

Committee on Appropriations
March 8, 2021

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Remote location using Microsoft® Teams
Monday, March 8, 2021
1:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON, VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
COUNCILMAN BRIAN J. O'NEILL
COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS

ALSO PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON

BILL: 210160

1 - - -

2 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

3 Thank you. Thank you to our Council
4 team. I understand this is the
5 Committee on Appropriations meeting
6 today Monday, March 8th.

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

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

25 Eric, will you please call the

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

8 THE CLERK: Councilmember
9 Quinones-Sanchez.

10 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
11 Present.

12 THE CLERK: Councilmember
13 Johnson.

14 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Present.

15 THE CLERK: Councilmember
16 Thomas.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Present.

18 THE CLERK: Councilmember
19 O'Neill.

20 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Present.

21 THE CLERK: Councilmember
22 Henon.

23 COUNCILMAN HENON: Present.

24 THE CLERK: Councilmember Domb.

25 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Present.

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1 THE CLERK: And we are
2 additionally joined today by
3 Councilmember Gilmore Richardson.

4 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE
5 RICHARDSON: Present.

6 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
7 Thank you. Good afternoon, all. Thank
8 you to the Councilmembers. A quorum of
9 the Committee is present and this
10 hearing will be called to order. This
11 is the public hearing of the Committee
12 on Appropriations regarding Bill No.
13 210160.

14 David, our Clerk, will you
15 please read the title of the bill.

16 THE CLERK: (Muted).

17 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
18 You're on mute.

19 THE CLERK: Sorry. Bill No.
20 210160, authorizing transfers in
21 appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021 from
22 the General Fund, the Council to the
23 General Fund, the Managing Director.

24 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
25 Additionally, prior to recognizing

1 Members for questions or Committees that
2 they have for witnesses, I will note for
3 the record that at this time the chat
4 feature will be available in Microsoft
5 Teams to allow Members to signify that
6 they wish to be recognized. In order to
7 comply with the Sunshine Act, that chat
8 feature must only be used for this
9 purpose.

10 Before I call on the first
11 panel, I want to recognize Councilmember
12 Thomas, who's a member of the Committee,
13 and ask him to recognize his colleague
14 Councilmember Katherine Gilmore
15 Richardson, who's also a co-sponsor of
16 this bill. So I want to recognize you
17 and then we will call the panel.

18 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
19 afternoon, Madam Chair. And thank you
20 to everybody on the Committee for being
21 here today. And thank you to the entire
22 team as it relates to our colleagues and
23 Council for considering this bill as an
24 option.

25 I would definitely want to

1 start by acknowledging my colleague who
2 is here today, Councilmember Katherine
3 Gilmore Richardson who is the Co-Chair
4 of the Disadvantaged Communities Task
5 Force. For those who don't know, this
6 work comes out of the Disadvantaged
7 Communities Task Force.

8 Council President charged us to
9 listen to citizens all across the City
10 of Philadelphia, whether it relates to
11 their geographical region or a
12 particular profession. And through that
13 work, we were really challenged by a lot
14 of different industries, but none like
15 the arts and culture community. And so,
16 through the Disadvantaged Communities
17 Task Force, we were really challenged to
18 create the Arts of Culture Task Force,
19 which has been focused on not just the
20 flaws as it relates to different
21 treatment from the City to the industry,
22 but just ways that the industry can come
23 together.

24 And so, we've been laser-sharp
25 focused as it relates to the Task Force,

1 listening to their needs and their
2 concerns, and we've also tried our best
3 to put ourselves in a position to
4 respond to their needs and concerns.

5 And it starts with us as a City and it
6 hopefully becomes something that is
7 contagious.

8 And so, in the midst of
9 listening to them, one of the things
10 that was communicated with a sense of
11 urgency was the need for stimulus
12 dollars. And stimulus dollars that will
13 be able to trickle down to individual
14 artists to nonprofit organizations,
15 small, large -- well, predominantly
16 small and then also to small businesses
17 as well too.

18 And so, we are here today to
19 hopefully vote on something that can
20 provide and hopefully offer some support
21 in a leg, in a crutch. We know that
22 this isn't the permanent solution, but
23 we're hoping to be able to help provide
24 what we'll call a band-aid for right
25 now. But just overall, we're hoping to

1 send a message that basically says that
2 it's a new day in the City of
3 Philadelphia as it relates to the arts
4 and culture community and we want to do
5 even more than what's been done in the
6 past. Although it's been great, we want
7 to do even more as it relates to
8 supporting project initiatives and
9 helping the recovery of the arts and
10 culture community.

11 So thank you, Madam Chair. I
12 appreciate the opportunity for comments.
13 I know my colleague Councilmember
14 Katherine Gilmore Richardson has been
15 with me in the midst of this work. I
16 know she might want to make some
17 comments as well. But I appreciate the
18 opportunity to make a few opening
19 remarks.

20 Thank you, Madam Chair.

21 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

22 Thank you, Councilmember Thomas.

23 Councilmember Gilmore
24 Richardson, please.

25 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

1 RICHARDSON: Yes. Thank you so much,
2 Madam Chair. And to my colleagues on
3 the Appropriations Committee, I'm
4 thankful to join you this afternoon as
5 you deliberate on the legislation that
6 was co-introduced by Councilmember
7 Thomas and myself in support of the arts
8 and cultural community in Philadelphia,
9 but particularly the small arts and
10 culture organizations with individual
11 proprietors who are working in the arts
12 and culture space.

13 I would be remiss if I did not
14 mention all the years of working with
15 the arts and cultural community when I
16 was a staffer for former Councilmember
17 Blondell Reynolds Brown, who did a lot
18 of work with the arts and culture
19 community and who we were able to, as
20 Councilmember Thomas stated, hear from a
21 number of those organizations but
22 particularly from the smaller ones
23 during our indepth discussions with the
24 Disadvantaged Communities Task Force.

25 And I remember that specific

1 discussion with the Arts and Culture
2 Communities Task Force. We were on for
3 several hours. And as a result of that
4 initial meeting and subsequent meetings,
5 the development of the Arts and Culture
6 Task Force, which is really part of the
7 impetus of why we're here today. So I
8 just implore my colleagues to understand
9 that the arts and cultural community has
10 been decimated by this pandemic as in
11 all other sectors across our City, and
12 they need our help and support.

13 And with this legislation, we
14 are hoping to help the small arts and
15 culture organizations, both individual
16 proprietors, the ones who are typically
17 not supported with the other grant
18 opportunities because of their revenue
19 amounts. We want to help those
20 individuals who have not been helped in
21 the past. We want to do all we can for
22 them and hope to be able to do more for
23 the arts and culture community as we
24 move forward, particularly in this
25 year's budget process. So I implore

1 you, colleagues, to vote in favor of
2 this legislation. I will be joining you
3 and listening on the hearing today.

4 And I thank you so much, Madam
5 Chair. And I want to thank our Council
6 President and the leadership team's
7 vision around the new budget which has
8 enabled us to do more than we thought we
9 could originally. So thank you very
10 much. And thank you, Madam Chair.

11 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
12 Thank you.

13 Before we begin to hear
14 testimony from the witnesses we have
15 here for today, everyone who has been
16 invited to attend the meeting to testify
17 should be aware that this is a public
18 hearing and it is being recorded.
19 Because the hearing is public,
20 participants and viewers have no
21 reasonable expectation of privacy. By
22 continuing to be in the meeting, you are
23 consenting to be recorded.
24 Additionally, prior to recognizing the
25 folks we spoke about, the chat feature

1 should only be used for this.

2 So, David, will you please call
3 the first panel to testify this
4 afternoon on Bill No. 210160.

5 THE CLERK: Kelly Lee.

6 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

7 Good afternoon. You are connected.

8 Before you proceed, I do want to thank
9 Kelly Lee. I know that this has been a
10 tough year for everyone. It's always
11 particularly hard after coming through a
12 budget cycle where we saw a lot of money
13 move away from the arts and culture
14 community, as Councilmember Gilmore
15 Richardson alluded to.

16 This Council has been extremely
17 committed to the arts and culture work
18 in part because of the work of Blondell
19 Reynolds Brown who came and was very
20 active. Many of the members
21 participated, as I have in the past, on
22 the Cultural Funds Board, so this
23 Council has not been gun-shy about
24 saying this is an important sector, it's
25 one that we have to support.

1 And as Councilmember Thomas
2 mentioned today, we know that this is an
3 ongoing conversation. We look forward
4 to the broader conversation and the new
5 budget and making sure that the economic
6 impact of what this particular sector
7 does for the City is very important to
8 our recovery. And the recovery should
9 be one where we understand the
10 inequities that existed in the past and
11 that we're committed to a more inclusive
12 broader process as we move forward.

13 I want to thank you, Kelly, for
14 working with my Council Councilmembers
15 with the Committee on the Global Economy
16 and for all your help and support in
17 navigating this, right. Because
18 unfortunately, you get the majority of
19 the complaints coming in through you, so
20 we appreciate you and the work that you
21 are doing.

22 So with that, our Director
23 Kelly Lee.

24 MS. LEE: Thank you. Good
25 afternoon, Chairperson Quinones-Sanchez

1 and members of the Committee. I am
2 Kelly Lee, the Chief Cultural Officer
3 for the City of Philadelphia and the
4 Director of the Office of Arts, Culture
5 and the Creative Economy.

6 I want to thank you for
7 providing me with this opportunity to
8 testify regarding Bill No. 210160, which
9 would authorize the transfer of \$1.3
10 million in funds to the Managing
11 Director's Office for arts and culture.
12 I think we all agree that the arts are
13 an intricate part of Philadelphia's
14 identity. Arts and culture impact the
15 well-being of our communities in our
16 neighborhoods. The arts heal and bring
17 people together and generate a
18 significant tax revenue for the City of
19 Philadelphia.

20 Sadly, the impact of the COVID-
21 19 pandemic has greatly affected the
22 Philadelphia's entire arts and cultural
23 landscape. And many artists and arts
24 organizations are facing drastic
25 circumstances, threatening their ability

1 to rebuild and resume operations
2 post-pandemic. I'm sure that the four
3 presenters in the next panel will attest
4 to this and provide data to support the
5 devastating impact of COVID on the arts.

6 But should the proposed
7 transfer ordinance be approved by
8 Council, the Office of Arts and Culture
9 looks forward to working and partnering
10 with Council's Art and Culture Task
11 Force and the other organizations on the
12 panel to target these funds and to
13 support the most vulnerable part of the
14 cultural sector, individual artists and
15 small- and mid-sized creative
16 organizations with budgets below
17 \$500,000. I thank you again for
18 inviting me to participate. And with
19 that, I will be happy to answer any
20 questions.

21 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
22 Again thank you, Kelly Lee, for all your
23 work, Philadelphia's rich and major
24 institutions, but the work of the
25 Disadvantaged Task Force has really

1 demonstrated that there is a creative
2 sector that we want to encourage in
3 their innovation and their
4 transformation as they move through this
5 difficult time. So we appreciate your
6 work and your willingness to work with
7 our colleagues Councilmember Gilmore
8 Richardson and Councilmember Thomas at
9 getting it at this time and this space,
10 but understanding that there's more work
11 to be done.

12 So with that, Councilmember
13 Thomas wanted to add something.
14 Councilmember Thomas.

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Yes. Good
16 afternoon. I just want to take a moment
17 just to say thank you to Kelly. Just
18 because I had the opportunity to meet
19 Kelly when I was sworn in last year and
20 her advocacy for the arts and cultural
21 community and her passion is one that is
22 essentially unmatched.

23 And in the midst of us working
24 with the Arts and Culture Task Force,
25 she has been extremely responsive. She

1 won the hearts of so many different
2 people on the Task Force. And I think
3 one of the things that we're trying to
4 do right now in the midst of the work
5 that we have to do as members of Council
6 is to try to get confidence not just in
7 the citizens of Philadelphia, but in
8 people all across the country. We are
9 one of the leaders in the entire country
10 as it relates to the hospitality
11 industry, tourism attractions and things
12 of that capacity.

13 And for us to really thrive on
14 the other side of this coronavirus the
15 way we need to, it starts here at home.
16 And I think Kelly is a strong advocate
17 and a great person to be able to have
18 and to help as it relates to putting us
19 in the position to try to restore trust
20 between the arts and culture community
21 and City government. Because again,
22 it's been great work done in the past
23 and we all know that.

24 But when this crisis presented
25 itself as it relates to the coronavirus,

1 it flipped everything upside down and I
2 think we have to put ourselves in a
3 position where not only are we restoring
4 some things that happened in the past,
5 but we're innovative as it relates to
6 how we think, who we support, what we're
7 doing and how we put ourselves in a
8 position to advocate for the entire arts
9 and culture community. And I think
10 Kelly has that vision as well too.

11 So, no questions for Kelly. I
12 just wanted to say thank you and let her
13 know I appreciate her and I'm looking
14 forward to working with her not just on
15 this initiative, but more initiatives
16 moving forward to really support the
17 arts and culture community.

18 Thank you. I appreciate it,
19 Madam Chair. And like Councilmember
20 Gilmore Richardson said, I did want to
21 say thank you to my colleagues as well
22 too and not just ask them to vote for
23 this, but just the intention as it
24 relates to disadvantaged communities.
25 It's very much appreciated. I always

1 love that there's a ton of advocacy and
2 energy around these types of issues.

3 So thank you, Madam Chair. I
4 appreciate you. And of course thank
5 you, Kelly.

6 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
7 Thank you.

8 Councilmember Gilmore
9 Richardson.

10 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

11 RICHARDSON: Thank you so much, Madam
12 Chair.

13 And I really just wanted to
14 echo the sentiments of my colleague and
15 my Co-Chair Councilman Thomas in
16 thanking Kelly Lee. A large part of
17 this process, particularly for the
18 smaller organizations and the smaller
19 arts and culture organizations and sole
20 proprietors is around building trust,
21 and we found that Kelly has the trust of
22 those smaller arts and culture
23 organizations and we're looking forward
24 to partnering with you and working with
25 you as we move forward.

1 So I just wanted to say thank
2 you, Kelly, for your work and for
3 continuing to build trust within the
4 arts and culture community, particularly
5 for the smaller organizations.

6 MS. LEE: Thank you.

7 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
8 If there are no other questions for
9 Kelly Lee, then, David, can you call our
10 next panel. And I'm going to ask you,
11 Kelly, to stay in the hearing in case
12 anything else comes up, but we shouldn't
13 be too long.

14 David, could you please read
15 the next witness from the list.

16 THE CLERK: They are Aalyah
17 Duncan, Barbara Silzle, Nicole Allen
18 White and Priscilla Luce.

19 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
20 Aalyah.

21 MS. DUNCAN: Hi.

22 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
23 Good afternoon.

24 MS. DUNCAN: Good afternoon.

25 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

1 You can proceed with your testimony.

2 Please state your name for the record.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. DUNCAN: Sure. No problem.

5 My name is Aalyah Duncan. I am Leader
6 and Organizer of the Philadelphia
7 Culture United, Board member of the
8 Recording Academy Philadelphia's Grammy
9 Chapter, publicist in the music and
10 entertainment industry and Philadelphia
11 resident.

12 I would like to thank
13 Councilmembers Thomas and Gilmore
14 Richardson along with Council President
15 Darrell Clarke for their leadership
16 regarding this bill. And I'm here to
17 testify in support of today's arts
18 transfer ordinance. Arts and culture is
19 essential to the City of Philadelphia
20 and our shared humanity. Without
21 immediate support for our sector, the
22 City of Philadelphia would not fully
23 recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and
24 full-time jobs and thousands more roles
25 occupied by gig workers across our City

1 will be permanently impacted. That is
2 why the Illuminate the Arts grant is
3 absolutely critical for the City of
4 Philadelphia.

5 It is critical to know the arts
6 is an economic driver largely held up by
7 an invisible workforce made up of tens
8 of thousands of contract employees, such
9 as stage hands, venue support staff,
10 lighting and set designers, artists,
11 ticket ushers, sound engineers and so
12 many others. This invisible workforce,
13 who enables the arts and entertainment
14 industry to thrive, are being left
15 behind and forgotten, even under new
16 proposed relief plans. They are
17 suffering in silence and the Illuminate
18 the Arts grant is necessary for the
19 survival.

20 In addition, lack of arts
21 funding also disproportionately affects
22 community organizations that facilitate
23 equitable access to the arts, many of
24 which serve our young people,
25 impoverished communities, Black

1 communities and people of color city-
2 wide. These are the organizations who
3 annually operate with a budget of less
4 than \$150,000. Their doors have been
5 shuttered and without our support, they
6 will not be able to serve their
7 populations in the future.

8 All of this and still the arts
9 and culture sector has historically only
10 occupied less than .5 percent of the
11 City's budget pre-COVID. The Illuminate
12 the Arts grant is one step in filling
13 this wide gap, and it is imperative
14 because if we are not willing to
15 properly support the arts immediately,
16 all parts of it from gig workers to arts
17 organizations to creatives who make up
18 the fabric of our culturally rich city,
19 we will not have an arts and culture
20 sector to revive in the future. Thank
21 you.

22 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

23 Thank you so much. I'm going to go
24 through the four testimonies, and then
25 I'll open it up for questions.

1 Barbara.

2 MS. SILZLE: Hello. I am
3 Barbara Silzle, Executive Director of
4 the Philadelphia Cultural Fund. Thank
5 you for this opportunity to speak
6 briefly about the importance of this
7 infusion of funds to Philadelphia's arts
8 sector, which continues to be devastated
9 by COVID-19. And many thanks to the
10 Councilmembers for recognizing the
11 urgency of this moment.

12 It's encouraging to see these
13 emergency funds coming to Philadelphia's
14 artists and arts organizations. It's
15 very important as the City recovers. We
16 understand that the recovery will take
17 some time. And the Philadelphia
18 Cultural Fund is hopeful that by the
19 City taking this action, it recognizes
20 that the arts are critical to the City's
21 recovery.

22 It's important that the City
23 sees the Philadelphia Cultural Fund as a
24 vital and highly regarded partner in
25 supporting the City's arts community.

1 And it's so very important that the
2 City's support of the arts continue
3 beyond this moment and be reflected in
4 the Cultural Fund's Fiscal Year '22
5 allocation and beyond. The Philadelphia
6 Cultural Fund stands with the City in
7 its commitment with the arts now and
8 into the future. Thank you.

9 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

10 Thank you. Next we have Nicole. I
11 believe I saw her sign in. Nicole
12 Allen. Hi, lady.

13 MS. ALLEN WHITE: (Muted).

14 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

15 You're on mute.

16 MS. ALLEN WHITE: I'm muted.

17 Okay. I should have figured that out.
18 Good afternoon, Chairwoman Quinones-
19 Sanchez and other members of the
20 Appropriations Committee. My name is
21 Nicole Allen White. I'm the Director of
22 Government and External Affairs and
23 Interim Director of Diversity, Equity,
24 Inclusion and Access for the
25 Philadelphia Museum of Art. I also

1 serve on the Board of the Philadelphia
2 Cultural Fund.

3 On behalf of the museum, I'm
4 here to offer testimony in support of
5 Bill No. 210160, which would provide
6 grant funds for individual artists and
7 small arts organizations. The cultural
8 sector is critical to the fabric of our
9 City. The sector improves the quality
10 of life for our residents, serves as an
11 invaluable educational resource for our
12 young people and attracts millions of
13 visitors to the City every year.

14 While the Philadelphia Museum
15 of Art is the City's iconic landmark and
16 one of its crown jewels, it is the
17 entirety of the cultural ecosystem
18 supported by individual artists, large
19 and small, not-for-profits and creative
20 for-profit businesses that benefit
21 Philadelphia and Philadelphians. The
22 COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating
23 to the City's arts and cultural sector.
24 Individual artists and small
25 organizations have borne the brunt of

1 this devastation.

2 Funding such as the proposed
3 grants created by this transfer
4 ordinance are a lifeline to ensuring
5 that people in organizations that help
6 drive the sector are able to contribute
7 to the recovery. However, this must not
8 be the only financial assistance to the
9 sector. I hope this is only the
10 beginning.

11 This spring the Art Museum will
12 unveil the long-awaited results of the
13 Core Project, which includes two new
14 gallery spaces. One for the display of
15 early American art and the other for
16 Modern and Contemporary art. The
17 inaugural presentations in both
18 galleries center on Philadelphia as an
19 artistic capital of the country and the
20 world. The early American galleries
21 will highlight Philadelphia's historical
22 role as a center for artistic commerce
23 by indigenous African and European
24 makers and artisans in pre-Colonial and
25 Colonial times.

1 The Contemporary galleries will
2 open the exhibition New Grit: Art &
3 Philly Now, featuring the work of 25
4 individual artists whose life and/or
5 work is deeply connected to
6 Philadelphia. These exhibitions speak
7 to the City's past and present. What
8 remains uncertain is the future, if
9 there are not significant investments
10 made in the sector to ensure that it
11 will continue to thrive post-pandemic.

12 The museum applauds City
13 Council, and specifically Councilman
14 Thomas and Councilwoman Gilmore
15 Richardson, for championing the
16 importance of this sector to the
17 economic and social well-being of the
18 City. We support your efforts and look
19 forward to continued collaboration as we
20 build back and strengthen our thriving
21 and diverse cultural sector. Thank you.

22 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
23 Thank you. And again, we'll wait until
24 after Priscilla and then we'll open it
25 up to questions.

1 Priscilla.

2 MS. LUCE: Thank you for very
3 much for the opportunity to testify
4 today. I am Priscilla Luce, Interim
5 President and CEO of the Greater
6 Philadelphia Cultural Alliance. I offer
7 the support of the Greater Philadelphia
8 Cultural Alliance for Ordinance No.
9 210160, creating the Illuminating the
10 Arts grants as proposed by Councilwoman
11 Gilmore Richardson and Councilman
12 Thomas.

13 These emergency funds which
14 respond to the immense financial need of
15 the arts and cultural community due to
16 COVID-19 could not come at a more
17 crucial moment. Next week, the Cultural
18 Alliance will preview for City Council
19 new data showing the growing financial
20 crisis within our sector. One year into
21 the pandemic, this \$1 million marks the
22 first significant emergency funding from
23 the City received by arts and culture,
24 which is a \$4.1 billion economic engine
25 for the Philadelphia region. No artist,

1 no gig worker and no arts organization
2 has been unaffected and all are
3 suffering greatly.

4 This is an important first
5 step, but it cannot be the last. As
6 additional CARES funding is made
7 available, we look forward to working
8 closely with Council to ensure that arts
9 and culture which includes tourism,
10 restaurants and tax revenue and is so
11 integral to education, and the workforce
12 is part of the long-term recovery plan
13 for Philadelphia.

14 We also stand ready to support
15 the Office of Arts Culture and the
16 Creative Economy to ensure that this
17 critical funding quickly reaches the
18 individual artist and small arts
19 organizations, which are suffering so
20 greatly. Thank you.

21 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
22 Thank you so much and thank you for your
23 partnership and the significant data
24 collection that you've gathered and help
25 us as we really have uplifted the

1 sector. And again, I know that there
2 was a lot of pivoting during COVID. I
3 want to assure this particular sector in
4 particular, and I know I've had many
5 conversations with Holly and others,
6 this budget has to look different and
7 feel different if this sector is going
8 to survive and help us in this recovery,
9 so we're well aware of it.

10 And I know that there were a
11 lot of things that happened. Sorry, it
12 took us this long to get here. This
13 budget will be different and we can have
14 those conversations earlier and work
15 with the Disadvantage Committee.

16 And, Councilmembers Thomas and
17 Gilmore Richardson, you guys have really
18 gained some really strong allies in this
19 and I hope that as we progress through
20 budget, you will see that we understand
21 the value of this so very much.

22 So I'm going to open it up for
23 questions from my colleagues. And I see
24 that Councilmember Thomas wants to be
25 recognized. Councilmember Thomas.

1 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank you,
2 Madam Chair. I appreciate it. And
3 honestly, you took the words right out
4 of my mouth. I was going to first of
5 all just say thank you to the entire
6 panel, not just for testifying here
7 today, but first or foremost taking the
8 time to meet with myself and members of
9 the Arts and Cultural Task Force to talk
10 about issues in the community and more
11 importantly, for giving us as government
12 another chance and another opportunity
13 not just to earn their trust as
14 champions and pillars in the arts and
15 cultural community, but more importantly
16 to pick their brain and to use them as
17 resources so we can collectively work
18 together to figure out what can we do to
19 ensure that the industry not just
20 recovers, but thrives.

21 Because like it was said in
22 testimony by this panel, this is a
23 multi-billion dollar industry that we
24 rely on as it relates to our City,
25 outside of the mental health side. We

1 have been struggling in the last year or
2 so being in the house, and there's
3 nothing like being able to gather in the
4 name of arts and the arts community to
5 put people in a position where they have
6 some level of entertainment as well as
7 some level of relief.

8 I think that that will help us
9 with a lot of the bills that we see
10 currently in our municipality. And I
11 appreciate everybody here. I also
12 wanted to just put a plug in for our
13 recovery week for the arts and cultural
14 community. That is something that we
15 really want to make sure happens some
16 time this summer. We have tentative
17 dates. Nothing etched in stone, but we
18 want to talk to the Health Department
19 because we want all of these partners
20 here to help us figure out what do we do
21 to ensure that the arts and culture
22 community recovers in a strong and
23 equitable and effective way.

24 So thank you, Madam Chair. I
25 appreciate you giving me this

1 opportunity. But most importantly,
2 thank you to every one of those
3 panelists who took the time to testify
4 in favor of this bill today and I look
5 forward to working with each f you
6 moving forward, so we can continue to do
7 the great work that the City of
8 Philadelphia needs.

9 Thank you, Madam Chair.

10 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

11 Thank you, Councilmember Thomas.

12 Councilmember Gilmore

13 Richardson.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

15 RICHARDSON: Yes. Thank you so much,
16 Madam Chair. You and my colleague said
17 it all.

18 But I wanted to personally
19 thank every person on this panel for
20 your testimony and wanted you to know
21 that we recognize this is an important
22 first step, an important first
23 investment after COVID-19 for the arts
24 and cultural community.

25 We are doing all that we can to

1 have a very robust dialogue and
2 conversation to figure out exactly what
3 more we can do moving forward. But I
4 just wanted to thank each and every one
5 of you for your testimony. And
6 especially Kelly, we look forward to
7 working with your office in the Office
8 of Arts, Cultural and Creative Economy
9 around this first step because we know
10 it'll be important as we continue to
11 build trust in the arts and culture.
12 So, Kelly, I look forward to working
13 with you and your team and the Arts and
14 Cultural Task Force as we move ahead.
15 Thank you very, very much.

16 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

17 Thank you, Councilmember. It is not
18 lost on me this group of women leading
19 this conversation. Got to do it. I'm
20 sorry, it's too easy. Thank you,
21 Nicole. Thank you, Aalyah, all of you.

22 Is there anyone else here to
23 testify on Bill No. 210160 whose name
24 hasn't been called?

25 (No response.)

1 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

2 Seeing none, if there's no other members
3 of this Committee that have any
4 questions, we are going to conclude our
5 public hearing and go into our public
6 meeting.

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

9 There being no further questions from
10 Members and no other witnesses to
11 testify, if there's no one else here
12 present whose name I failed to call on
13 this bill, hearing none I want to thank
14 all the panel of witnesses for their
15 participation today. We value your
16 opinions.

17 Now, we invite all panels of
18 witnesses who come to testify to
19 disconnect from the meeting as we go
20 into our public meeting. We will pause
21 a couple of minutes to allow you all to
22 disconnect briefly. Thank you all,
23 ladies. Thank you.

24 MS. LEE: Thank you.

25 MS. DUNCAN: Thank you, Madam.

1 MS. ALLEN WHITE: Thank you.

2 MS. LUCE: Thank you.

3 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

4 This concludes the public hearing of the
5 Committee. We will now go into our
6 public meeting to consider the actions
7 on the bills before this Committee.

8 Once again, I want to thank my
9 Council colleagues for joining us this
10 afternoon and helping us get through
11 this public meeting. The public meeting
12 will now convene.

13 Eric, will you please call the
14 roll to take attendance. Members again
15 are asked if you're in attendance,
16 please indicate that you are present
17 when your name is called and say a few
18 brief words so that we can have your
19 image displayed on the screen.

20 THE CLERK: Councilmember
21 Quinones-Sanchez.

22 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
23 Present.

24 THE CLERK: Councilmember
25 Johnson.

1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Present.

2 THE CLERK: Councilmember

3 Thomas.

4 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Present.

5 THE CLERK: Councilmember

6 O'Neill.

7 COUNCILMAN O'NEILL: Present.

8 THE CLERK: Councilmember

9 Henon.

10 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,

11 Madam Chair. I am present.

12 THE CLERK: And, Councilmember

13 Domb.

14 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Present.

15 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

16 Thank you all so much again to my

17 Council colleagues. As this bill moves

18 forward, this is part of our new normal

19 budget and all of you have been an

20 instrumental part in getting us to this

21 place where we can do this work, so I

22 want to thank you all.

23 So with that, the Chair

24 recognizes Councilmember Johnson for a

25 motion on Bill No. 210160.

1 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank you,
2 Madam Chair.

3 I move that Bill No. 210160 be
4 reported from this Committee with a
5 favorable recommendation and further
6 move that the rules of Council be
7 suspended to permit first reading of
8 this bill at the next session of
9 Council.

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Second.

11 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
12 The Chair notes for the record that
13 Councilmember O'Neill seconded the
14 motion or was it Thomas? I'm sorry.

15 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thomas.

16 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
17 Councilmember Thomas. It's been moved
18 and properly seconded that Bill No.
19 210160 be reported from this Committee
20 with a favorable recommendation and
21 further move that the rules of Council
22 be suspended to permit first reading of
23 this bill at our next session.

24 All those in favor of the
25 motion will signify by saying aye.

1 (Aye.)

2 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

3 Those opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

6 The ayes have it and the motion carries.

7 This concludes the meeting and
8 the business before the Committee on
9 Appropriations.

10 Chair recognizes Councilmember
11 Johnson.

12 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yes, Madam
13 Chair, just as we conclude the meeting
14 and wrap up, I just want to acknowledge
15 the hard work of Councilmember Isaiah
16 Thomas and Councilwoman Katherine
17 Gilmore Richardson. They put a lot of
18 hard work in hosting the virtual
19 Disadvantaged Communities hearings all
20 throughout the City of Philadelphia. So
21 I watched them do that hard work in the
22 middle of a pandemic and I just want to
23 publicly acknowledge them for their hard
24 work and dedication around this issue.

25 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:

1 Thank you.

2 Councilmember Thomas, did you
3 also want to be recognized?

4 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: No, Madam
5 Chair. I was just saying thank you to
6 Councilmember Johnson. I appreciate it.
7 It means a lot coming from him and
8 coming from you guys. We appreciate
9 your support. Couldn't do it without
10 you guys, so thank you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES-SANCHEZ:
12 Thank you, all. Thank you to all our
13 Members. This concludes the business
14 before Appropriations. All of you have
15 a good and safe day.

16 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Take care.

17 COUNCILWOMAN GILMORE

18 RICHARDSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

19 And Happy International Women's Day.

20 (Committee on Appropriations
21 concluded at 1:30 p.m.)

22

23

24

25

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 C. CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

(The foregoing certification of
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