation’s Capital city.

No funding is requested for the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program in FY 2021.

Appropriation Language Sheet

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Salaries and Expenses

For expenses of the Commission of Fine Arts under Chapter 91 of title 40, United States Code, \$3,240,000: *Provided*, That the Commission is authorized to charge fees to cover the full costs of its publications, and such fees shall be credited to this account as an offsetting collection, to remain available until expended without further appropriation: *Provided further*, That the Commission is authorized to accept gifts, including objects, papers, artwork, drawings and artifacts that pertain to the history and design of the Nation's Capital or the history and activities of the Commission of Fine Arts, for the purpose of artistic display, study or education: *Provided further*, That up to one-tenth of one percent of the funds provided under this heading may be used for official reception and representations expenses.

(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020.)

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Salaries and Expenses
Uncontrollable and Related Cost Changes
(dollar amounts in thousands)

Additional cost in FY 2021:

		<u>2020</u> <u>2021</u>
	<u>Enacted</u>	<u>Change</u>
Includes a 3.52% cost-of-living increase for FY 2020 and a 1% cost-of-living increase in FY 2021.....	\$1,985	/ +\$76

The amount displayed represents the additional costs of funding estimated pay and benefit increases for GS-series employees and the net increases of pay rate changes made in other pay series.

		<u>2020</u> <u>2021</u>
	<u>Enacted</u>	<u>Change</u>
Rental Payments to GSA.....	\$278	/ +\$75

The adjustment is for estimated changes in the cost payable to the General Services Administration resulting from changes in rates for office and non-offices space, and operation costs provided by GSA.

		<u>2020</u> <u>2021</u>
	<u>Enacted</u>	<u>Change</u>
Security Payments to DHS.....	\$35	/ +\$0

The adjustment is for estimated changes in the costs payable to the Department of Homeland Security resulting for changes in rates for office space and basic building security.

TOTAL UNCONTROLLABLE COST INCREASES.....	+\$151	
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Justification of Program and Performance

Activity: Salaries and Expenses

	<u>FY 2019</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 2020</u> <u>Enacted</u>	<u>Uncontrollable</u> <u>Changes</u>	<u>Program</u> <u>Changes</u>	<u>FY 2021</u> <u>Request</u>	<u>Change From</u> <u>FY 2020</u>
(\$000)	2,771	3,240	+151	-151	3,240	0
FTE	12	12	0	0	12	0

Authorization: 40 U.S.C. 104.

Program change from FY 2020 Enacted Budget: The Commission of Fine Arts requests a FY 2021 Salaries and Expenses appropriation of \$3,240,000 for the expenses of the Commission members and the salaries and related costs necessary to support a small staff and maintain an efficient level of operations. This appropriation request represents no increase above the FY 2020 enacted level.

The request reflects a one percent cost-of-living pay increase for civilian employees in FY 2021.

For FY 2021, we estimate the Agency’s uncontrollable cost increases total \$151,000 above the FY 2020 Enacted Budget. These cost increases include: \$76,000 for personnel compensation and benefits due to salary adjustments, grade increases, and the FY 2020 and FY 2021 cost-of-living pay raises; and a \$75,000 increase in rental payments to the GSA. These increases will be offset by reductions in the categories of purchases of goods and services, supplies and materials, and equipment.

The objectives of the Commission of Fine Arts staff are:

- To support the Commission which provides expert advice on architecture and art to the President, Congress, and various agencies of the Federal and District governments on proposed projects and existing conditions in the National Capital so as to safeguard and enhance the appearance and symbolic significance of Washington, D.C. This expertise is provided by seven Presidentially appointed, well-qualified judges of the arts who are supported by the small professional staff that oversees its continued operation.
- To assist the Commission and provide a professional level of artistic advice through review and liaison with the District of Columbia and Federal governments; to provide the administrative services that are required to support the Commission and communicate the advice of the Commission; and to keep accurate records of the Commission’s actions.

- To provide professional support to the Commission in the administration of its approval authority over the design and location of battle monuments and commemorative works as required by the specific statutes authorizing them.
- To produce research on buildings, historic precincts, and general plans of the city of Washington. To make historical and architectural information generally available to the public, to other government agencies, and to the Commission. To identify buildings and areas of lasting merit so as to avoid destruction or impairment of those resources as plans evolve for the city. The specially trained staff of architects and historians performing this documentation and planning work is also available to the Commission on a case-by-case basis to provide supporting material on proposed projects, sometimes on very short notice.

Program Activities:

- The Commission of Fine Arts, an independent agency, reviews proposals affecting the appearance of Washington, D.C., and advises the President, the Congress, and the agencies of the Federal and District of Columbia governments on architectural designs and other matters of art. It also conducts liaison, research, and publication activities to further support the enhancement and preservation of the city. The Commission's approval on design and location of monuments and memorials is required as specified under the Commemorative Works Act and the American Battle Monuments Act.
- The Commission provides advice on the development of Washington through study, inspection, research, and expert consultation. The Commission maintains continual involvement in ongoing projects such as the International Center, the Foreign Missions Center, the Federal Triangle, the Saint Elizabeths campus for the headquarters of the Department of Homeland Security, Southwest Waterfront, Anacostia Waterfront, and other special areas of the city, and publishes studies on the historical development of Washington. Some of the material assembled is published so as to be permanently available to government agencies as well as the general public.
- The Commission provides advice on design, planning, and historic preservation to the Federal and District of Columbia governments as well as to committees of Congress, which may have questions on matters specific to Washington or relating to their members' respective home states.
- The Commission, in its advisory and approval capacities, does not originate design projects; it is the recipient of project proposals. As the recipient, the Commission's activities are subject to the needs of other agencies, Federal and local, as well as those of private entities. Government construction projects materialize in response to the individual sponsors' needs and their schedules cannot be anticipated by the Commission. The initiation of private construction projects is even less predictable. The Commission must therefore be flexible by necessity. It remains effective and efficient despite having no control over the number of proposals brought before it nor the relative size and importance of each item submitted. The Commission reviews 100 percent of all proposals submitted for review within 45 days

of receipt.

- The total number of all cases submitted to the Commission for review in FY 2019 was 742. Compared to the 665 cases submitted in FY 2013, this represented an increase in the last six years of approximately *11.6 percent*. The number of Shipstead-Luce Act cases submitted was 267 in FY 2019, an increase in the last six years of approximately *107 percent* above the 129 submissions reviewed in FY 2013, and *36 percent* above the 197 submissions reviewed two years ago in FY 2017; and for the Old Georgetown Act, the 305 submissions reviewed in FY 2019 represent a decrease from the 349 cases reviewed in FY 2013. Overall, the total number of cases submitted and reviewed has increased by an average of *4 percent* per year for the last six years with the exception of FY 2018, when government submissions were down due to the budgetary delays in fully funding the Federal Government.

**COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)

Identification code 95-2600-0-1-451	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Request
Obligations by program activity:			
10.00	3	3	3
Budgetary resources available for obligation:			
22.00	3	3	3
23.95	-3	-3	-3
New budget authority (gross), detail:			
40.00	3	3	3
Change in unpaid obligations:			
73.10	3	3	3
73.20	-3	-3	-3
Outlays (gross), detail:			
86.90	3	3	3
Net budget authority and outlays:			
89.00	3	3	3
90.00	3	3	3

**COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

Object Classification (in thousands of dollars)

Identification code 95-2600-0-1-451	2019 Enacted	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Request
Personnel compensation:				
11.1 Full-time permanent	1,380	1,417	1,470	1,505
11.3 Full-time temporary.....	0	0	0	0
11.5 Other personnel compensation	20	30	30	30
11.9 Total personnel compensation.....	1,400	1,447	1,500	1,535
12.0 Personnel benefits: Civilian	484	448	515	557
12.1 Workers Compensation Payments.....	62	62	62	62
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	60	20	60	60
22.0 Transportation of things.	6	4	6	6
23.1 Rental payments to GSA	183	182	278	353
23.1 Security charges to DHS	30	30	35	35
23.3 Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	65	48	72	72
24.0 Printing and reproduction.....	25	20	25	25
25.0 Purchases of goods and services	433	442	642	510
26.0 Supplies and materials.....	16	22	30	20
31.0 Equipment	7	6	15	5
99.9 Total obligations.....	2,771	2,731	3,240	3,240

**COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

Personnel Summary

Identification code 95-2600-0-1-451	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Request
Total compensable work-years:			
Full-time equivalent employment	12	12	12
Full-time equivalent overtime and holiday hours	0	0	0
TOTAL:	12	12	12

Appropriation Language Sheet

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs

No funding is requested for this grant program currently administered by the Commission of Fine Arts.

(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020.)

Justification of Program and Performance

Activity: Grants

	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Enacted	Uncontrollable Changes	Program Changes	FY 2021 Request
(\$000)	2,750	5,000	0	-5,000	0
FTE	--	--	--	--	--

Authorization: 99 Stat. 1261; 20 U.S.C. 956a

Objectives: The FY 1988 Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act transferred administrative responsibility for the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program from the National Endowment for the Humanities to the Commission of Fine Arts. This program provides formula based grants for general operating support to District of Columbia non-profit arts and other cultural organizations. Eligible organizations must have an annual income, exclusive of Federal or pass-through Federal funds, in excess of \$1 million for each of the three years prior to their application for the grant. Grant awards are based on a formula in which 70 percent of the total funds appropriated for the fiscal year are distributed equally among all eligible organizations submitting applications, and the remaining 30 percent of the funds are distributed based on the amount of the organization's total annual income, exclusive of Federal funds, in proportion to the combined total of the annual income, exclusive of Federal funds, of all eligible organizations submitting applications. No organization will receive a grant larger than \$650,000.

No funding is requested in FY 2021 for the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Grant Program that is administered by the Commission of Fine Arts.

Activities: In FY 2019, this program helped support 24 nationally renowned organizations in the National Capital, providing funding for operating expenses, staff, exhibits, and performances.

In FY 2019, \$2,750,000 in grants was awarded to the following 24 organizations

FY 2019 NCACA Grant Recipients	GRANT	Grant as % of Op. Income*	Grant as % of Total Grants
Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts:	450,730.26	0.22%	16.39%
Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens:	156,197.51	0.37%	5.68%
Arena Stage:	125,348.38	0.50%	4.56%
Shakespeare Theatre:	122,249.11	0.53%	4.45%
National Symphony Orchestra:	119,850.25	0.55%	4.36%
Folger Shakespeare Library:	115,456.44	0.59%	4.20%
Phillips Collection:	112,151.92	0.64%	4.08%
Washington National Opera:	110,251.94	0.66%	4.01%
Ford's Theatre Society:	106,756.91	0.73%	3.88%
National Museum of Women in the Arts:	103,713.23	0.80%	3.77%
Washington Ballet:	99,709.95	0.93%	3.63%
National Building Museum:	97,632.15	1.01%	3.55%
Washington Performing Arts Society:	94,031.16	1.23%	3.42%
Studio Theatre:	90,910.30	1.54%	3.31%
Woolly Mammoth Theatre Co.:	89,713.68	1.71%	3.26%
Atlas Performing Arts Center	87,285.63	2.23%	3.17%
Choral Arts Society:	86,198.62	2.61%	3.13%
Washington Chorus (The)	83,969.79	4.04%	3.05%
Step Afrika!	83,914.53	4.10%	3.05%
Dance Place (DC Wheel Productions)	83,366.71	4.78%	3.03%
Gala Hispanic Theatre:	83,245.97	4.96%	3.03%
Cathedral Choral Society	82,930.64	5.52%	3.02%
Federal City Performing Arts Association	82,192.66	7.50%	2.99%
TOTAL GRANTS:	\$2,750,000.00		

* Operating income exclusive of other Federal or pass-through Federal funds.

**COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)

Identification code 95-2602-0-1-503	2019 Actual	2020 Enacted	2021 Request
Obligations by program activity:			
10.00	2.75	5	0
Budgetary resources available for obligation:			
22.00	2.75	5	0
23.95	-2.75	-5	-0
New budget authority (gross), detail:			
40.00	2.75	5	0
Change in unpaid obligations:			
73.10	2.75	5	0
73.20	-2.75	-5	-0
Outlays (gross), detail:			
86.90	2.75	5	0
Net budget authority and outlays:			
89.00	2.75	5	0
90.00	2.75	5	0

Appendix I

EVIDENCE SUBMISSION

Agency Context

In accordance with the *Foundation for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018* (“Evidence Act”), the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) has established the positions of Chief Data Officer, Evaluation Officer, and Statistical Official.

The Commission of Fine Arts—in its work to fulfill its legislative mission to provide design advice on design proposals brought before it—does not collect or use statistical data as evidence in its issuance of advice on matters pertaining to architecture, landscape architecture, sculpture, painting, and the decorative arts when such matters affect the National Capital, or in its reviews of individual project submissions. Each project submission is subjectively reviewed on its individual merits as to the quality and appropriateness of the proposed design scheme and siting.

The Commission as a small agency, has instilled a working ethic for its 12 full-time employees that fosters continued improvement for its program performance and strategic decision-making. This work ethic also helps increase the impact of the Commission’s advice. For an agency, such as the Commission, that does not collect statistical data and evidence and has a close and efficient work environment, a formalized “learning agenda” is not required as it is very evident of what works and what does not. Areas needing improvement are apparent, as are potential solutions and methods for improvements. Creating a new program or process to collect unnecessary administrative or statistical data would contribute little if anything towards program enhancements and as an exercise unto itself would not be an efficient use of the agency’s personnel and limited resources.

Currently, the information the agency does collect on project submissions and presentations to the Commission, and on the actions and recommendations of the Commission are routinely posted on the agency’s website for easy access by the public.