

**WIKI SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, DC INC.**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

February 27, 2021 at 1:00 PM  
Conference Call

Board Members Present:           Kirill Lokshin [President]  
  Rosie Stephenson-Goodknight [Vice President]  
  Diane Shaw [Secretary]  
  John Sadowski [Treasurer]  
  Robert Fernandez  
  Peter Meyer  
  Kevin Payravi

Board Members Not Present:     Kelly Doyle  
  Emily Temple-Wood

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lokshin at 1:11 PM.

1. A motion by Mr. Lokshin to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors was seconded and passed without dissent.
2. A motion by Mr. Lokshin to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2020 Annual Meeting was seconded and passed without dissent.
3. Mr. Lokshin submitted a written report on behalf of the Executive Committee.

[See Attachment A]

4. Plans for WikiConference North America 2021 were discussed. Several members of the Board are involved in the planning of the conference. The planning team is intending to request a Wikimedia Foundation grant to cover costs such as child care, internet access for local groups, and translators. It is anticipated that Wikimedia DC would be a fiscal sponsor for this grant. The conference is tentatively scheduled for October 8–10, but the dates may be shifted to either just before or just after Wikimania in order to support a combined contract for translation services for both events.
5. Plans for Women’s History Month programs were discussed.

The Board is interested in supporting editing activities that are not associated solely with edit-a-thons—not only for Women’s History Month but throughout the year as well—such as a campaign where the participants who write the most articles about a topic would be recognized with a prize. There is an existing list of notable DC-area women that

could serve as a starting point for such a campaign, and the Wikimedia DC mailing list could be used for campaign outreach.

Ms. Stephenson-Goodknight reported that Megan Smith, the former Chief Technology Officer of the United States, is interested in developing Wikipedia content focused on BIPOC women. Wikimedia DC may have an opportunity to support this initiative, and the Institutional Partnerships Manager could provide training for participants.

6. Plans for Wikimedia DC's 10th anniversary were discussed. An in-person event would not be possible because of the ongoing pandemic, but there are other ways to highlight milestones and accomplishments in the organization's history; for example, an online timeline could be created on the Wikimedia DC website, with photographs and descriptions of key events, and potentially a video montage.
7. Plans for editing clinics or office hours were discussed. A series of short virtual events, hosted by the Institutional Partnerships Manager or Wikimedia DC volunteers, could provide demonstrations of various editing processes and offer answers to common questions about contributing to Wikimedia projects. It could be beneficial if some of the sessions could be held in Spanish or another language other than English. It may also be useful to create short videos on topics such as uploading images to Wikimedia Commons or editing Wikidata; these videos could be publicized on various Wikimedia social media channels and offered to schools and public libraries. It may be possible to solicit funding to support this as an information literacy training program.
8. The Vaccine Safety Net partnership was discussed. Wikimedia DC has received a grant for the first phase of training by the Institutional Partnerships Manager on vaccine safety-related topics. In addition, a manual containing this training information, in multiple languages, could potentially be created with the help of the World Health Organization or another partner.
9. Affiliate fundraising programs were discussed. Amazon Smile and Facebook provide fundraising opportunities for registered non-profits, and a few donations have been received via those channels. These channels could be publicized more, with community members encouraged to fundraise through them, potentially in conjunction with Wikimedia DC's 10th anniversary in May.
10. Internet domains were discussed. Wikimedia DC currently holds approximately 40 internet domains (including general domains such as editathon.com and wikiversity.com), but is actively using only 6. The domains are not expensive to maintain, but Wikimedia DC could actively use more of them or identify responsible parties to whom they could be transferred for active use.
11. Communication channels were discussed. There is currently a Wikimedia DC Slack workspace that is not regularly used, as well as a Wikimedia DC Facebook group. There has been some previous discussion regarding a potential Wikimedia DC Telegram

channel; a Telegram channel for the Board could be created first, with a public-facing one to be developed later for use with training events.

12. Movement conversations regarding the Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees were discussed. Several Board members attended an online discussion about the selection of new members for the Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees, which was facilitated by Jackie Koerner. Various proposals have been posted on Meta, and are being discussed via SWAN, WALRUS, and other channels.

There are related conversations taking place about the creation of a global council and the development of a movement charter.

13. The results of the Wiki Science Competition calendar fundraiser were discussed. Mr. Sadowski reported that the fundraiser netted approximately \$700 after printing, shipping, taxes and other fees, and that some of the photographers whose images were featured in the calendars requested several copies; considering the limited advance publicity, the outcome was quite positive. The fundraiser could be repeated with 2022 calendar, which could feature images from Wiki Loves Monuments or another theme.
14. The Wikimedia Foundation presence in DC was discussed. The Board is interested in exploring potential way to engage Wikimedia Foundation staff based in the DC area, such as inviting them to events and making them aware of Wikimedia DC community activities and accomplishments.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 PM.

Approved on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

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Diane Shaw  
Secretary

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Kirill Lokshin  
President

## ATTACHMENT A

### WIKIMEDIA DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

February 2021

#### SUMMARY

- Since the last meeting, we held 5 events with partner institutions, and have 7 more events in the pipeline.
- Fiscal year-to-date, we have recognized revenues of approximately \$53K and expenses of approximately \$27K. We currently hold approximately \$63K in cash, including approximately \$31K in unrestricted funds.

#### PROGRAMS

##### *Institutional Partnership*

Since the last meeting of the Board, Wikimedia DC has held 5 editing workshops and other collaborative events with institutional partners: an event with the Smithsonian American Art Museum on December 11; an event with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health on December 13; an event with Planet Word on January 26; an event with the Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives on January 30; and a joint event with the National Museum of African American History and Culture and blackcomputeHER on February 21.

We have scheduled 7 editing workshops and other collaborative events with institutional partners over the next several months: a joint event with the National Museum of African American History and Culture and blackcomputeHER on March 1; an event with the National Museum of Women in the Arts on March 6; a joint event with the Swedish Embassy to the United States, the Swedish Consulate in New York, and the Swedish Permanent Mission to the United Nations on March 8; an event with the University of Maryland on March 9; an event with the American Archive of Public Broadcasting on March 11; an event with the Anne Arundel County Public Library on March 11; and an event with the National Agricultural Library on March 23. We are working to schedule multiple additional events with the National Agricultural Library, the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, and the World Health Organization, as well as other potential partners.

Wikimedia DC has received a grant from Hacks/Hackers and NewsQ to support our proposed Vaccine Safety Wikipedia Editing Initiative with the World Health Organization. The grant has a total value of \$2,385 and will provide funding for program activities through December 31, 2021.

#### FINANCE

Wikimedia DC currently has \$63,282.06 in cash, consisting of \$31,938.08 in restricted funds (which include unspent grant funds associated with the Wiki Art Depiction Explorer project and restricted funds administered on behalf of WikiConference North America, WikiWomen's User Group, and Women in Red) and \$31,343.98 in unrestricted funds.

Since the beginning of the fiscal year, Wikimedia DC has recognized revenues of \$53,495.48, consisting of \$200.00 in restricted funds and \$53,295.48 in unrestricted funds. During the same period, Wikimedia DC has recognized expenditures of \$27,309.04, consisting of \$25,022.22 in program costs and \$2,286.82 in administrative costs.