

**Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs
(MACCCA)**

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 17, 2018
6:30PM-8:00PM

Location: Reeves Center
Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs
2000 14th St NW Suite 206
Washington DC 20009
Conference Call: 515-739-1010 Access Code: 459376

1. Meeting called to order at 6:57pm by Chairman Yates
2. Roll call and introduction of Commissioners:

Michael Yates- Chair

Earl Rodriguez- Commissioner

Valerie Lacarte- Commissioner

Abby Charles- Commissioner

Chris Toussaint- Commissioner

Michael Campbell- Commissioner

David Selman-Public Body

Charlotte Flournoy- MOCA

3. Committee updates:

- **Caribbean American Heritage Month Awards:** Abbey opened the meeting discussing the run of show for the CAHM to include a high level overview of entertainment, ceremony, reception and networking. Abbey asked that the group start soliciting donations from vendors who cater food for the event. Abbey solicited that MOCA help with budget, Chairman Yates will help with awards category. Proposing that the event be held on June 6th or 7th (Contingent on MMB's availability) before the Jerk Festival so that they give away tickets to DC Caribbean Diaspora. Mike Yates met with Art Espinoza and he has agreed to fund some of the requests, such as the poetry reader, singer and dancers, the steelpan band, graphics, invitation and program. MACCCA is requesting MOCA print 200 programs, plaques, book photographer and decoration for the space. Director Espinoza shared that there have been changes to the logistics where a fee may be charged for after hour events. Chairman Yates would like community members to assist with nominations and he would like for commissioners to think of previous awardees to be given to MMB for consideration. Chairman Yates will solicit volunteers to set up space. Chris Toussaint asked if ambassadors will be invited. David Selman asked the method for nominations. This year they propose specific categories, i.e. Innovators in the community. Facebook advertisement, business, arts, technology, and health care. Commissioner Rodriguez will reach out to Caribbean Citations for a donation and Commissioner Toussaint will reach out to Pimento Grill. Chairman Yates will additionally get a list of food vendors.

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- **Meet and Greet:** Commissioner Campbell discussed a partnership with his Caribbean network and MACCCA for a Caribbean American Heritage Month Kickoff on June 1 at Petworth train station with. He is interested in inviting Congress Woman Barbara Lee and Congress Woman Yvette Clark. Commissioner Campbell also recommended a banner over Georgia Ave that says “DC Welcomes Caribbean Heritage Month”. Additionally he wants to partner with Washingtonian magazine to promote Caribbean Heritage Month. Chairman Yates chimed in saying that guest can head to Pitch Tavern the kick off for the official Meet and Greet. They’re thinking about a DJ this year opposed to a band. There are about 250 residents on their distribution list that will be invited. Commissioner Toussaint followed up recommended banner on poles for CAHM and will talk to DDOT. Commissioner Campbell will talk to Petworth Library. Lastly, David Selman and Commissioner Charles mentioned a high end Caribbean restaurant, Spark at The Fire House as a possible meet and greet venue.
 - **Jerk festival:** They want 200 tickets to distribute to the awardees and may want a table.
4. **Outreach and Engagement:**
- Commissioner Lacarte gave an update on the 5 Year Plan. Her goal is to change the approach on how to identify priority areas by using MACCCA’s events to consult and poll the community and ask them directly what they think the priorities are and use that as a baseline and have more in depth discussion. Commissioner Lacarte drafted a survey of 3 questions to have at a registration table. David Selman recommended having a suggestion board on an easel to collect data from each MACCCA event. The board can be represented by islands, sort of like a small census. These display boards can be taken to the Caribbean Community Awards, Meet and Greet and Jerk fest.
5. **Public comment:** In efforts to recruit volunteers, can we see if students will get credit for community service hours. Charlotte Flournoy said she will assist with asking Serve DC if they can help with the recruitment process.
6. **Meeting Adjourned at 7:57 PM.**