

## **Archives Advisory Group**

### **Semiannual Report to the Council of the District of Columbia December 2022**

The Archives Advisory Group (AAG) was established by the Archives Advisory Group Act of 2020 and sworn in on November 18, 2021. The Group is charged with advising the Council of the District of Columbia on the construction of a new archives facility for the District, with “access to all draft and final documents relevant to planning and costing a new archives facility” so long as the requests for documents are made through the Chairman of the Council.

Since our semiannual report in May, the AAG has held seven public meetings. One of the meetings was a discussion with the new DC State Archivist and Public Records Administrator, Dr. Lopez Matthews, on his vision for the Archives. Another meeting was a briefing by the architectural and engineering firm Hartman-Cox on its draft Program of Requirements for DC's new Archives. Two meetings were devoted to developing a draft strategic plan for the AAG.

The principal work of the AAG during these six months was reviewing the draft Program of Requirements by Hartman-Cox Architects and developing comments on it, reflecting the AAG members' thorough review of the report. The comments included a recommendation for a comprehensive survey of existing records to ensure that the building is sized to meet current and future needs; further review of the electronic systems that will be needed to support the new archives; and support for a facility that adheres to the District's climate and sustainability goals and addresses applicable zoning and other land use requirements. We also urged that the city administration immediately begin to engage stakeholders in the final design. The comments were sent on September 30 to the Councilmembers, Senior Adviser to the Mayor Perry, Secretary of the District Bassett, State Archivist Matthews, DGS Program Manager of the Archives project Ikotun, and a representative of the University of the District of Columbia for planning the Archives facility.

The AAG looks forward to seeing the revised Program of Requirements. We are also anticipating a projected budget for the construction of the archives facility, based on accomplishing the program requirements.

As we said in our May report to the Council, the staffing of the Office of Public Records Management, Archival Administration and Library of Government Information (OPR) is entirely inadequate to the demands of the program. We are pleased that within the current budget several additional positions have been made available to OPR, but they are not sufficient for the work of preparing and moving into a new facility. We will be advocating for additional funding in the coming budget cycle.

Finally, two members of the Archives Advisory Group, Anne McDonough and Greta Fuller, have submitted their resignations, due to the pressures of work at their respective places of employment. We regret losing their insight and vision for the archives, but we are very grateful for the year they have devoted to the Group.

Trudy Huskamp Peterson, Chairperson  
Kimberly Bender  
Neil Flanagan  
Gayle George  
Caroline Petti