

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

**Budget Justifications
Fiscal Year 2015**

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COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

General Statement

The Commission of Fine Arts was established in 1910 (40 U.S.C. 104) to fill the need for a permanent agency whose members would be qualified to make available to the Government expert opinion on questions of art and architecture. The Commission's mission is to safeguard and improve the appearance and symbolic significance of Washington, D.C., as the national capital city, for the benefit of the citizens of the United States, and foreign visitors. Specifically, the Commission provides knowledgeable advice, as design proposals are brought before it, on matters pertaining to architecture, landscape architecture, sculpture, painting, and the decorative arts to all branches and departments of the Federal and District of Columbia governments when such matters affect the National Capital. The Commission also must approve of the site and design of all commemorative works and memorials erected in the District of Columbia.

In addition, the Commission advises on the design of circulating and commemorative coinage and must approve the siting and design for national memorials, both in the United States and on foreign soil, in accordance with the American Battle Monuments Act and the Commemorative Works Act.

The Commission is composed of seven members appointed by the President. They serve without compensation, receiving only actual travel expenses relative to attending meetings. Since the Commission's inception, many distinguished architects, landscape architects, painters, sculptors, planners, and others in the field of fine arts have given freely of their time, experience, and professional skills in advising the President, the Congress, and Government agencies, both local and national, on matters involving the fine arts.

Specific functions as mandated by law require the Commission to:

- Advise executive departments of the Federal Government on any matters of an aesthetic nature, especially those pertaining to architecture and landscape programs that affect the appearance of the national capital city.
- Advise on any matters of an aesthetic nature that may be put forward by committees of the Congress.
- Advise the President and members of the administration on aesthetic matters upon their request.
- Advise on the design of medals, seals, insignia, and circulating and commemorative coinage.
- Approve submissions by the American Battle Monuments Commission on matters pertaining to the location and design of memorials both foreign and domestic.
- Approve submissions under the Commemorative Works Act on matters pertaining to the location and design of memorials in and around the national capital city.

- Advise the Secretary of the Army on matters pertaining to the location and design of memorials and monuments in Arlington National Cemetery.
- Advise the District of Columbia government on all public construction, as well as private construction and the display of advertising in certain areas of the city as designated by Congress under the Shipstead-Luce and Old Georgetown Acts.
- Advise the Department of State through Section 206 of the Foreign Missions Act on foreign chanceries in all areas under the jurisdiction of the Commission, including the International Center.
- Advise the National Capital Planning Commission in the selection of lands suitable for the development of the park, parkway, and playground system of the national capital city.

The Commission has administered the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program since 1988, which was created by the Congress to support nonprofit local cultural institutions whose primary purpose is the presentation, exhibition, or performance of the arts at a professional level of quality in the national capital city.

In addition to those functions mandated by law, the Commission of Fine Arts is required to approve acquisitions as proposed by and for the Freer Gallery of Art in accordance with a codicil to the will of Charles Lang Freer.

Program Summary by Budget Activity
(dollar amounts in thousands)

Appropriation	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request	FY 2015 Change from FY 2014 Enacted
Salaries and Expenses	2,271	2,396	2,524	+128
FTE	10	11	12	+1
National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs	1,892	2,000	0	-2,000
FTE	--	--	--	--

Highlights of the FY 2015 Request

The Commission of Fine Arts requests a Salaries and Expenses appropriation of \$2,524,000 for FY 2015 for the expenses of the members of the Commission and the salaries and related costs necessary to support a small staff and maintain an efficient level of operations. This appropriation request represents a 5.3 percent increase of \$128,000 above the FY 2014 Enacted Appropriation. The increase includes one additional Full-Time Employee position for its professional staff to help update and improve the Commission’s technical infrastructure for managing Government records and to meet the needs for processing the many hundreds of records from projects submitted to the Commission for review. This position makes possible the strategic transition to digital submissions and the maintenance of electronic records, which in turn will assist with meeting the requirements of the *Managing Government Records Directive* (OMB/NARA M-12-18) and the objectives in other directives for the online publishing of information and public communications.

In FY 2015, we estimate that the Agency’s uncontrollable increases total \$63,000. These uncontrollable increases include: a \$3,000 uncontrollable increase in rental payments to General Services Administration; a \$4,000 increase in security payments to the Department of Homeland Security; a \$26,000 uncontrollable increase in charges for Department of the Interior services including financial management, personnel services, and other support agreements (including charges for the production of financial reports for the annual audit); a \$5,000 uncontrollable increase to the Government Printing Office for web hosting services; and a net \$25,000 uncontrollable increase for personnel compensation and benefits with the cost-of-living pay raise. However, this increase is offset by a net reduction of \$63,000 in other categories.

No funding is requested for the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Grant Program in FY 2015.

Appropriation Language Sheet

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS **Salaries and Expenses**

For expenses of the Commission of Fine Arts under Chapter 91 of title 40, United States Code, [\$2,396,000] \$2,524,000: *Provided*, That the Commission is authorized to charge fees to cover the full costs of its publications, and such fees shall be credited to this account as an offsetting collection, to remain available until expended without further appropriation. *Provided further*, that the Commission is authorized to accept gifts, including objects, papers, artwork, drawings and artifacts that pertain to the history and design of the Nation's Capital or the history and activities of the Commission of Fine Arts, for the purpose of artistic display, study or education.

(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014.)

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
Salaries and Expenses
Uncontrollable and Related Cost Changes
(dollar amounts in thousands)

Additional cost in FY 2015: 2014| 2015
Enacted | Change
Includes a one percent pay increase in both FY 2014 and FY 2015..... 1,154 / +\$25

The amount displayed represents the estimated additional costs of funding estimated pay increases for GS-series employees and the associated pay rate changes made in other pay series.

Other Cost Changes: 2014| 2015
Enacted | Change
Rental Payments to GSA..... 255 / +\$3

The adjustment is for estimated changes in the costs payable to the General Services Administration resulting from changes in rates for office and non-office space as estimated by GSA.

2014| 2015
Enacted | Change
Security Payments to DHS..... 40 / +\$4

The adjustment is for estimated changes in the costs payable to the Department of Homeland Security resulting from changes in rates for office space and basic building security.

2014| 2015
Enacted | Change
Administrative Support Services – Interior..... 154 / +\$26

The change reflects expected increases in the charges for Department of the Interior services, including financial management, personnel services, and other support agreements (includes charges for the production of financial reports for the annual audit).

2014| 2015
Enacted | Change
Administrative Support Services – GPO..... 25 / +\$5

The change reflects expected increases in the charges for Government Printing Office (GPO) services for internet website hosting services, and other support agreements.

2014| 2015
Enacted | Change
Workers Compensation Payment Costs..... 60 / \$0

The amount displayed was charged in FY 2014 and will be reimbursed to the Department of Labor in FY 2015.

2014| 2015
Enacted | Change
Purchases of Goods and Services, and Supplies and Materials..... 340 / -\$63

The change reflects expected decreases in the costs of purchases of goods and services, and supplies and materials in FY 2015.

TOTAL UNCONTROLLABLE COST CHANGES..... =====
\$0

Justification of Program and Performance

Activity: Salaries and Expenses

	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Enacted	Uncontrollable Changes	Program Changes	FY 2015 Request	Change From FY 2014 Enacted
(\$000)	2,271	2,396	0	+128	2,524	+128
FTE	10	11	0	1	12	+1

Authorization: 40 U.S.C. 104.

Program change from FY 2014 Enacted: The Commission of Fine Arts is requesting a Salaries and Expenses appropriation of \$2,524,000 for FY 2015 for the expenses of the members of the Commission and the salaries and related costs necessary to support a small staff and maintain an efficient level of operations. This appropriation request represents a 5.3 percent increase of \$128,000 above the FY 2014 Enacted level.

For FY 2015, the Agency’s uncontrollable increases total \$63,000 and include:

- \$3,000 in rental payments to General Services Administration;
- \$4,000 in security payments to the Department of Homeland Security;
- \$26,000 in charges for Department of the Interior services, including financial management, personnel services, and other support agreements (including charges for the production of financial reports for the annual audit);
- \$5,000 in charges for the Government Printing Office for internet website hosting services; and
- \$25,000 in net uncontrollable increase for personnel compensation and benefits incorporating the cost-of-living pay raise.

However, this net total uncontrollable increase is offset by a net reduction of \$63,000 in other categories such as purchases of goods and services, supplies, and materials, as well as other personnel compensation.

Most significantly, the Commission is requesting one additional FTE for its professional staff. This FY 2015 request includes an additional full-time employee position for a professional to help update and improve the Commission’s technical infrastructure for managing Government records and to meet the needs for processing the many hundreds of records from projects submitted to the Commission for review. This position makes possible the strategic transition to digital submissions and for the maintenance of electronic records, which in turn will assist with meeting the requirements of the *Managing Government Records Directive* (OMB/NARA M-12-18) and the objectives in other directives for the online publishing of information and public communications. Establishing the new position, at roughly \$128,000 including benefits, will provide the increased level of support needed to continue critical agency programs and meet the requirements for records management.

The Commission's professional staff of three architects and one architectural historian have been challenged and taxed by increasing review case load and complexity of submissions, and the need to make its records electronically archived and available to the public. The current staff is working at capacity and beyond. Each submission requires many hours of staff time as the cases are received, processed, analyzed, and presented—in addition to consultation with applicants, and the final records prepared for archiving and public access.

Justification: The new position requested addresses current needs for its professional staff to meet the requirements for electronically processing the projects submitted to the Commission for review and for the essential and ultimate archiving of the records produced by the reviews. There are several important reasons for this request for an additional professional FTE position, based on: increasing caseload; new Federal requirements for digital record processing and electronic record archiving; and the need to improve internet access to the Commission's case records which will help meet the objectives in current government directives for the online publishing of information and public communications.

The objectives of the Commission of Fine Arts staff are:

- To support the Commission which provides expert advice on architecture and art to the President, Congress, and various agencies of the Federal and District governments on proposed projects and existing conditions in the National Capital so as to safeguard and enhance the appearance and symbolic significance of Washington, D.C. This expertise is provided by seven Presidentially appointed, well-qualified judges of the arts who are supported by the small professional staff that oversees its continued operation.
- To assist the Commission and provide a professional level of artistic advice through review and liaison with the District of Columbia and Federal governments; to provide the administrative services that are required to support the Commission and communicate the advice of the Commission; and to keep accurate records of the Commission's actions.
- To provide professional support to the Commission in the administration of its approval authority over the design and location of battle monuments and commemorative works as required by the specific statutes authorizing them.
- To produce research on buildings, historic precincts, and general plans of the city of Washington. To make historical and architectural information generally available to the public, to other government agencies, and to the Commission. To identify buildings and areas of lasting merit so as to avoid destruction or impairment of those resources as plans evolve for the city. The specially trained staff of architects and historians performing this documentation and planning work is also available to the Commission on a case-by-case basis to provide supporting material on proposed projects, sometimes on very short notice.

Program Activities:

- The Commission of Fine Arts, an independent agency, reviews proposals affecting the appearance of Washington, D.C., and advises the President, the Congress, and the agencies of the Federal and District of Columbia governments on architectural designs and other matters of art. It also conducts liaison, research, and publication activities to further support the enhancement and preservation of the city. The Commission's approval on design and location of monuments and memorials is required as specified under the Commemorative Works Act and the American Battle Monuments Act.
- The Commission provides advice on the development of Washington through study, inspection, research, and expert consultation. The Commission maintains continual involvement in ongoing projects such as the International Center, the Federal Triangle, and other special areas of the City, and publishes studies on the historical development of Washington. Some of the material assembled is published so as to be permanently available to government agencies as well as the general public.
- The Commission provides advice on design, planning, and historic preservation to the Federal and District of Columbia governments as well as to committees of Congress, which may have questions on matters specific to Washington or relating to their members' respective home states.
- The Commission, in its advisory and approval capacities, does not originate design projects; it is the recipient of project proposals. As the recipient, our activities are subject to the needs of other agencies, Federal and local, as well as those of private entities. Government construction projects materialize in response to the individual sponsors' needs and their schedules cannot be anticipated by the Commission. The initiation of private construction projects is even less predictable. The Commission must therefore be flexible by necessity. Its effectiveness and efficiency remain constant despite having no control over the number of proposals brought before it nor the relative size and importance of each item submitted. The Commission reviewed 100 percent of all proposals submitted for review within 45 days of receipt.
- The total number of all cases submitted to the Commission for review in FY 2013 was 668. In FY 2012, the total number of cases was 703, which represented an increase of *more than 29 percent from FY 2009*. The number of Shipstead-Luce Act cases submitted was 132 in FY 2013, an increase of *approximately 25 percent* above the number of FY 2009 submissions; and for the Old Georgetown Act, the 351 submissions in FY 2013 represent an increase of *more than 26 percent* above the FY 2009 submissions.

**COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)

Identification code 95-2600-0-1-451	2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015 Request
Obligations by program activity:			
10.00	2	2	3
Budgetary resources available for obligation:			
22.00	2	2	3
23.95	-2	-2	-3
New budget authority (gross), detail:			
40.00	2	2	3
Change in unpaid obligations:			
73.10	2	2	3
73.20	-2	-2	-3
Outlays (gross), detail:			
86.90	2	2	3
Net budget authority and outlays:			
89.00	2	2	3
90.00	2	2	3

**COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

Object Classification (in thousands of dollars)

Identification code 95-2600-0-1-451	2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015 Request
Personnel compensation:			
11.1 Full-time permanent.....	1,094	1,154	1,334*
11.3 Full-time temporary	105	0	0
11.5 Other personnel compensation.....	0	22	10
11.9 Total personnel compensation	1,199	1,176	1,344
12.0 Personnel benefits: Civilian	346	388	422
12.1 Workers Compensation Payments	60	61	60
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	50	57	45
22.0 Transportation of things.....	4	4	4
23.1 Rental payments to GSA.....	242	255	255
23.3 Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges.....	56	58	60
24.0 Printing and reproduction	24	28	28
25.0 Purchases of goods and services	263	340	278
26.0 Supplies and materials	23	26	23
31.0 Equipment	4	3	5
99.9 Total obligations	2,271	2,396	2,524

* Note: This amount as been updated from the estimate shown in the President's 2015 Budget.

**COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

Personnel Summary

Identification code 95-2600-0-1-451	2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015 Request
Total compensable work-years:			
Full-time equivalent employment.....	10	11	12
Full-time equivalent overtime and holiday hours	0	0	0
TOTAL:	10	11	12

Appropriation Language Sheet

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs

[For necessary expenses as authorized by Public Law 99-190 (20 U.S.C. 956a), as amended,
\$2,000,000]

(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014.)

Justification of Program and Performance

Activity: Grants

	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Enacted	Uncontrollable Changes	Program Changes	FY 2015 Request
(\$000)	1,892	2,000	0	-2,000	0
FTE	--	--	--	--	--

Authorization: 99 Stat. 1261; 20 U.S.C. 956a

Objectives: The FY 1988 Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act transferred administrative responsibility for the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program from the National Endowment for the Humanities to the Commission of Fine Arts. This program provides formula based grants for general operating support to District of Columbia non-profit arts and other cultural organizations. Eligible organizations must have an annual income, exclusive of Federal or pass-through Federal funds, in excess of \$1 million for each of the three years prior to their application for the grant. Grant awards are based on a formula in which 70 percent of the total funds appropriated for the fiscal year are distributed equally among all eligible organizations submitting applications, and the remaining 30 percent are distributed based on the amount of the organization's total annual income, exclusive of Federal funds, in proportion to the combined total of the annual income, exclusive of Federal funds, of all eligible organizations submitting applications. No organization will receive a grant larger than \$650,000.

No funding is requested for the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs grant program that is currently administered by the Commission of Fine Arts.

Activities: In FY 2013, this program helped support 22 nationally renowned organizations in the National Capital, providing funding for operating expenses, staff, exhibits, and performances.

In FY 2013, \$1,892,355.00 in grants were awarded to the following 22 organizations.

FY 2013 NCACA Grant Recipients	Grant	Grant as % of Operating Income*
Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts:	252,248.79	0.23%
Washington National Opera:	101,448.55	0.44%
Shakespeare Theatre:	98,724.70	0.45%
Arena Stage:	97,235.75	0.46%
National Symphony Orchestra:	96,036.19	0.47%
Corcoran Gallery of Art	96,021.70	0.47%
Ford's Theatre:	88,807.86	0.55%
Folger Shakespeare Library:	86,115.00	0.59%
Phillips Collection:	84,346.01	0.62%
Washington Ballet:	77,498.87	0.79%
National Building Museum:	75,879.87	0.86%
National Museum of Women in the Arts:	75,205.51	0.89%
Washington Performing Arts Society:	74,782.51	0.91%
Studio Theatre:	69,816.48	1.29%
Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens:	68,080.48	1.53%
Woolly Mammoth Theatre Co.:	67,005.34	1.74%
Textile Museum:	65,978.86	2.02%
Choral Arts Society:	65,422.07	2.22%
Washington Chorus (The)	63,879.29	3.08%
Dance Place (DC Wheel Productions)	62,998.17	4.00%
Gala Hispanic Theatre:	62,594.48	4.65%
Cathedral Choral Society	62,228.50	5.46%
Total Grants	\$1,892,355.00	

* Operating income exclusive of other Federal or pass-through Federal funds.

**COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)

Identification code 95-2602-0-1-503	2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015 Request
Obligations by program activity:			
10.00	2	2	0
Budgetary resources available for obligation:			
22.00	2	2	0
23.95	-2	-2	0
New budget authority (gross), detail:			
40.00	2	2	0
Change in unpaid obligations:			
73.10	2	2	0
73.20	-2	-2	0
Outlays (gross), detail:			
86.90	2	2	0
Net budget authority and outlays:			
89.00	2	2	0
90.00	2	2	0