



September 17, 2019

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Keona Pearson, Arts Program Coordinator
Commission on the Arts and Humanities
200 I Street SE
Washington, D.C. 20003

VIA: Keona.Pearson@dc.gov

Re: Public Art Building Communities Grant support for The Story of Our Schools

Dear DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities,

At a regularly scheduled, properly noticed, meeting on September 10, 2019, with a quorum present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6B voted 9-0-0 in support of the above referenced request.

We support the installation of the exhibit within Payne because it is important to tell the story of the history of our neighborhoods and communities. An exhibit that brings together the communities of the past with our community today – and our community of the future – is an important element of continuing to strengthen and honor the history of our community.

The story in the exhibit begins in 1896 when DC was deeply divided by segregation and a new school was built for African American students on 15th and C St SE. As time went on, the beloved neighborhood school became overcrowded and had fallen into disrepair. Parents and the families of Payne banded together in the 1940's to protest these deplorable conditions in hopes to forge the way to brighter to future. After 123 years, Bishop Daniel A. Payne's legacy of compassion and learning still lives on as the school built in his honor stills educates children today.

Our community is proud that Story of Our Schools agreed to partner with Payne to tell this story through a publicly accessible, permanent, museum-quality exhibit in our school and community. Payne is a critical part of our community's history and of our thriving, changing community today. Large numbers of community members walk through Payne regularly to send their children or grandchildren to school, attend community meetings or vote. It is a place of pride and an agent of community integration.



Please contact Commissioner Corey Holman, ANC 6B's Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Committee Chair, at 301-664-4132 or 6b06@anc.dc.gov if you have questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chander Jayaraman", written over a horizontal line.

Chander Jayaraman
Chair, ANC 6B

Cc:

Danica Petroschius
Jen Harris