



PHPDA Governing Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: Quarters 2 Building, Pacific Tower, 1200 12th Ave S., Seattle, WA 98144

Virtual Location: Meeting ID - 878 4201 1777

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87842011777?pwd=V9DUYMDqMaZbevamLuM2pXXZH8qGrq.1>

Phone Option: +1 253 215 8782

Password: 918007

MEMBERS PRESENT		NOT PRESENT	ALSO PRESENT	
Douglass Jackson	Doris Koo	Paul Feldman	Christina Bernard	Nicole Porcello
Martine Pierre-Louis	Nancy Sugg		Denise Stiffarm	Michael Finch
Nick Ramirez	Bob Cook		Diane Pietrowski	Cesca Konshuk-Mas (public)
Sue Taoka				

Call to Order

Douglass Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:32pm. A quorum was present. One member of the public was present to observe the meeting. There were no public comments.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Douglass Jackson asked for a motion to approve the following meeting minutes:

- Special Governing Council Meeting – September 9, 2025
- Governing Council Meeting – September 9, 2025
- Finance Committee Meeting – August 6, 2025

Martine Pierre-Louis moved. Nancy Sugg seconded. 7 of 7 were in favor.

Professional Services

Legal Services Related to Personnel and HR – Resolution No. 15-2025

The Acting Executive Director explained Resolution No. 15-2025, which forwarded from the previous Finance Committee meeting.

- PHPDA has previously worked with a specific legal counsel for personnel-related matters. The primary attorney PHPDA worked with at that firm has now moved to a different firm. Therefore, PHPDA plans to move this specific legal work from K&L Gates to Arnold & Porter.
- Because this person has worked with PHPDA for several years, she has knowledge about the organization, and it would make sense to continue to work with her going forward.

Douglass Jackson asked for a motion to approve Resolution 15-2025, authorizing the PHPDA to work with legal firm Arnold & Porter. Bob Cook moved. Sue Taoka seconded. 7 of 7 were in favor.



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Retention of Transformation Planning Consultant – Resolution No. 16-2025

The Governing Council Chair reminded the Council of the Executive Committee's recent work on hiring a consultant to help PHPDA through the upcoming transformation planning process. He referred to Resolution No. 16-2025, included in the meeting packet, which outlined the entire process of their search for a consultant, the interview process, and the person they ultimately chose as their top applicant.

- The Governing Council Chair briefly explained the process, including release of an RFP and receipt of four applications. There were two candidates in the final consideration for the consultant position, and after an interview process and checking the references of the top candidate, the Executive Committee decided to offer it to Christina Hulet Consulting, LLC. There was one correction to the resolution, reflecting that reference checks were only conducted for the top candidate.
- The Program Committee Chair said that she completed the reference checks for Christina Hulet, and all her references said she does outstanding work. She seems to understand the current political landscape and is familiar with some of the organizations PHPDA works with. The rest of the Executive Committee all agreed that they felt confident in hiring her for this transformation work with PHPDA.
- The Governing Council Chair noted that they have outlined a contract with her for what they believe will be one year of work at a cost of about \$45,000. There is a possibility for flexibility on the timeline and schedule.

Douglass Jackson asked for a motion to approve the Resolution 16-2025, as amended, to hire Christina Hulet Consulting LLC and enter into a consultant contract with her. Nick Ramirez moved. Martine Pierre-Louis seconded. 7 of 7 were in favor.

Governance

Governing Council Appointments:

The Governing Council Chair thanked the Council members for responding to his request to put names forward for both GC seats and Strategic Advisors. He then reviewed and explained Resolutions 17-2025 and 18-2025, which were included in the meeting packet.

- He explained that Governing Council terms run with the seat—as such, the people recommended for appointment would begin terms in January 2026.
- The first resolution appoints Diane Pietrowski, a current Strategic Advisor, as a GC member. She will take the current vacant seat. The same resolution also re-appoints Martine Pierre-Louis to a second term.
- The Governing Council Chair explained that another GC member has a term that is ending, and it is her final term on the GC. This seat is a Mayoral appointment.



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- There was a recommendation to bring in Blishda Lacet, from King County Public Health, who the GC spoke with at a previous meeting, as a Governing Council Member. They would like to put her name forward for consideration. However, in the interim, they would like to offer Blishda a role as a Strategic Advisor, so she can assist the GC with their current grantmaking conversations before the new year. She would become a Strategic Advisor to the Program Committee right away and be recommended for appointment as a GC member in January by the Mayor.

Douglass Jackson asked the GC to vote on each of these appointments and re-appointments.

- *Strategic Advisor:* To appoint Blishda Lacet as Strategic Advisor to the Program Committee starting immediately in November.
 - Nancy Sugg moved. Martine Louis-Pierre seconded. 7 of 7 were in favor.
- *Res. 17-2025 Recommendation to Mayor's Office:* The recommendation to appoint Blishda Lacet as a GC member beginning in January 2026.
 - Nick Ramirez moved. Nancy Sugg seconded. 7 of 7 were in favor.
- *Res. 18-2025 Governing Council Appointments:* To appoint Diane Pietrowski as a GC member for her first term, and re-appoint Martine Pierre-Louis as a GC member, with terms starting in 2026.
 - Bob Cook moved. Nick Ramirez seconded. 6 of 7 were in favor. 1 member abstained, Martine Pierre-Louis.

Grantmaking and Program

2026 Grantmaking (Invited Participants: Current PHPDA Strategic Advisors)

The Program Committee Chair opened the discussion on the 2026 Grantmaking season. She gave an update and summary from the discussion at the last Program Committee meeting. She presented two proposals for directions to take grantmaking in 2026, outlining the potential pros and cons for each.

- First, she described “Proposal A,” which would likely be a one-time round of funding would replace the current major grants format as the Governing Council works toward their future funding direction in the transformation planning process. Grant applications would be limited to those with previous or current grants with PHPDA. For this proposal, the grants would be \$150,000 and the money could be used to craft responses to challenges and uncertainties due to funding and policy changes. The goal would be to help organizations with scenario-planning during this unprecedented period.
- There would not be any LOIs, just short applications. There would still need to be budget and organizational attachments They would award approximately ten grants for 1 year only, and they would not be renewable.
- The Program Committee Chair then explained the possible pros and cons for “Proposal A.”



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- For pros, she said that money could be used to help organizations navigate changes and policy cuts and would free up more PHPDA funding sooner for transformation work..
- The biggest con she noted was that there was no community input for the proposal, and therefore it is not clear if this is what the community wants or needs. In community meetings that various GC members have attended, larger grant amounts and longer grant periods were the priorities raised. In addition, there is concern about discontinuing major grants when a lot of other funding is at risk.
- Another con is having invite-only proposals – which is a common complaint of community organizations.
- The Program Committee Chair next explained “Proposal B.” This proposal would be to continue major grants in the usual process, but to focus on specific groups or issues. The intent of this proposal would be to have strict focus areas and to not accept grant applications outside of those focus areas.
 - She discussed several possibilities for focus areas.
 - Grants could not be used for simple continuation of existing programs—no gap funding.
- She then explained the pros and cons of “Proposal B.”
 - For pros, this proposal would continue to keep the door open to new groups and could direct money to those most at risk for funding cuts. In addition, it would continue to fund successful programs by allowing expansion.
 - In terms of cons, this proposal could commit PHPDA to fund programs for 3 years which might delay the full shift in funding to the new transformation plan. Additionally, there is no direct community input about the focus areas.
- The Program Committee Chair explained one other possibility: going forward with Proposal B but also using money from reserves to do a separate special funding round in 2026, which could be more like Proposal A.
- The Governing Council discussed the various proposals in terms of the transformation work that will be the focus of the coming year, with the new consultant.
 - Some Council Members expressed concern about cutting the major grants before the transformation work begins.
 - The Council discussed how they could use 2026 to start changing the way they do major grants but not making a huge shift right away. In that way, communities could help give input on the transformation process and help inform them on it.
 - Council members noted that the transformation process with the new consultant is going to take time. Multiple members expressed hesitancy in making a substantial change now,



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before the consultant comes on, and before they can also consult more with the community on what they need.

- A few Council members agreed that they should continue with what has been successful in the past, before making a transformation more intentionally in the coming years.
- The Governing Council discussed the possible ramifications of Proposal A within the community in terms of only having funding for a brief time.
- The Program Committee Chair noted that they also discussed other limitations to the applicant pool in Proposal B. They could only allow one application per organization. Additionally, if an organization has a grant still in their 3-year funding period, then they are not eligible to apply again until that grant has ended.
- One Council member said she hopes the new consultant can help PHPDA make tough decisions for transformation. As she listened to the two proposals, she wondered which option would bring PHPDA toward transformation and systemic change.
- The Governing Council discussed whether either of these proposals would help fix what they consider a broken system, and the overall opinion was that neither would get as far as they would like on that metric, but that this will be the goal of the future funding direction after transformation planning.
- The Governing Council Chair noted that even if they go with Proposal B, it still will make a clear statement to the community that this is not how we have done grants before. This would be signaling to the community that change is coming. Since PHPDA has a good name in the community, he thinks this idea of signaling a change would be important, rather than cutting major grants and changing things all at once.
- The Program Committee chair expressed a desire to have the Governing Council vote on either Proposal A or Proposal B, but with proposal B, have that caveat that we might come back to part of Proposal A later in 2026.
 - One member noted that she thinks they are all in agreement that we want to do something different and suggested a later start to 20206 grantmaking.
 - The Council discussed the issue with waiting to announce the grant season in that it will delay them rewarding money to organizations. There is concern about the community perception if they delay, particularly in the current climate. Additionally, the Council discussed concern regarding the consultant coming on and how making a change like this beforehand might be skipping part of the process.
 - A few Council members agreed that they should continue with another major grant cycle until they have gone through the full process to determine future direction.



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- A couple of other Council members were torn on the decision, understanding the pros of all the ideas. One member noted that phasing the shift of funds makes sense to him. Another member agreed but wants the focus areas on that to be extremely clear and narrow.
- The Acting Executive Director summarized that it sounds as though the Governing Council generally wants to stick with major grants for 2026 for the process and timing, but in the next couple of months the Program Committee would keep discussing what those narrow focus areas would be and make a recommendation by their December meeting.

Douglass Jackson asked for a motion to continue the major grantmaking process with a much narrower focus, and to leave it to Program Committee to make a recommendation on that focus. In addition, for them to look at additional grantmaking in 2026 related to transformation.

Bob Cook seconded. 5 of 7 were in favor. 2 voted no.

Property Management & Real Estate

Conversation with Department of Commerce

- The Governing Council Chair told the Council that he, the Acting Executive Director, and another staff member met with some representatives from Commerce for a “meet and greet.” He plans to continue meeting and discussing the property uses with them, with involvement of other Executive Committee members.

Quarters Update

- The Acting Executive Director gave a brief update on the Quarters lease proposal that they have been working on with SCIDpda. She said that she and some GC members, along with the PHPDA Real Estate Consultant, have had regular meetings with SCIDpda about the Quarters and will continue to have them. The plan at this point that they are working toward is to have an MOA completed and approved by the end of the year, as well as other documents drafted.

Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110(1)c

- The Governing Council entered Executive Session at 6:53 p.m. for 20 minutes to discuss Property Management and Real Estate matters pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(c).
- The Governing Council exited Executive Session at 7:13 p.m. The Governing Council Chair moved to extend the executive session at 7:14pm for 6 minutes, with all members in agreement. The Governing Council re-entered Executive Session for 6 minutes to continue discussing Property Management and Real Estate matters pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(c).



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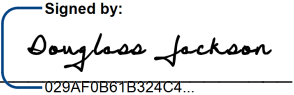
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Adjournment

The Governing Council Chair thanked everyone for staying late for this meeting. He reminded the GC that they changed the date of the November meeting due to the holiday, so it will now be November 18th.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.

Minutes Approved:  11/20/2025
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