



IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NAACP DC URGES DC COUNCIL CONFIRMATION OF CORA BARRY AND DR. NATALIE HOPKINSON TO THE DC ARTS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The NAACP DC Branch urges all members of the Council of the District of Columbia to support the re-appointments of Cora Masters Barry and Dr. Natalie Hopkinson to the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (CAH). Today, the NAACP DC Branch sent letters to Chairman Phil Mendelson and all members of the Council of the District of Columbia urging them to support the re-appointments of Cora Masters Barry and Dr. Natalie Hopkinson to the Commission. This evening the NAACP DC Branch and Don't Mute DC will mobilize a rally, ***"Don't Mute Black Women: Demanding the Council Stand-Up for Strong Black Women's Voices on the Arts Commission."*** This rally will be held on November 1 from 5:00 to 8:00pm at 14th and U Street, NW Washington, DC.

It has now been publicly reported that for years, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (CAH) has failed to properly invest in Black artists and Black communities East of the River. The CAH executes a \$34 million budget supporting the arts and humanities, which is critical to sustaining working artists and art organizations across the District. The CAH has a responsibility to equitably invest in artists and arts institutions across all 8 wards of DC. The recent appointment of Reginald Van Lee is a start towards enhancing the operational efficiency of the Commission. However, the reappointment of Ms. Barry and Dr. Hopkinson is critical to advancing the great work which has begun.

The NAACP advocates all Councilmembers to vote in support of the re-appointments of Cora Masters Barry and Dr. Natalie Hopkinson to the Arts Commission. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson has decided to only move forward 2 out of the 4 women nominated for re-appointment to the Commission, targeting Cora Masters Barry and Dr. Natalie Hopkinson for removal. Barry and Hopkinson are two of the most two fierce advocates for racial and resource equity on this Commission. The NAACP stands for these strong voices on the Commission on the Arts & Humanities because both women have proven to be strong advocates fighting for resource and racial equity in the DC arts community.

Akosua Ali, NAACP DC Branch President, stated "Activism should make people uncomfortable. Good trouble is key to change. The strong voices of Cora Masters Barry and Dr. Hopkinson on the Commission is critical to ensure resources reach more Black artists in the District's most vulnerable communities. We cannot allow the Council to set precedent by silencing strong voices. This vote is critical. We have a lot of progressive members of the Council who claim to stand for racial equity and Black Lives, but this vote will determine if strong voices that are proven fighters for racial equality have a seat at the table."

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ABOUT NAACP:

DC BRANCH NEWS

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest members throughout the United States and the in their communities. The mission of NAACP is to economic quality of rights of all persons and to



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and largest civil rights organization. Its world are premier advocates for civil rights ensure the political, educational, social and eliminate racial hatred and racial