

Government of the District of Columbia



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dieter Lehmann Morales, Chair ANC 1A,
Billy Easley, Treasurer ANC 1A
FR: Denise Wiktor, General Counsel
DT: 2/27/2024
RE: Columbia Heights Day Grant Application

District Bridges submitted a grant application to the OANC for funding from ANC 1A for Columbia Heights Day. The OANC reviewed the application and asked for additional information. Upon receiving the additional information, the grant is deemed permissible with a few caveats as outlined below.

Columbia Heights Day is a long-standing tradition, and it is located within the boundaries of ANC 1A. It provides an opportunity for neighbors and businesses to gather and build community in a festive environment. The primary beneficiaries of the event are the businesses and residents within ANC 1A. Neighboring ANC residents may attend but are not considered the primary beneficiary.¹

The proposed use of the grant funds is on entertainment which is a permissible use. The application listed several potential uses including musicians, amusement equipment rental and face painting. I would recommend that the grant not be used to pay performers or other individuals to avoid the impermissible use of payment to individuals. Equipment rental from the amusement company, stage rental, and tents and chairs for the public are all permissible uses. I am certain there are significant costs outside of honoraria that the grant can be used for.

¹ “This does not mean the grant may only benefit Commission residents; it simply means the grant’s benefits should be focused on those residents.” *Letter to Schanette Grant on Seasoned Settlers and Grants Generally*, April 14, 2022, p. 2 found at <https://oag.dc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/Letter-to-OANC-Re-Seasoned-Settlers-Grant-and-Grants-Generally-.pdf>