

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES
AND THE CREATIVE/INNOVATIVE ECONOMY

Remote location using Microsoft® Teams
Tuesday, November 23, 2021
2:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN DAVID OH, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB
COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS

RESOLUTION: 210881

1 - - -

2 COUNCILMAN OH: Good afternoon.

3 Today is Tuesday, November 23rd. It is
4 1:00 p.m. And this is a meeting of the
5 Committee on Global Opportunities and
6 The Creative/Innovative Economy.

7 I understand that state law
8 requires that the following announcement
9 be made at the beginning of every remote
10 public hearing as follows: Due to the
11 current public health emergency, City
12 Council Committees are currently meeting
13 remotely. We are using Microsoft Teams
14 to make these remote hearings possible.

15 Instructions for how the public
16 may view and offer public testimony at
17 public hearings of Council Committees
18 are included in the public hearing
19 notices that are published in the Daily
20 News, Inquirer and Legal Intelligencer
21 prior to the hearings and can also be
22 found on PHLCouncil.com. I now note
23 that the hour has come.

24 Clerk, will you please call the
25 roll to take attendance. Members that

1 are in attendance will please indicate
2 that you are present when your name is
3 called. Also, please say a few words
4 when responding so that your image will
5 be displayed on screen when you speak.

6 THE CLERK: Councilmember
7 Gilmore Richardson.

8 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

9 RICHARDSON: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
10 and colleagues. I'm present.

11 COUNCILMAN OH: Good afternoon.

12 THE CLERK: Councilmember Domb.

13 COUNCILMAN DOMB: (Muted).

14 COUNCILMAN OH: Councilmember,
15 you are on mute still.

16 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Good
17 afternoon, Chair and colleagues. I am
18 present. Sorry about that.

19 COUNCILMAN OH: Good afternoon.

20 THE CLERK: Councilmember
21 Thomas.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
23 afternoon, Mr. Chair. Good afternoon,
24 colleagues. I'm present.

25 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you.

1 Good afternoon.

2 THE CLERK: Councilmember

3 Green.

4 (No response.)

5 THE CLERK: Councilmember

6 Sanchez.

7 (No response.)

8 THE CLERK: Councilmember

9 Squilla.

10 (No response.)

11 THE CLERK: And, Chair Oh.

12 COUNCILMAN OH: And I am

13 present. Thank you. A quorum of the
14 Committee is present and the hearing is
15 now called to order. This is a public
16 meeting of the Committee on Global
17 Opportunities and The
18 Creative/Innovative Economy pertaining
19 to Resolution No. 210881.

20 At this time, I will ask the
21 Clerk to please read the title of the
22 resolution.

23 THE CLERK: Resolution 210881,
24 authorizing the Committee on Global
25 Opportunities and The

1 Creative/Innovative Economy to hold
2 hearings to receive the report of the
3 Arts and Cultural Task Force formed by
4 the Committee to learn about its
5 findings and the actions thus far taken
6 and to review the impact of this work on
7 the vital arts and culture sector in the
8 City of Philadelphia.

9 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you.
10 Before we begin to hear testimony from
11 the witnesses we have for today,
12 everyone who has been invited to the
13 meeting to testify should be aware that
14 this public hearing is being recorded.
15 Because the hearing is public,
16 participants and viewers have no
17 reasonable expectation of privacy. By
18 continuing to be in the meeting, you are
19 consenting to being recorded.

20 Additionally, prior to
21 recognizing Members for the questions or
22 comments they have for witnesses, I will
23 note for the record at this time that we
24 will use the chat feature available in
25 Microsoft Teams to allow Members to

1 signify that they wish to be recognized.

2 In order to comply with the Sunshine
3 Act, the chat feature must only be used
4 for this purpose.

5 Before I ask the Clerk to call
6 the first panel, would any of my
7 colleagues like to make an opening
8 statement or comment?

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

10 Mr. Chairman, this is Councilmember
11 Thomas. May I be recognized?

12 COUNCILMAN OH: Yes,
13 absolutely.

14 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: First of
15 all, Mr. Chairman, thank you and your
16 team for putting us in a position to be
17 able to hold such an important
18 conversation. This is something that's
19 really significant as it relates to not
20 just the work of the Arts and Culture
21 Task Force, but the work of the
22 Illuminate the Arts Grants.

23 For the first time, we were
24 able to put money directly in the
25 pockets of artists. And looking at the

1 condition that this coronavirus crisis
2 created outside of the death, the pain,
3 the suffering, the inconveniences, the
4 fear, the trauma. We also have the
5 economic issues as well. And one can
6 argue that no one's been hit as hard in
7 the same capacity as the arts and
8 culture community has.

9 So I was excited to vote with
10 my colleagues to be able to put us in a
11 position to create the Illuminate The
12 Arts Grants, and I was excited not just
13 of the advocacy of the Arts and Culture
14 Task Force but the level of
15 participation as it relates to the
16 selection process.

17 I think it's really important
18 that we recognize the role of
19 constituents here in the City of
20 Philadelphia, that we recognize the
21 importance of transparency, but also we
22 recognize the importance of
23 public-private partnerships and
24 collaborating with constituents and
25 organizations across the City of

1 Philadelphia so things can be done
2 that's fair, in a way that's just and in
3 a way that offers some level of
4 transparency. And we think that we
5 accomplished that, not just with the
6 distribution of the grants, but also
7 assessed in how the grants have been
8 used.

9 So I'm excited to be here today
10 to be a part of this important
11 conversation. I'm excited to listen to
12 other advocacy efforts that have already
13 taken place in the past as well as
14 things that will be taking place in the
15 future. And I appreciate my colleagues,
16 especially Councilmember Gilmore
17 Richardson who's been locked in arm and
18 arm with me as it relates to some of the
19 work that we've tried to do on the
20 advocacy.

21 And I also have to give a huge
22 thank you to Councilmembers Squilla,
23 Bass and Green who were a part of an
24 effort and advocacy initiative
25 throughout the course of this fall to be

1 able to provide more funding and more
2 dollars to this sector.

3 So thank you, Mr. Chair. I
4 appreciate the leniency. Thank you to
5 all the witnesses who are here today,
6 and thank you to those who are viewing
7 to listen to this important
8 conversation.

9 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you,
10 Councilmember Thomas.

11 At this time, the Chair
12 recognizes Councilmember Katherine
13 Gilmore Richardson for comments.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

15 RICHARDSON: Thank you so much,
16 Mr. Chair.

17 I just wanted to echo the
18 sentiments of my colleague Councilmember
19 Thomas. I've been thanking all of you,
20 all of our colleagues for this hearing
21 today. I'm looking forward to the
22 testimony and continuing our support for
23 the arts and culture here in the City of
24 Philadelphia.

25 So thank you very much,

1 Mr. Chair, for this hearing, especially
2 this week. And I'm looking forward to
3 hearing from all of the witnesses.

4 Thank you very much.

5 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
6 much, Councilmember.

7 For anyone who is not speaking,
8 would you please mute your microphone.
9 That way we will all be able to hear.

10 At this time, I will ask my
11 colleagues if there is anyone else who
12 would like to make an opening comment?

13 (No response.)

14 COUNCILMAN OH: There being
15 none, we will proceed.

16 Clerk, will you please call the
17 first panel of witnesses we have to
18 testify for this morning.

19 THE CLERK: The first witness
20 today is Kelly Lee.

21 COUNCILMAN OH: Good afternoon.
22 You are connected, and please state your
23 name for the record and proceed with
24 your testimony.

25 MS. LEE: Great. And before I

1 get started, can we also make sure that
2 Carrie Leibrand from the Office of Arts
3 and Culture is a presenter as well.
4 We're going to be looking at her
5 PowerPoint presentation. Great.

6 So good afternoon, Chairperson
7 David Oh and members of the Committee.
8 I'm Kelly Lee. I'm the Chief Cultural
9 Officer for the City of Philadelphia and
10 a Director of the Office of Arts,
11 Culture and the Creative Economy. I
12 want to thank you for providing me the
13 opportunity to testify regarding
14 Resolution 210881 and for holding this
15 public hearing on the report and work of
16 the Arts and Culture Task Force.

17 The ongoing pandemic has
18 affected all of us, but I echo what
19 Councilman Thomas said, that the arts
20 have been particularly hit hard. And
21 with recent numbers that were shared by
22 the Greater Philadelphia Cultural
23 Alliance, reporting that a \$2.3 billion
24 total economic loss for the arts and
25 culture sector is the impact in the

1 Philadelphia region. This is just a
2 portion of the impact of the pandemic on
3 the arts with many individual artists
4 losing their source of revenue for more
5 than a year due to shuttered venues.

6 Formed in October 2020, the
7 Arts and Culture Task Force identified a
8 need for immediate funding for
9 Philadelphia's individual artists, small
10 nondiverse nonprofits and arts and
11 culture-focused businesses. As a result
12 of these findings and the advocacy of
13 Councilmembers Isaiah Thomas and
14 Katherine Gilmore Richardson, City
15 Council approved a transfer ordinance of
16 \$1.3 million for the Office of Arts
17 Culture and the Creative Economy.

18 This funding went towards the
19 creation of the Illuminate the Arts
20 Grant and funding neighborhood arts
21 programs planned in 2021. The following
22 presentation will review the impact of
23 the Arts and Culture Task Force on the
24 creative economy in Philadelphia through
25 this funding. We welcome questions at

1 the conclusion of this presentation.

2 And with that, Carrie, if you
3 can share your screen and pull up the
4 PowerPoint.

5 MS. LEIBRAND: Yup.

6 MS. LEE: Great. Thank you.
7 You can go to the second slide.

8 So like I said, the report of
9 the Arts and Culture Task Force
10 basically found that there is an
11 immediate need for additional funding
12 for Philadelphia's individual artists,
13 small diverse nonprofits and arts and
14 culture-focused businesses, many of
15 which lost all of their revenue. Many
16 of these individual artists lost both
17 their day and nighttime jobs all at the
18 same time.

19 Next slide. So as a result,
20 this \$1.3 million was transferred to the
21 Office of Arts and Culture. \$1 million
22 went towards the Illuminate the Arts
23 Grant, \$200,000 was targeted for new
24 free neighborhood arts programs and to
25 support OACCE's neighborhood arts

1 programs that were canceled in 2020 due
2 to the pandemic, and \$100,000 of this
3 funding went to support the admin costs
4 for the grants and for the additional
5 neighborhood programming.

6 Next slide. So the funds for
7 City Council were provided by the New
8 Normal Budget Act as an investment to
9 address racial disparities in the City
10 of Philadelphia. So these funds were
11 intended to financially uplift
12 Philadelphia's creative sector and
13 support disadvantaged communities,
14 particularly Philadelphia's Black and
15 Brown communities that have been
16 disproportionately impacted by COVID.

17 SO OACCE, we aligned our
18 funding with these goals of the New
19 Normal Budget Act, by prioritizing
20 individual artists of color, individual
21 artists, small diverse nonprofits and
22 arts and culture-focused businesses
23 located in disadvantaged communities,
24 and artists and arts organizations --
25 I'm sorry, cultural programming in

1 disadvantaged communities and artists
2 and arts organizations serving
3 vulnerable constituencies such as low
4 income, at-risk youth, persons with
5 disabilities and health conditions,
6 incarcerated individuals and returning
7 citizens.

8 Next slide. You can go
9 straight to Slide 6. So this is the
10 timeline of the Illuminating the Arts
11 Grant. So February 23rd of this year,
12 Councilmembers Isaiah Thomas and Kathy
13 Gilmore Richardson announced the
14 Illuminate the Arts Grant. The whole
15 top line, those are administrative
16 milestones.

17 The transfer ordinance of the
18 \$1.3 million was signed by the Mayor on
19 March 29th, and that's what sort of
20 triggers the release of the funds. And
21 the Illuminating the Arts Grants were
22 launched May 4th. And by September
23 10th, 99 percent of all of the grants
24 had been distributed to artists and arts
25 organizations and these creative

1 enterprises. That's within four months
2 because we really wanted to respond to
3 the sense of urgency. And the only
4 reason why it was 99 percent instead of
5 100 percent was because we had to chase
6 down people who submitted W9s but didn't
7 sign them, and tracking sort of bad
8 email addresses. But we're very proud
9 working with the Committee to get the
10 money out the door that quickly.

11 Slide 7. So OACCE worked with
12 members of the Arts and Culture Task
13 Force to form the Illuminating the Arts
14 Committee. Our intention was to develop
15 a program that would be easy and
16 accessible to individual artists, small
17 diverse nonprofits and arts and
18 culture-focused businesses who were not
19 traditionally eligible for grants.

20 Like I said before, \$1 million
21 was budgeted for these grants. The
22 Committee approved a total of \$1,002,400
23 in relief funding to 645 grantees. The
24 additional \$2400 was just supported
25 through OAC's FY21 budget. And I cannot

1 thank enough the members of the Task
2 Force that served on the Illuminating
3 the Arts Grant Committee that included
4 Ciarra Lambert and Raheem Manning. They
5 are both Co-chairs of the Arts and
6 Culture Task Force, Terry Fox from the
7 Philadelphia Dance Project, Anne Ishii
8 from the Asian Arts Initiative and
9 Christina Vassallo from The Fabric
10 Workshop. The amount of hours and smart
11 thinking that they contributed to the
12 development of this grant was
13 invaluable, and it would not have been
14 successful without their input.

15 Next slide. So again, the
16 grant was created as a COVID relief
17 fund, and we wanted to prioritize
18 funding applicants who demonstrated the
19 greatest need in applicants that
20 represented and served disadvantaged
21 communities. And you'll see that
22 represented in the stats I'm about to
23 share.

24 The Committee wanted to create
25 an easy process that had a low bar of

1 proof of creative practice, and we
2 specifically wanted to make it easy to
3 attract those new grantees and arts
4 organizations that had a limited
5 capacity or experience in applying for
6 grants. And again, we specifically
7 targeted individual artists and small
8 diverse nonprofits.

9 The Committee prioritized
10 applicants in disadvantaged communities
11 by focusing on those located in 24 high
12 poverty zip codes that were identified
13 through the 2018 census data. And most
14 importantly, we really focused on
15 responding to the sense of urgency in
16 getting the money out the door as
17 quickly as possible, and again,
18 announcing on May 4th and getting the
19 majority of the money out the door by
20 September 10th.

21 Next slide. In total, we
22 received 949 applications that were
23 submitted that were requesting 4.8
24 million in relief funding. 906 of those
25 applicants were eligible. Those folks

1 who were ineligible was because they
2 were not in Philadelphia or the practice
3 that -- the work that they did in their
4 nonprofit or for-profit work was not
5 considered in the creative sector, like
6 tarot card reader is one that comes to
7 mind. 71 percent or 645 applicants
8 received grant funding. 62 percent of
9 the awardees reside in these priority
10 high poverty zip codes, and the grantees
11 represent a diverse set of creative
12 practices as you can read here, from
13 music to theater to film to public art
14 and many more. And you can go to
15 CreativePHL.org to see the full list of
16 grant awardees.

17 Next slide. So this is the
18 breakdown by category of the 645 total
19 grantees. 590 individual artists all
20 with incomes of \$60,000 or less received
21 a \$1,000 grant. We funded 100 percent
22 of all of the individual artists that
23 were eligible because this was our
24 target because these were the folks that
25 were falling through the cracks of more

1 traditional forms of funding.

2 We supported 30 small nonprofit
3 arts organizations that have budgets of
4 under \$100,000, and they received grants
5 between \$5,000 and \$6800 per
6 organization. We supported midsize
7 nonprofit arts organizations with
8 budgets between \$100,000 and \$500,000.
9 They each received \$100,000 -- I'm
10 sorry, a \$10,000 grant for a total of
11 \$100,000. And we supported 15 small
12 creative enterprises that were awarded
13 grants totaling 112,000. And they
14 received 2500 and 8,000, and their
15 operating budgets were \$500,000 or less.
16 So we really narrowed down the size of
17 the budget, again, to really sort of
18 ensure that we were finding the small
19 nonprofits and the small creative
20 enterprises.

21 Next slide. So some facts
22 about the individual artists, and please
23 read the -- we have some great quotes of
24 some of our grantees. So for individual
25 artists, again there was a \$600,000 cap

1 on income. And even though that was our
2 cap of the 100 percent of the eligible
3 individual artists that applied and
4 received an award, 75 percent of them
5 reported an income of less than \$33,000
6 in 2020. So again, our target was to
7 reach those individual artists that were
8 in greatest need, and this shows the
9 fact that the average salary was 33,000,
10 shows that was the case.

11 60 percent of the awardees of
12 the individual artists reside in
13 priority high-poverty communities. 55.1
14 percent went to artists of color. 78
15 percent did not receive any other COVID-
16 19 relief funds from the City. 33
17 percent of the individual artists
18 reported that this was their first
19 grant, and this had a lot to do with the
20 outreach that was done by the Arts and
21 Culture Task Force. We really tried to
22 reach those individuals that did not
23 think that they were eligible for a
24 grant, these first-time grantees. And
25 55 percent used their funds primarily to

1 support their creative practice.

2 Next slide. So some facts
3 about the small nonprofit arts
4 organizations: Again, with budgets
5 under \$100,000 or less, so 83 percent of
6 these nonprofits were located in
7 priority disadvantaged communities. 40
8 percent had one month of cash on hand.

9 So this shows that some of these
10 organizations that received a grant were
11 on the verge of closing without this
12 grant with one month of cash on hand.

13 50 percent served low-income
14 individuals or families or at-risk
15 youth. 71 percent did not receive any
16 other COVID-19 relief funds. 33 percent
17 were first-time arts grant recipients,
18 and 48 percent used the funds for
19 program expenses.

20 Next slide. For the midsize
21 arts organizations, and again these are
22 organizations with budgets between
23 \$100,000 and \$500,000 a year, 90 percent
24 of these were based in priority
25 high-poverty disadvantaged communities.

1 77.7 percent had a drop in employment in
2 2020. This midsize nonprofit
3 organizations had the largest drop in
4 employment. 80 percent of the grantees
5 served low-income individuals or
6 families or at-risk youth. 80 percent
7 did not receive any other COVID-19
8 relief funds from the City. 20 percent
9 were first-time arts grants recipients
10 and 60 percent used the funds for
11 program expenses.

12 One of the other things that's
13 interesting about the midsize arts
14 organizations was that 40 percent --
15 sorry, 10 percent had one month of cash
16 on hand compared to 40 percent of the
17 small. So that shows that the small
18 arts organizations were really less
19 stable than the midsize organizations,
20 not by much, but at least some of the
21 midsize organizations had more than one
22 month's cash on hand.

23 Next slide. Some facts about
24 the small creative enterprises. So
25 these had operating budgets of \$500,000

1 or less. Again, 80 percent based in
2 priority disadvantaged communities. 70
3 percent did not receive any other COVID-
4 19 relief funds from the City. And we
5 felt that that was very interesting just
6 because these were for-profit
7 businesses, and many of them were
8 eligible for other COVID-19 relief funds
9 that were being distributed through
10 Commerce and other sources, but maybe
11 it's just awareness that 70 percent did
12 not receive even though most of them
13 would have been eligible.

14 56 percent reported that this
15 was their first arts grant. 44 percent
16 used the funds on program expenses. 35
17 percent lost in employment from 2019 to
18 2020, and these folks had the greatest
19 loss of revenue with a loss of 64.6
20 percent in revenue between 2019 and
21 2020. And this quote from this small
22 creative business was very impactful.
23 It's one of the first ones that we
24 received. And again, the fact that they
25 could not get any of the PPP money, this

1 was just in-time funds that City Council
2 put into the hands of artists and arts
3 organizations in these small creative
4 businesses.

5 Next slide. Go straight to
6 Slide 16. So like I said, \$200,000 went
7 to support neighborhood arts programs.
8 And for this program, we funded artists
9 and arts organizations to provide free
10 cultural programming in neighborhoods
11 and communities. And for us, not only
12 are we supporting artists and arts
13 organizations, but we are providing
14 access to quality arts programs
15 throughout Philadelphia's communities
16 and to assure that it is equitable
17 throughout Philadelphia.

18 Slide 17. So \$200,000, like I
19 said, was budgeted for this. Since June
20 of 2020, \$144,467 has been budgeted in
21 funding to support 146 new neighborhood
22 arts programs in 2021. So these are
23 programs that would not have happened
24 without this funding. A total of
25 \$67,932 was distributed to 61 arts and

1 cultural -- artists and cultural
2 organizations that OACCE had to cancel
3 in 2020 due to the pandemic. So again,
4 understanding the sense of urgency, the
5 fact that some of this money could be
6 used to pay those artists that whose
7 programs were canceled was very, very
8 important.

9 Next slide. So this is just
10 the breakdown of the different types of
11 neighborhood performances. The average
12 amount per program was \$989. We had
13 about 21,000 estimated in attendance at
14 our neighborhood arts programs, and we
15 know that our median attendance was
16 about 60 people, but we had a few sort
17 of large scale events that we supported
18 that attracted hundreds of people,
19 including the Northeast International
20 Festival. We supported with this
21 program, the Sister Soul Series at
22 Spruce Street Harbor, Weirido Festival in
23 East Kensington, the Lifeline Jazz
24 Festival, the Mill Creek Community
25 Partnership Festival. So these are

1 examples of events that attracted a few
2 hundred people which really, one, it's
3 great that we provided access to that
4 many people, but that's what led to such
5 very high and positive attendance
6 numbers.

7 Next slide, 19. So through the
8 neighborhood arts programs, 895 artists
9 were paid. You can see the breakdown of
10 women, men nonbinary and age, gender
11 artists. 61.7 percent were artists of
12 color. 60 percent of these events were
13 in priority high-poverty disadvantaged
14 communities. And for the breakdown of
15 the events that we supported that were
16 canceled in 2020, that's the 67,932,
17 that supported 64 artists, and 49
18 percent of the artists are located in
19 these priority high-poverty
20 disadvantaged communities.

21 Next slide. So thank you for
22 the opportunity to give this
23 presentation. You know, I hope that
24 with some of this data that we sort of
25 demonstrated with the help of the Arts

1 and Culture Task Force that the dollars
2 went quickly to the targeted recipients.
3 And just from the testimonials that
4 we've received, this was really just
5 in-time funding for a lot of these
6 artists and arts organizations. And I
7 just very much appreciate City Council's
8 support and the advocacy specifically of
9 Isaiah Thomas and Katherine Gilmore
10 Richardson for this \$1.3 million, and we
11 stand ready and able to do it again.
12 Thank you.

13 COUNCILMAN OH: All right.
14 Thank you very much. I'm just going to
15 note that we have been joined by
16 Councilmember Mark Squilla, a member of
17 this Committee.

18 And now I'd like to recognize
19 Councilmember Isaiah Thomas for
20 questions and comments.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
22 Mr. Chair. I appreciate it.

23 And I first want to say thank
24 you to Kelly and her entire team. As
25 somebody who works in City government, I

1 know often that it's the folks that's
2 behind the scene that never testifies in
3 hearings like this that has to assume a
4 huge bulk of the work.

5 So, Kelly, I know you and your
6 team did a phenomenal effort as it
7 relates to not just the level of
8 accuracy as it relates to the intention
9 of what we wanted to do. But also that
10 detailed report, I think it's important
11 for us to have data and information
12 about how money was spent, how tax
13 dollars was disbursed, and most
14 importantly, those dollars have not just
15 on the people it was spent, but on us as
16 an entire City. So thank you for that
17 phenomenal report and that information
18 and all your hard work.

19 Just a couple of questions real
20 quick. If I understand correctly, there
21 was a significant number of events that
22 we were able to support. Do we have an
23 idea of how those events were
24 successfully able to attract people to
25 come to Philadelphia? I think that when

1 we think about our recovery effort and
2 what we need to do to get our economy in
3 a way where we see fit, my colleague
4 Councilman Domb held a hearing around
5 the fiscal stability of the City, there
6 is a possibility that we can face a
7 couple hundred million dollar deficit if
8 we don't do everything right.

9 So I'm wondering when we do
10 invest in initiatives like this what
11 does it mean and what is the impact that
12 it has as it relates to attracting
13 people to Philadelphia and encouraging
14 people to enjoy our City?

15 MS. LEE: You know, that's a
16 really good question. First of all, we
17 attend our events and we survey
18 attendees at our events, and we also ask
19 the artists that we pay to fill out a
20 little report. We do not ask the
21 question from attendees whether or not
22 they're from Philadelphia or whether or
23 not they're from outside of
24 Philadelphia.

25 One of the things that we do

1 know just from some of the testimonials
2 from the arts organizations that we
3 supported for the neighborhood arts
4 programs, that they were thrilled that
5 they were able to attract new people to
6 their communities. We know that the
7 people who attended some of these events
8 were not from that particular community
9 where that neighborhood arts program
10 took place, but we don't know if those
11 people were from outside of the City of
12 Philadelphia. But that's the type of
13 question that we can add to our surveys
14 because it is critically important.

15 First of all, attracting
16 visitors to our neighborhoods is just
17 going to give them a reason to come
18 back, we have a very exciting downtown.
19 But our neighborhoods have some amazing
20 sort of assets to offer as well. And
21 so, I think that we would be doing a
22 service in doing a great thing if we
23 started to gather that information, and
24 then also try to do something to attract
25 more visitors from outside of the City

1 of Philadelphia to some of our
2 neighborhood arts programs.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: So if we
4 were to provide another round of
5 Illuminate the Arts Grants, number one,
6 I guess I'm asking would this be able to
7 be a priority as far as reviewing the
8 data to be able to assess that
9 component? But then I would also ask if
10 we were to provide another round, what
11 do you feel like the priority should be
12 as far as based on your expertise and
13 your experience through this process,
14 who should we be focusing on as it
15 relates to who we can provide grants to,
16 what demographic should we focus on if
17 we are trying to help stimulate the
18 economy with events like what I'm
19 talking about right now?

20 MS. LEE: I would say more of
21 the same, you know. I think that if we
22 had additional funding to be able to
23 support this cross-section, I think our
24 data showed that we did support a lot of
25 small and minority artists and

1 organizations that focus on
2 disadvantaged communities, but the
3 quality of the programming was for
4 everyone, right. We were just sort of
5 targeting because those were the folks
6 that fell through the cracks.

7 I think that if we could do
8 more, I think that we need additional
9 funding to really be better at promoting
10 these events. I think the promoting of
11 the events will attract more attendees.
12 I think better promotion of the events
13 will help to lead to outside visitors
14 from people outside of Philadelphia to
15 coming to Philadelphia or if they come
16 to Philadelphia for something that is
17 more mainstream if we are heavily
18 promoting our neighborhood programming,
19 then we can sort of get those folks
20 while they're here to see sort of these
21 other amazing cultural programs that the
22 City has to offer. So I think it's more
23 of the same but really sort of doing
24 more outreach in order to make sure that
25 more people are aware of this type of

1 programming.

2 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Last
3 question, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for
4 the lengthiness.

5 Would that be something your
6 office would have capacity to do or
7 would you partner with someone else for
8 that type of advertising?

9 MS. LEE: I think for the
10 marketing and advertising we'll partner
11 with someone who does that all day every
12 day, right. I think that there's a lot
13 of great data out there in terms of the
14 radius of where our visitors come from,
15 whether or not we're partnering with a
16 marketing firm that focuses on
17 hospitality marketing or someone like
18 Visit Philly that already sort of does a
19 lot of advertising to attract visitors
20 to the City, but we would definitely
21 partner with someone who would be
22 experts in trying to reach our targeted
23 audiences.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I would
25 like to see that. I think that that's

1 something that we should make a
2 concentrated effort around and I think
3 the advocacy is important, the data's
4 important. But I think if we can
5 continue to improve what we're doing and
6 I think that's one way we can improve
7 this to try to make sure that some of
8 the events and initiatives are marketed
9 in a way that not just encourages
10 Philadelphians to take advantage of
11 these programs and organizations, but
12 then encourages other people to come to
13 our City, to visit our City, to take
14 advantage of these great things and to
15 of course spend their money in our City.

16 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
17 appreciate the leniency. And again,
18 Kelly, thank you to you and your entire
19 team for the great work you're doing.

20 MS. LEE: Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you,
22 Councilmember Thomas. And thank you,
23 Kelly Lee.

24 I'll ask other members of the
25 Committee do you have any questions or

1 comments before we move on to the next
2 panel?

3 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:
4 Councilmember Oh, this is Mark Squilla.
5 Can I just make one comment?

6 COUNCILMAN OH: Yes,
7 absolutely. Councilmember Squilla.

8 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank you
9 very much.

10 And, Kelly, thank you for your
11 great work and efforts during these
12 challenging times. It was really
13 important to be able to have access for
14 these smaller groups and --

15 (Background interruption.)

16 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Hold on.

17 COUNCILMAN OH: Yeah. I'm
18 sorry. Let me again say if you are not
19 speaking, please mute your microphone.
20 Thank you.

21 Go ahead, Councilmember.

22 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: As this
23 resource was made available and we see
24 the outcomes of it and how important it
25 is, is it something that these groups

1 are now back --

2 (Background interruption.)

3 COUNCILMAN OH: I'm sorry,
4 Councilmember. Can you give me a
5 second.

6 I'm sorry. Someone is not
7 muted. Someone is not muted. Please
8 mute your microphone. Thank you.

9 I'm sorry. Go ahead,
10 Councilmember.

11 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: All right.
12 Sorry, Kelly.

13 MS. LEE: That's okay.

14 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: It's
15 challenging with these virtual calls.
16 But if we -- now that these
17 organizations have received this, I see
18 that they would probably need additional
19 resources moving forward, you know, in
20 the upcoming years. Is it something
21 that we think that we can make
22 sustainable in the future? I know we
23 have the Cultural Fund and other
24 organizations that provide it. Is there
25 a way to either combine it into an

1 organization that's already providing
2 some resources or it's something that we
3 should continue to be able to have for
4 these smaller groups that really need
5 this as an opportunity to stay afloat?

6 MS. LEE: Yeah. You know, I
7 think that there has to be some focus on
8 individual artists and small arts
9 organizations. And I've said -- what
10 I'm going to say now, I said it directly
11 to Councilman Thomas and Councilwoman
12 Katherine Gilmore Richardson. OACCE, we
13 do not care who gets the money to
14 distribute it as long as it is targeted
15 for those groups. So whether or not it
16 goes to the Philadelphia Cultural Fund
17 and they all of a sudden can change
18 their scope to support individual
19 artists or they sort of change their
20 process a little bit in order to reach
21 that 33 percent of individual artists
22 that have never received a grant before,
23 an arts grant before.

24 You know, we are open to work
25 with anyone, but I do think that it has

1 to be intentional that some entity is
2 focused on this sector just because
3 there's just a huge gap to make up. And
4 like I said, a lot of them are not
5 eligible for more traditional sources of
6 funding. So when COVID hit, our office
7 worked with the Philadelphia Cultural
8 Fund and with the Greater Philadelphia
9 Cultural Alliance to do the COVID Arts
10 Aid Fund. And then a lot of our
11 foundations also pivoted to give money
12 to sort of arts organizations and
13 everyone was trying to be helpful.

14 But if you look at the arts
15 organizations that received that
16 funding, many of them were already being
17 funded by those foundations. And so,
18 for them, they wanted to prop up their
19 investment, right. If they've been
20 supporting these larger arts
21 organizations for a long period of time,
22 they wanted to make sure they could
23 survive COVID and that's good, and we
24 are very grateful that they did that.
25 But if you were never eligible for that

1 funding and you were a small gig worker
2 and you were not quite eligible for the
3 pandemic unemployment relief because the
4 state never really figured out how to
5 get them their relief, it was just a
6 technical glitch or it took them a long
7 time, these folks went for long periods
8 of time with no revenue and no source of
9 revenue.

10 So again, I think it's
11 important -- it's not important who does
12 it, but it's important that it's done,
13 that there is some entity that really
14 sort of focuses on individual artists,
15 supporting and sustaining them and
16 helping them to grow and small arts
17 organizations, supporting and helping
18 them and sustaining them and helping
19 them to grow because that will make them
20 eligible for more traditional types of
21 funding.

22 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Yeah. And
23 I see this as an opportunity obviously,
24 because those folks also drive the
25 economic impact of the City of

1 Philadelphia. So it's different
2 requirements by different organizations
3 and I don't think the City minds if
4 there's different organizations running
5 these things as long as we're reaching
6 the folks that need it the most. So I
7 think that is the key.

8 So I really appreciate you
9 spearheading this, and I think it was
10 really important to be able to make
11 folks know that all arts and artists and
12 individuals in small groups all are
13 being considered and it's not just
14 larger groups or people who have
15 additional resources. So I don't know
16 what the answer is, but I do know that
17 we need to continue looking at ways to
18 try to help all these folks. And so, we
19 appreciate it and rely on your guidance
20 as this moves forward.

21 And I want to thank
22 Councilmembers Thomas and Gilmore
23 Richardson for their leadership on this
24 because it's really important to keep
25 this moving, and also thank our Chair

1 for having these hearings to make sure
2 we all know and are part of the process,
3 so thank you.

4 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you,
5 Councilmember Squilla.

6 Are there any other comments or
7 questions?

8 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

9 RICHARDSON: Mr. Chair.

10 COUNCILMAN OH: Yes. You are
11 recognized, Councilmember.

12 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

13 RICHARDSON: Thank you. This is
14 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

15 I just wanted to provide a
16 quick point of information. But before
17 I do that, I want to thank Councilmember
18 Thomas for all of his work that we've
19 done together to ensure that we have the
20 Illuminate the Arts Grant. But I really
21 wanted to thank Kelly Lee and her team.
22 Without the work of her office and their
23 team, we would not have had a mechanism
24 in the City of Philadelphia to support
25 individual artists and small artists

1 during the COVID-19 pandemic. I wanted
2 to offer my sincere thanks and gratitude
3 to Kelly Lee, her office and her entire
4 team.

5 I quickly just wanted to notate
6 for the record that we heard initially
7 when we were going around with the
8 Disadvantaged Communities Task Force
9 tour all across the City, we heard from
10 a number of smaller individual artists,
11 that they were not eligible for some of
12 the other funding sources that were
13 available at the onset of COVID-19, and
14 that was the impetus for ensuring that
15 we could provide a level of funding for
16 those individual artists and the small
17 grant organizations. So I just wanted
18 to add that in for the record.

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank
20 you, colleagues. And thank you very
21 much, Kelly.

22 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you,
23 Councilmember.

24 MS. LEE: Thank you.

25 COUNCILMAN OH: If there are no

1 other questions or comments, I will
2 thank Kelly Lee and her team for joining
3 us.

4 And I will ask the Clerk to
5 call the next panel.

6 THE CLERK: The next panel of
7 witnesses is Raheem Manning and Ciarra
8 Lambert.

9 COUNCILMAN OH: I hope you are
10 connected and ready to proceed. If so,
11 please state your name for the record
12 and proceed with your testimony. Just
13 decide among yourselves who's going
14 first.

15 MS. LAMBERT: Raheem, you can
16 go first.

17 MR. MANNING: Okay. So I am
18 Raheem Manning along with Ciarra. We
19 Co-chair the Arts and Culture Task
20 Force. First, I'm going to say thank
21 you to Council as a whole, but more
22 specifically Councilman Isaiah Thomas
23 and Councilmember Gilmore Richardson for
24 giving us the opportunity to be heard.

25 Me and Ciarra are going to

1 piggyback this -- I mean, ping-pong this
2 a little bit because we want to hit a
3 couple of key points to let you know all
4 the work that the Arts and Culture Task
5 Force has done and to kind of place you
6 guys to where we believe we need to
7 continue to work at to be effective and
8 supporting the community here in
9 Philadelphia.

10 So since its founding, the Arts
11 and Cultural Task Force of course came
12 out of Disadvantaged Communities Task
13 Force, their talks and some of those
14 conversations that Councilwoman Gilmore
15 Richardson just referred to. Outside of
16 that, we had a vision. When we got the
17 Task Force together, we put together a
18 vision of what our goal was. And our
19 vision was to find new and innovative
20 ways to better support artists,
21 performers and curators throughout the
22 City of Philadelphia.

23 Our mission focuses on the
24 initiatives that will occur during and
25 in the recovery of and after the COVID-

1 19 pandemic and how it affected
2 individual artists and small arts
3 organizations in the City of
4 Philadelphia. We met countless amount
5 of times with countless stakeholders in
6 the arts and cultural community in the
7 City of Philadelphia, those including
8 some of the bigger institutions like the
9 Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Kimmel
10 Center and the Philadelphia Cultural
11 Fund and Philadelphia Cultural Alliance,
12 Visit Philly and some of the other
13 smaller organizations around the City.

14 We also held two town hall
15 meetings with individual artists and
16 kind of local community representatives.
17 We even had past Mayor Wilson Goode on
18 one of our public meetings. So what we
19 basically did was gain a lot of insight
20 on what artists needed specifically at
21 the time and how we as a task force
22 could advocate to the City to provide
23 the things that was needed.

24 Some of the things that came
25 out that we heard even with the

1 Illuminate the Arts Grants, Ciarra will
2 speak on this as well, that's a
3 continuing factor when it comes to
4 supporting the community, is, one, that
5 so many individual artists and
6 for-profit arts organizations do not
7 qualify for traditional City funding.
8 Even when the City of Philadelphia and
9 the state of Pennsylvania due to the
10 COVID pandemic released lots of money
11 into the communities and into
12 businesses, many of those funds had
13 stipulations that excluded small arts
14 organizations or excluded individual
15 artists or individual for-profit artists
16 as well.

17 And some of those stipulations,
18 just to put them out there, one of the
19 big ones was that most City funding
20 released during COVID required a
21 brick-and-mortar requirement, which lots
22 of creative economies and creative
23 organizations, specifically arts and
24 cultural organizations, don't usually
25 have a brick-and-mortar location because

1 they take their creative talents on the
2 road in affected communities as they go,
3 and I think that was a really big thing
4 that was a hindrance for a lot of the
5 support that went out from the City.

6 I think the other parts of it
7 is the cumbersomeness of the process
8 when getting grants from the City, and
9 that's even when it's throwing out RFPs
10 as well. The process is for getting or
11 receiving money from the City of
12 Philadelphia in (inaudible) traditional
13 time is very overwhelming for small arts
14 organizations and individual artists who
15 don't have the resources to dedicate the
16 time to a lot of the things that are
17 asked for.

18 And so, as the Arts and Culture
19 Task Force, we advocated for those
20 things. But the main thing we did to
21 get where we were, and I'll spin it over
22 to Ciara to talk about our diversity and
23 how we got to these answers, is that we
24 listened to the community. We literally
25 were in arm to just listen to the

1 community, which had never been done
2 before.

3 The community here in
4 Philadelphia, the arts and cultural
5 sector, is very skeptical of a lot of
6 the things that the City of Philadelphia
7 tries to do, because although the
8 intentions are well, no one from the
9 City technically listens to the
10 individual artist and no one from the
11 City asks the questions what do
12 individual artists need. It's usually a
13 larger and grander footprint of how can
14 we help the sector, and that's why a lot
15 of the funding that comes from the City
16 of Philadelphia, especially through the
17 Cultural Fund and other branches there
18 go to the same organizations that
19 continually get the grants as Kelly Lee
20 spoke about previously.

21 So I'll pass it over to Ciarra
22 so she can speak a little bit more about
23 the make-up and how we were effective in
24 getting the report done that we
25 submitted. So, Ciarra.

1 MS. LAMBERT: Okay. Hi,
2 everybody. Thank you to everybody on
3 Council for having me here. Again,
4 special thanks to Councilmember Thomas
5 and Councilwoman Gilmore Richardson just
6 for, you know, hearing us out and
7 providing us this opportunity to be able
8 to advocate for ourselves, right,
9 because that's also a very important
10 part of the conversation. I see you
11 ready to say something. I'm going to --

12 COUNCILMAN OH: Please state
13 your name. Thank you.

14 MS. LAMBERT: Oh, I'm sorry. I
15 can't believe I forgot that part. I
16 assumed Raheem introduced me, but that's
17 fine. So hi, everybody. I am Co-chair
18 of the Arts and Culture Task Force. My
19 name is Ciarra Lambert, so thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you.

21 MS. LAMBERT: So just to
22 piggyback off of a lot of the things
23 that Raheem said, we feel that we were
24 able to effectively reach the community
25 because we really tried to put in a lot

1 of groundwork from the beginning to make
2 that happen, starting with how we
3 selected our members or just the
4 diversity of the members who are on the
5 actual Task Force.

6 We were diverse in age range.
7 Our youngest member at the time was 16,
8 which was really important if we wanted
9 to reach the youth artists. That went
10 all the way up. There is also diversity
11 in terms of genres, right. We have your
12 rappers, your DJs, but we have our
13 dancers, our more traditional painter
14 artists, but we also had people like
15 promoters who work in the arts field and
16 teachers, just an array of different
17 professions which I think was very
18 helpful when it came to sorting out the
19 people that we wanted to reach,
20 especially once we got to those Zoom
21 meetings and we were trying to figure
22 out what the issues or what the more
23 immediate issues are.

24 If you get a bunch of artists
25 in one room and you ask what the

1 problems are, there's going to be
2 500-plus. But you can kind of, like,
3 group them together if you reach the
4 right amount of people. And the reason
5 why I feel like we were able to do that,
6 again, is because we started with a very
7 diverse group.

8 So like Raheem had mentioned,
9 we had two Zoom meetings, the first
10 trying to reach individual artists, the
11 second one just trying to create
12 partnerships with already established
13 arts organizations who may have done
14 this effectively and those who have not,
15 just trying to get a scope of where we
16 stood. And through that, we prioritized
17 for different things.

18 There was permanence, and that
19 is a lot of the funding based upon who's
20 in office, what the climate is, all
21 sorts of different things. So whereas
22 other communities have a more permanent
23 stream of funding, we're always at the
24 whim of whatever the situation is. And
25 I'm sure people should know if they

1 don't know is that when these things
2 hurt us, it becomes an exponential
3 problem. Yes, this was something that
4 was put together to address COVID-19,
5 but artists were struggling way before
6 then. So this has just been something
7 that has been compounded. So permanence
8 was one.

9 The second one was individual
10 artists and small organizations. Again,
11 just to repeat some of the things that
12 Raheem has said, a lot of individual
13 artists don't qualify for funding based
14 on criteria. Like he said, whether
15 because it's cumbersome or whether it's
16 other traditional reasons. There's also
17 a focus on youth and arts. We always
18 talk about education and what education
19 looks like and what people decide to
20 prioritize for kids, but a lot of our
21 youth is very creative.

22 And unfortunately, they don't
23 always feel like they have the avenues
24 to be able to express their art or even
25 sometimes make money off of their art.

1 You know, you turn 16, you want to get a
2 job, you're creative, you might be able
3 to make flyers or promotions or all
4 those other things, so they just aren't
5 always provided the same opportunities.

6 And then of course there comes
7 the night life or the nighttime economy,
8 which Raheem and I and a couple of the
9 members take so personally because
10 that's the sector that we come from.

11 And that has always been important
12 because we have been neglected as a
13 whole, although I do think that we
14 contribute heavily to the hospitality
15 sector when it comes to bringing money
16 into the City. So those were the four
17 things that we decided to focus on.

18 I think that as a team we've
19 been able to accomplish a lot of things
20 thus far. The number one thing
21 obviously is the Illuminate the Arts
22 Grants, which we've heard so many people
23 talk about earlier. We were very, very
24 proud of that, especially when it comes
25 to criteria. Criteria is so important

1 and I can't stress that enough.

2 A lot of the things that our
3 team tried to focus on is the criteria
4 of other grants and try to just match
5 where certain things were missing. A
6 lot of the City, if you were to evaluate
7 a lot of -- or who considered themselves
8 an artist, right, to think outside of
9 the box. A DJ is an artist, right, but
10 how many grants are for them. But then
11 you think about the nightlife economy,
12 you think about who goes out to these
13 events who draws people. I can point to
14 a lot of different DJs, including
15 DJ Active who draws people from New York
16 just because, you know, he's a popular
17 DJ, he's on tour with other people so
18 people can't wait to come to Philly to
19 see his types of events.

20 And so, I'm really happy about
21 the Illuminate the Arts Grants because,
22 again, funding individual artists are
23 what's going to bring those types of
24 things to the City. We've also forged
25 relationships which is really important

1 to us, especially when it comes to youth
2 programming. And then we are thankful
3 to everyone on Council for that
4 obviously, but also some of the
5 organizations we partnered with like
6 Mural Arts. One of the things that the
7 kids said that they wanted to do was
8 find a way to showcase their art.

9 Sydney who is on our team, the 16-year-
10 old, thought that it would be a really
11 cool idea to put up a mural that
12 showcases different youth art using QR
13 codes. So if you walk up to the mural
14 and you place your phone on the QR code,
15 it can pull up some links to youth
16 artists.

17 Also, just trying to find
18 relationships and partners with venues.
19 And a lot of that we were able to do
20 just because there was a task force,
21 right, so it opened the door. So using
22 our relationships with Councilman Thomas
23 and Councilwoman Richardson, it just
24 really allowed us to be able to have
25 access to some of the bigger

1 organizations that some of the smaller
2 groups weren't able to do before, again
3 allowing us to advocate for ourselves.

4 And then obviously, we're
5 looking forward to the creation of the
6 nighttime economy, so getting that off
7 the ground is a huge success for us.
8 Even having people converse about it is
9 a big deal for us because this is a
10 conversation that I'm sure might be
11 talked about a little bit later. This
12 is something that us in the nighttime
13 sector have been advocating and fighting
14 for, for over 15 years. So we are super
15 excited about that.

16 And now, I'm going to pass it
17 back to Raheem. We're going to again
18 split it up about next steps of where we
19 hope to go next. So pass it back to you
20 Raheem.

21 MR. MANNING: All right.
22 Thank you, Ciarra. Again, we've already
23 put in a lot of work, right. And I'm
24 really proud that we did present City
25 Council and the Mayor's Office as well

1 as to the community as a whole, a
2 62-page report that really summarizes
3 all of our findings, right.

4 And in the three months that we
5 had to create that report, of course we
6 could not address all the issues with
7 the sector. However, we did our best to
8 make sure the issues we did address and
9 the solutions we came up with were steep
10 in research and also based on what the
11 community needed, so that report has
12 been published and I will also drop a
13 copy, a link to that report in the chat
14 for anyone who has not viewed that.

15 We hope that you guys do look
16 at that to guide some of your policy
17 decisions when it comes to the sector
18 because a community put just a lot of
19 the work into that report, not only the
20 Task Force but the Task Force had
21 subcommittees of people from the
22 community who committed and supported us
23 when coming together was important.

24 So the next steps for the
25 sector, and there's a couple of calls

1 that you guys probably heard, but what
2 we want to do is to make sure that as
3 this COVID-19 pandemic phases out and
4 you guys have shown some support for the
5 arts and cultural community and you have
6 some trust in the arts and culture
7 community, largely in part to the
8 members of the Arts and Cultural Task
9 Force.

10 Again, we know that the
11 community has a lot of distrust for the
12 City and how it shows up for it. So at
13 this time when you have this advocacy,
14 you have the Arts and Culture Task Force
15 kind of representing what can be done
16 for the community. We want to make sure
17 that we keep a permanence in thinking
18 about it, and not only permanent in
19 funding but also permanent in having
20 someone or some group advocating for
21 individual artists, minority arts
22 organizations and for-profit arts
23 organizations.

24 Of course, we have the Office
25 of Nighttime Economy. That position is

1 dope, but we want to make sure that we
2 are expanding and supporting that
3 position, and I'll hold on that because
4 we do have someone speaking on that.
5 Simplifying the RFP process for
6 individual artists, I know a lot of
7 times when the RFP goes out for whatever
8 City project, it's a standard form
9 that's for organizations and for
10 individual artists.

11 But if I'm a small artist that
12 wants to come and utilize my talents for
13 something the City is asking for, I
14 think the process should be simplified
15 so that you can reach more of those
16 people. And then also, I really want to
17 emphasize before I toss it back to
18 Ciarra because this point hits really
19 home for me, and I know Councilman
20 Isaiah Thomas and Councilwoman Gilmore
21 Richardson have heard me speak about
22 this all the time, but making sure that
23 we are advocating and providing support
24 for nontraditional businesses in
25 Philadelphia.

1 And what I mean, like created
2 businesses that don't have brick and
3 mortar but that is also providing to the
4 economy here. A lot of businesses that
5 are being created, whether they're tech
6 start-ups, whether they're service-based
7 businesses, whether they're different
8 clothing lines, I think they sort of
9 have such a large digital footprint,
10 that they do not need a brick-and-mortar
11 store, and those businesses should not
12 be forgotten about. So those are just
13 some of the things. Of course, the
14 report has a lot more.

15 I'll toss it over to Ciarra.
16 She has some important ones as well as
17 far as steps to move forward.

18 MS. LAMBERT: Yeah. So the
19 other couple of things that I want our
20 team to focus on this year is, one, in
21 what other ways artists can be useful to
22 other sectors, right, whether that's
23 education, whether that's Streets
24 Department, whether that's, you know.
25 Just looking at artists as

1 solution-based, right, not to other
2 things that are going on in the City,
3 because I feel like we can accommodate a
4 lot of different things that aren't
5 directly related to what people would
6 consider traditional arts initiatives.

7 Also, I want us to continue to
8 build a relationship with different
9 organizations for our youth
10 specifically, so continuing to build
11 those relationships so that we can get
12 more kids different afterschool
13 programming to keep them busy obviously
14 and off the streets, but also to make
15 sure they are able to find different
16 types of post-secondary education that
17 might not be traditional, right, that
18 might be in the arts sector.

19 And then also, again to
20 piggyback off of what Raheem said,
21 finding a way to make this situation
22 permanent, especially when we think
23 about the Illuminate the Arts Grants
24 because, yes, it's not just about
25 individual artists. But again, it's

1 about criteria and the people who get to
2 do the criteria.

3 The climate of the individual
4 or the climate of the artist in
5 Philadelphia is so different and so
6 vast. If you have the same people,
7 right, always trying to decide what the
8 criteria of something is, okay, and
9 those people aren't a direct reflection
10 of the artists who live there, the
11 amount of new artists that are able to
12 apply for things or feel like they're
13 eligible for things are always affected
14 by that. So, yes, I do agree that we
15 should continue to do this, but we
16 should continue to make sure that the
17 people who are part of the decision
18 process are people who are artists in
19 the community who don't necessarily have
20 any other ties to other things. That's
21 my personal opinion. I'm sorry. Thank
22 you everybody else for having us. We
23 really appreciate to be here today.

24 MR. MANNING: And again, just
25 another big thanks to Councilmembers

1 Isaiah Thomas and Gilmore Richardson for
2 giving us a voice to advocate for the
3 community and we appreciate the Whole
4 Council.

5 COUNCILMAN OH: All right.
6 Thank you very much.

7 At this time, the Chair
8 recognizes Councilmember Isaiah Thomas
9 for questions or comments.

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Well, I was
11 going to ask a question, but I think
12 they answered it. I was just going to
13 basically ask about next steps and
14 priorities for the Task Force moving
15 forward, but I think they kind of
16 addressed that in the midst of their
17 testimony.

18 So I just want to thank you to
19 the Chairs and the other members of the
20 Task Force for providing such valuable
21 content throughout the course of this
22 entire process as well as their advocacy
23 over the last year-plus, because it's
24 very important that we understand what's
25 going on in the arts and culture space

1 with individual artists and with folks
2 that we aren't touching. So I
3 appreciate the work that's been done,
4 and I'm looking forward to continuing to
5 do the good work that we all know we
6 need to do as a City and a Council body
7 to continue to support this sector.

8 So thank you, Mr. Chair. I
9 appreciate it. And thank you both for
10 your testimony.

11 COUNCILMAN OH: All right.
12 Thank you, Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.
13 And thank you to Raheem Manning and
14 Ciarra Lambert.

15 Does anyone else on the
16 Committee have a question or a comment?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILMAN OH: Seeing none, I
19 will ask the Clerk to call the next
20 panel.

21 THE CLERK: The next panel of
22 witnesses is Mister Mann Frisby and Ray
23 Bicolli.

24 COUNCILMAN OH: I will say that
25 I think we lost a witness during this

1 time; is that correct, Clerk?

2 THE CLERK: That's correct, one
3 of the witnesses had to drop off. So
4 just to --

5 COUNCILMAN OH: Okay. My
6 apologies, but we now have two witnesses
7 for the next panel. And just for the
8 viewing public, we have one more panel
9 after this of two witnesses.

10 So let's proceed. We have our
11 next two witnesses on Panel 3. Again,
12 just a reminder for anyone who may have
13 forgotten, mute your microphone if you
14 are not speaking so that we don't pick
15 up any static or noise while our
16 witnesses are speaking.

17 So I'll start with Mister Mann
18 Frisby. If you would state your name,
19 identify yourself and proceed with your
20 testimony. Thank you.

21 MR. FRISBY: Good afternoon,
22 everyone. Thanks so much for having me.
23 First off, I know some of you. Some of
24 you I don't. My name is Mister Mann
25 Frisby. I'm an author, filmmaker and

1 event producer born and raised in South
2 Philly. For the last eight-and-a-half
3 years, I've been the host and director
4 of Mister Mann's Jam Session. It's a
5 live music experience that features the
6 best singers and musicians in Philly
7 that they have to offer, hands down.

8 So since November of 2019 we've
9 had a residency at City Winery at 10th
10 and Filbert. So the Office of Arts,
11 Culture and The Creative Economy has
12 been a blessing, I can't even say, for
13 so many reasons. This past summer I
14 received one of the \$1,000 grants. And
15 because I was greatly affected by COVID
16 as so many artists and hosts and
17 producers were in the City, so this was
18 impactful because I was able to hire a
19 local videographer to record our city-
20 wide jam session on July 25th. We
21 packaged it down to an hour and provided
22 the footage to OACCE for airing it on
23 the Comcast City Hall channel.

24 So this was purposeful for us
25 because it not only allowed the talents

1 of my DJs, singers, musicians to be on
2 display, but we will be able to use the
3 footage moving forward to promote the
4 band and bring in more opportunity for
5 more than a dozen artists involved in
6 this endeavor. So after going through
7 such a crazy two years, it's important
8 that people are able to enjoy that kind
9 of soulful stage show to entertain to
10 lift spirits in Philly. I think we can
11 all agree to that.

12 I'm also a filmmaker. The
13 Illadelphia Glow is a 19-minute Sci-Fi
14 short film that was shot on location in
15 Philly and is now available on Amazon
16 Prime, so starting next week I will kick
17 off the Illadelphia Glow School tour
18 where I will screen the film for high
19 school students and discuss filmmaking
20 and overall careers in writing.

21 I'm also a former Philadelphia
22 Daily News reporter and I've written
23 four books, two short stories that made
24 the Amazon Best Sellers list. So most
25 recently, getting this \$2500 grant has

1 allowed me to go to five high schools
2 immediately in December at no cost to
3 the high schools. And that's a passion
4 to myself, writing. You know, I went to
5 Overbrook High School, graduated, went
6 to Penn State, wanted to be a
7 journalist, wanted to be an author. So
8 these are the things I feel are
9 important to share with the young
10 scholars coming up in the Philadelphia
11 School District.

12 What I love about this
13 experience was that the application
14 process was so simple. I can't stress
15 that enough. The staff was very
16 professional and encouraging from the
17 very beginning, especially Carrie
18 Leibbrand and Teddy Poneman -- I
19 pronounced it right, right, Poneman --
20 have been especially helpful during this
21 process, and that really matters when
22 the arts have been put on hold because
23 of COVID. It really, really meant the
24 world that everybody was so professional
25 and the process was easy to follow.

1 So in closing, I just want to
2 thank everybody at OACCE for providing
3 real financial resources that have
4 positively impacted so many people.
5 Just coming through me is going to
6 impact so many people. I can't wait to
7 spread the word to other artists if this
8 continues into 2022, because this is a
9 big deal and it was very helpful and I
10 appreciate the time.

11 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
12 much. I'll ask Ray Bicolli to please
13 state your name, identify yourself and
14 provide us with your testimony. Thank
15 you.

16 MR. BICOLLI: Hello, everyone.
17 I hope you can hear me. I have
18 headphones because of the home
19 environment.

20 COUNCILMAN OH: We can hear
21 you.

22 MR. BICOLLI: All right. Okay.
23 My name is Ray Bicolli and I am the
24 Music Director of the Elegant String
25 Quarter. We're a local ensemble based

1 in Philadelphia, primarily in South
2 Philadelphia. We also have an office
3 there at 11th and Snyder, so that's
4 where we call our home. And I've been
5 with the group for about 11 years.

6 And our main sort of mission as
7 a musical ensemble is we provide music
8 that is not your everyday sort of thing
9 that you hear out there, you know, from
10 rock and pop and things like that.
11 Everything we do we do it on our violins
12 and cellos, which is something that is
13 not accessible to every community in
14 Philadelphia.

15 All that sometimes is put in
16 concert halls and venues that are not so
17 open to everybody to attend. So we take
18 that experience and we bring it out to
19 the general public in the forms of
20 concerts, whether they're in the park.
21 We do a lot of neighborhood concerts and
22 that sort of have been our thing over
23 the last few years.

24 And during the pandemic, I'll
25 just say that when everything shut down

1 this is kind of very personal to us, of
2 course all the musicians have been
3 affected. But when everything was shut
4 down and you started with nothing to do
5 pretty much, with a lot of people doing
6 Zoom concerts, we just decided to go out
7 there and start performing, obviously
8 wherever we were allowed in a safe way.
9 But we just started performing in
10 different neighborhoods just to bring
11 people out on their porches.

12 Different parks, Clark Park
13 we've done concerts 7th and Girard. And
14 we've done a lot of them at Mifflin
15 Square Park. I'm sure you're familiar
16 with that area and the SEAMAAC
17 organization there. We've partnered
18 with them to do a lot of community
19 concerts and to bring our kind of music
20 for string quartets and violins and all
21 that to an area that probably does not
22 see that happen every day.

23 And we started this back last
24 year. We did it throughout the summer.
25 Never the community ask for anything, we

1 just wanted to do it as musicians, and
2 then we continued it this year. So when
3 the grant came in and we applied for it,
4 it was a little bit like -- I can't even
5 describe the feeling of what that feels
6 like to get validated for all the two
7 years' of work that you already did
8 pretty much and the rest of the work
9 that we had already planned for the rest
10 of the summer.

11 I can't say thank you enough to
12 that grant. It made everything that we
13 started just like a dream sort of, just
14 like a project, a side project, because
15 we wanted to play and share our music
16 and there was nothing else to do. And
17 to get validated and recognized like
18 that, it really means a lot. And I
19 speak on behalf of everybody that I work
20 with, and I have about 10 employees or
21 musicians or colleagues that are really
22 close that are like family to me that I
23 play with all the time. And I speak on
24 their behalf, that really meant a lot.

25 And to be able to share our

1 music while at the same time being able
2 to make a living, that's the greatest
3 gift that we can receive. So I really
4 want to thank the Councilmembers and of
5 course the Illuminate the Arts Grant and
6 everybody that was involved in those
7 decisions for bringing this together for
8 us. And that's all I have. Thank you
9 so much, sincerely.

10 COUNCILMAN OH: All right.
11 Thank you very much.

12 I will note that the chat
13 feature is to be used by Members to
14 signify if they have comments or
15 questions. I do see that one of our
16 witnesses does have a comment.

17 Let me first ask if any member
18 of the Committee has a question or
19 comment?

20 (No response.)

21 COUNCILMAN OH: Not seeing any,
22 let me recognize Kelly Lee for a
23 comment.

24 MS. LEE: Great. Thank you. I
25 just wanted to point out sort of one of

1 the impacts of the Illuminate the Arts
2 Grants that was exhibited from our two
3 witnesses. One is that because we were
4 able to reach new artists and arts
5 organizations through the Illuminate the
6 Arts Grant, we then had them on our
7 list. So when we did our call for
8 artists for our neighborhood arts
9 programs, they were able to apply and
10 get funding.

11 So Mister Mann Frisby, he
12 received an ITAG grant, and then he was
13 able to participate in the neighborhood
14 arts program. And then sort of
15 something that was illustrated with Ray
16 from the Elegant String Quarter is that
17 he received an ITAG grant, but then he
18 was able to do community programming, so
19 just sort of the ripple effect of this
20 funding.

21 And one of the things that I
22 know with the Committee members in the
23 Arts and Culture Task Force that we were
24 really hoping is that we hope that ITAG
25 was sort of the first grant for some of

1 these artists and arts organizations
2 that sort of gives them the experience
3 to try to go for other grants. And so,
4 if we're a gateway to that, then that's
5 another great outcome of the illuminate
6 the Arts Grant.

7 And again, just sort of thank
8 you to all of City Council for that \$1.3
9 million and for the Arts and Culture
10 Task Force, that without your
11 boots-on-the-ground listening, none of
12 this would have been possible. So that
13 was my final comment. And thank you,
14 Councilman Oh.

15 COUNCILMAN OH: All right.
16 Thank you very much.

17 At this time, I will ask the
18 Clerk to call our final panel.

19 THE CLERK: The final panel is
20 Michael Fichman and Anne Ishii.

21 COUNCILMAN OH: All right.
22 Will you please state your name to
23 identify yourself and proceed with your
24 testimony. Let me start with Anne
25 Ishii, and then we will go to Michael

1 Fichman.

2 MS. ISHII: Hi, everybody.

3 This is Anne Ishii. Thank you for
4 having me, and I'm really excited to
5 share some of the findings from my
6 subcommittee and the Arts and Cultural
7 Task Force, which is the capacity in
8 which I'm here giving testimony. So in
9 our cohort, including Raheem and Ciarra
10 who we just heard from and Terry
11 Grose -- sorry, not Terry Grose, Terry
12 Fox and Christina Vassallo performed the
13 Permanence Committee. And I apologize.
14 I'm forgetting Michelle Currica and
15 Ebenezer Money.

16 So as a subcommittee, we were
17 responsible with creating a report on
18 this aspect of permanence. And quite
19 frankly, this was in response to a
20 crisis of faith in arts and culture
21 sector vis-à-vis the City having
22 initially eliminated the arts funding.
23 And so, what that kind of caused was
24 this huge question of why should we give
25 back when we're not being supported.

1 And so, I cannot overstate the gratitude
2 we feel, I think I speak pretty safely
3 on behalf of my colleagues, for
4 Councilman Thomas and Councilperson
5 Katherine Gilmore Richardson for their
6 leading this initiative.

7 I want to just point out that
8 this grant, again, so important. And as
9 Kelly has pointed out, really vital to
10 bringing in new voices and making sure
11 that those sort of undervisibilized
12 communities are being acknowledged. But
13 also just from a sector point of view
14 big picture, this actually include us in
15 as institutional community leaders as to
16 how to make an impact inside the City,
17 and vice versa. So how are we going to
18 be heard as an arts sector. And as
19 Ciarra pointed out so that it's
20 acknowledged, we have a worthy voice
21 around other conversations around civic
22 resource building and community
23 building.

24 So we continue actually to meet
25 candidly and offline. So this has

1 sparked a conversation, I think a really
2 important dialogue between City leaders
3 and community advocates and artists.
4 It's work that all of us as civil
5 servants will continue to do, and I'm
6 including artists and cultural producers
7 in this context. We're going to do it
8 anyway, and that means we're going to do
9 it together.

10 If there's anything artists are
11 really good at, it's to ask really
12 difficult questions and hopefully to
13 entertain you. And in the City of
14 Philadelphia, we entertain you with
15 really different questions, so that's
16 been a really, really enviable part of
17 this process. I hope we get to maintain
18 that dialogue, and I really appreciate
19 the openness of City Council and the
20 various advocacy groups in the City,
21 including the Cultural Fund and the
22 Cultural Alliance.

23 I think that's most of my
24 comments. Just yes to the grant with
25 keep doing it. We'll keep working on

1 making it a better grant. Everything
2 always has room for improvement, right.
3 And I hope that we keep this channel
4 open between the arts and culture
5 leaders of our City, including small
6 business owners and independent artists
7 as well as the nonprofits and you all in
8 City Council and the Mayor's Office.

9 COUNCILMAN OH: All right.
10 Thank you very much.

11 I believe Michael Fichman is
12 next. Would you please state your name
13 hopefully correctly if I did it
14 incorrectly and proceed with your
15 testimony.

16 MR. FICHMAN: Thank you,
17 Councilmember. Yes, my name is Michael
18 Fichman and you did pronounce that
19 correctly. I appreciate that. So good
20 afternoon to Councilmember Oh and
21 members of City Council and thanks for
22 allowing me to speak with you today.
23 Thank you to Councilmember Thomas for
24 inviting me to participate on the Arts
25 and Culture Task Force.

1 So I am the Chair of the
2 Nightlife Subcommittee of the Task
3 Force. Raheem Manning and Evan Burton
4 are also on the subcommittee with me. I
5 want to report on our work over the last
6 year which is ongoing, and I want to
7 discuss some future steps to build on
8 the work, including some talk about the
9 Nighttime Economy Office.

10 So I've been a DJ, a music
11 producer, an event promoter in
12 Philadelphia for 20 years. I've toured
13 the world playing music and have seen
14 the way things work in other cities.
15 I'm also a City planner and a lecturer
16 at University of Pennsylvania's Weitzman
17 School of Design, and a lot of my work
18 that I do professionally is with
19 nighttime cities and arts and cultural
20 communities all over the world, Asia,
21 Europe, the Middle East and Africa and
22 here in Philadelphia with a group called
23 24HRPHL, which is a nightlife community
24 organization.

25 And so, I've been an editor of

1 a multi-national project called the
2 Global Nighttime Recovery Plan, which
3 has brought together advocates and
4 government officers from all over the
5 globe to help nightlife communities get
6 through and recover from the pandemic.
7 And I really think that the work that we
8 did here in Philadelphia represents a
9 lot of the best of what was kind of
10 crowd-source from every corner of the
11 globe and that process. And I'm really
12 proud of how cutting edge the work we
13 did is, and I think that our leaps and
14 bounds ahead in thinking actually is a
15 huge leap from where we are where I
16 think we were behind in the past and now
17 we're thinking about things in a whole
18 new way.

19 So if the hearing is about arts
20 and culture, why are we discussing
21 nightlife. I think Ciarra touched on
22 this. Nightlife is where a lot of
23 creative art and commerce happens,
24 music, theater, dance, happening in
25 creative spaces that are parts of

1 neighborhoods, parts of Districts, and
2 it happens at times when some people
3 need to sleep. And so, this has been an
4 environment where there's always been
5 some mistrust, dysfunction, a civic
6 culture of no.

7 Art spaces go out of business
8 really often. The workers are really
9 precarious as we've been talking about
10 today. Equity is very illusive. And
11 we've seen that fully during the
12 pandemic. It's really put a magnifying
13 glass on a lot of these problems. But
14 nightlife and arts and culture is a
15 place where anybody can get put on. You
16 can hustle. You can make it. And so,
17 there are huge opportunities here for
18 lots of people if we give them the
19 framework.

20 So we learned that based on
21 examples worldwide good governance of
22 planning stakeholder engagement and good
23 policies can make for a safer, more
24 vibrant, more inclusive nighttime city.
25 Philadelphia needs this to retain

1 talent. Some survey research by 24HRPHL
2 showed that half of our City's artists
3 have considered moving elsewhere and
4 this was before the pandemic.

5 We need creative activities and
6 communities to offer opportunities and
7 good quality of life for residents.
8 Councilmember Thomas was mentioning
9 people coming from outside the City to
10 spend money here. And it's the reason
11 that we put nightlife on the Task Force
12 agenda. It's the reason that we
13 proposed and we're very grateful that
14 Council funded the creation of the
15 Nighttime Economy Office in the Commerce
16 Department.

17 That's a big first step to
18 bring us in line with cities such as New
19 York, D.C., London, Berlin, Pittsburgh
20 who have such offices, so we're in the
21 game now. But most importantly, it
22 creates a governance framework, an
23 accountability structure and a public
24 commitment to nighttime businesses and
25 communities and to artists. And so,

1 that means there's a path for deliberate
2 policy and programming. And the office,
3 as I said, is a first step, so what's
4 next.

5 First, Commerce -- and this is
6 one of the things that we are staying on
7 top of on the Task Force. Commerce
8 needs to hire a talented, charismatic,
9 trusted person to lead this office.
10 Some people call this job the "Nighttime
11 Mayor." That means it's not really a
12 mayor's job, but that term gives you an
13 idea of the charisma and accountability
14 people expect from this position in
15 other cities. And I've been in
16 communication with Councilmember Thomas
17 and executive officers at Commerce to
18 ensure the position is scoped correctly,
19 the officer is paid sufficiently and
20 that will let us attract the right
21 talent and give this person the stature
22 and the support that they need to make
23 change and be sort of the vessel for the
24 good governance we were talking about.

25 I'm really grateful to the

1 folks, the Commerce Director Rashid,
2 Deputy Director Summerville and also to
3 Sophie Heng, who's the Creative Economy
4 Development Manager, for their great
5 work on this. Thanks also to
6 Councilmember Thomas's staff. So we met
7 alongside folks at Commerce with
8 officers -- peer officers from San
9 Francisco, Pittsburgh and Seattle to try
10 to lay the groundwork for the office to
11 succeed. And I think if it's correctly
12 fostered and funded and empowered, it's
13 one of the best design offices of its
14 kind. But it needs support. So this is
15 both financial and political to build
16 for the future.

17 So the office should be able to
18 conduct an engagement blitz to
19 accomplish stakeholder relationships. A
20 lot of this is really at its core, is
21 about negotiations between communities
22 and businesses, connecting businesses to
23 services with, say, L&I, within
24 Commerce, Revenue using paying points to
25 small business services. And the office

1 should build towards creating a
2 well-resourced plan for nighttime
3 industries and there needs to be a
4 vision.

5 We should be looking at
6 Atlanta, Nashville, Austin and other
7 music cities in the U.S. We should be
8 passing them in that hierarchy. There's
9 no reason we can't do it. I mean,
10 Philadelphia is one of the great cities
11 in this country, has made amazing music
12 contributions to the world and it should
13 all be happening right here.

14 So we should also be
15 coordinating with our neighbors in
16 Pittsburgh on state issues related to a
17 control board. Councilmembers, on
18 issues that affect your districts where
19 there are mixed-use areas with nighttime
20 business interests, please work with
21 this office so that we can use best
22 practices and management to create and
23 maintain vibrant districts, right, where
24 there are good relationships between
25 neighbors and establishments, and it's

1 very harmonious in terms of trying to
2 get arts and culture at various times of
3 day working smoothly in the City and not
4 having this kind of conflict-based
5 dialogue and these conflict-based
6 relationships that have characterized us
7 for years.

8 So this office serves as a
9 focal point for business services
10 engagement, public safety and those
11 issues for the industry, for workers,
12 for artists, public stakeholders, their
13 particular set of regulation and safety
14 and cultural issues with the nighttime
15 industry, so it's really important to
16 establish trust and dialogue and give a
17 voice to nighttime interests and public
18 and administrative process. So there's
19 a licensing or zoning thing, a lighting
20 and Streets thing. You know, the
21 streeteries discussion that happened
22 last week. There's a nighttime
23 component to that and that's something
24 that this office can be a part of.

25 So what's next for the Task

1 Force aside from the Nighttime Office
2 and what do we talk about? I'll just
3 briefly kind of run a few things down,
4 so it's not to be long-winded. It's all
5 in the report. The Task Force
6 recommended that Council look closely at
7 reforming licensing associated with
8 creative spaces.

9 I sat down once with former
10 Commissioner Perri of L&I with 24HRPHL.
11 We agreed that music is almost
12 functionally illegal in Philadelphia.
13 It's incredibly expensive and complex.
14 Illegal by many zoning categories except
15 in a small handful of Districts to
16 create a space for creative art and
17 performance without getting a risky or
18 expensive variance. It's very hard to
19 run it in a competitive real estate
20 environment. That cost and risk is a
21 high barrier to entry.

22 It discourages investments in
23 programming. Programming is key to
24 being a great music city. It's key to
25 the relationship between patrons and the

1 venues that fosters good behavior. It's
2 key to putting on talent, but that cost
3 also keeps management and ownership from
4 looking like a cross-section of
5 Philadelphia, keeps many would-be
6 operators out.

7 And if the management and
8 ownership don't look like Philadelphia,
9 there's going to be a gatekeeping effect
10 that means the people who get on stage
11 don't necessarily look like the people
12 in Philadelphia. So special assembly
13 licenses should be more broadly
14 available and there should be ways to
15 increase flexibility with licensing and
16 decreased cost.

17 In the interest of time, I'll
18 just mention a couple of other things
19 that are in our report that you can
20 check out. So we suggest Council use
21 its power to promote uses of land for
22 creative industries because it's power
23 and development processes. It can use
24 its power to help plan public space for
25 nighttime use, like I mentioned with the

1 streeteries, but this extends to other
2 public spaces in terms of how they're
3 lit and their safety components there.

4 Council can promote harm
5 reduction programs with the City's
6 women's health and drug treatment
7 partners and the City's rape crisis
8 treatment center that works well for
9 venues and also in nighttime spaces and
10 public. And changes in last call
11 closing times have also been something
12 that Councilmembers have brought up as
13 well as state representatives and
14 there's a governance framework in place
15 that can help support that.

16 So you can look at the written
17 report for more on those
18 recommendations. Thank you very much
19 for your time. Thank you very much for
20 the support of our work on the Task
21 Force and for our arts community. Thank
22 you.

23 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
24 much.

25 Okay. At this time, I'm going

1 to ask Councilmembers of the Committee
2 if you have any questions or comments?

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Mr. Chair.

4 COUNCILMAN OH: Yes. Chair
5 recognizes Councilmember Isaiah Thomas.

6 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chair. I don't have any questions.
8 I just want to say thank you for the
9 great information that's being provided
10 as well the advocacy. It's been a
11 pleasure to work with Mike. I
12 appreciate the testimony of all of the
13 witnesses who came today. We all know
14 we have great work left to do.

15 Councilmember Oh, I do want to
16 thank you again as well as your team for
17 putting us in a position to be able to
18 have this important conversation,
19 especially on a week like this. I can
20 only imagine how difficult it was for
21 you and your team to put us in a
22 position to have such a quick turnaround
23 to be able to have this conversation
24 before the end of the year. So we
25 appreciate you all, and we just want to

1 wish everybody a happy holiday.

2 COUNCILMAN OH: Thank you very
3 much, Councilmember. Thanking you and
4 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
5 Richardson for your great work and your
6 Co-chairs and Committee and Kelly Lee
7 and everyone involved in this innovative
8 approach to expanding arts and culture
9 here in Philadelphia.

10 Let me just note that we did
11 receive written testimony from Michael
12 Rashid, our Commerce Director. And with
13 that, I will just ask if anyone else
14 present at this hearing would like to
15 testify who I had failed to call or who
16 wishes to offer any type of testimony.

17 Clerk, would you alert me if
18 there's any such persons.

19 THE CLERK: I don't believe
20 there are.

21 COUNCILMAN OH: All right.
22 Thank you very much.

23 Hearing none, I want to thank
24 all the panelists, the witnesses for
25 your participation, the Councilmembers,

1 everyone who took time today to join us
2 before Thanksgiving for this important
3 hearing and to hear the testimony and in
4 short, televised and made known to the
5 public.

6 This concludes the business
7 before this Committee on Global
8 Opportunities and The
9 Creative/Innovative Economy. This
10 hearing is recessed to the call of the
11 Chair. Thank you everyone and have a
12 great day and a Happy Thanksgiving.

13 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

14 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15 (Committee on Global
16 Opportunities and the
17 Creative/Innovative Economy concluded at
18 3:31 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, hereby certify that the
proceedings and evidence noted are contained
fully and accurately in the stenographic
notes taken by me in the foregoing matter,
and this is a correct transcript of the
same.

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

(The foregoing certification of
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A	additional	agree 63:14	applicants	25:2,8,12	26:14 27:8	at-risk 15:4	57:19
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