

APPROVED

WASHINGTON CONVENTION AND SPORTS AUTHORITY
(WCSA)

t/a EVENTS DC

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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PUBLIC SESSION

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

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The meeting came to order at 9:04 a.m. EST in the Charlene Drew Jarvis Board Room, Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Allen Y. Lew Place, NW, Washington, D.C., Leif Dormsjo, Chairman, presiding.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

LEIF DORMSJO, Chairman
JAY HADDOCK ORTIZ, Treasurer
MONICA RAY, Secretary
ALAN BUBES, Member*
MARISA FLOWERS, Member*
SOLOMON KEENE, Member*
BRIAN KENNER, Member*
GEORGE "TY" SIMPSON, Member

STAFF PRESENT:

ANGIE M. GATES, President and CEO
NICOLE JACKSON, General Counsel
DANIA JOLLEY, Deputy Chief of Staff
VERONICA TAYLOR, Controller

OTHER ATTENDEES:

DIANA MAYHEW, President and CEO, National Cherry Blossom Festival
Representatives of UNITE HERE LOCAL 23

*present via videoconference

Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chairman Leif Dormsjo called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Ms. Jolley called the roll and determined that a quorum was present.

Closed Session:

The Chairman announced that the first portion of the meeting would be in closed session to discuss contract negotiations as provided by D.C. Code § 2-575(b)(2), to discuss commercial or financial information obtained from outside the public body as provided by D.C. Code § 2-575(b)(11), to consult with counsel as provided by D.C. Code § 2-575(b)(4)(A), and to discuss personnel matters as provided by D.C. Code § 2-575(b)(10).

Reconvene Meeting

The meeting was reconvened at 10:01 a.m.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the October 10, 2025 Board meeting were approved by acclamation.

Public Comments:

Members of Unite Here Local 23 presented on their roles working with Aramark in the Convention Center and expressed their expectations for an improved new contract. The Chairman stated that Events DC respects organized labor and values the dignity of work. He noted that the union's contract is with a third party, but if something needed to change with the Authority's contract, the Board would advocate and intervene as needed. Ms. Gates thanked the commenters for the work they do for the Convention Center.

Chairman's Remarks:

The Chairman welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. He celebrated the decorations beautifying the District this holiday season and acknowledged the Authority's partnership with the Washington Nationals. He thanked Gregory McCarthy, Senior Vice President of the Washington Nationals, for taking the Chairman, Dr. Steven Johnson, and Mr. Ryan Conway on a tour of Nationals Park. The Chairman also commented on the progress of the RFK demolition and the status of the offices at 800 K Street.

President and Chief Executive Officer's Report:

Ms. Gates wished attendees a happy holiday season and congratulated the Real Estate and Strategic Initiatives team and Smoot Construction of Washington, DC for their work on the RFK Memorial Stadium demolition.

In the Conventions and Meetings Division, Ms. Gates reported on the eleven events at the Convention Center in October and November, including five citywides, with a combined total of

91,100 attendees. She highlighted the Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition, the American Public Health Association's Annual Convention, and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference. Ms. Gates is looking forward to the four events scheduled for December, with an expected 8,000 attendees. She highlighted the 105th National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference, SneakerCon, and the DC Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Chairman's Inaugural Breakfast.

In the Sports and Entertainment Division, Ms. Gates reported on the 24 events in October and November at the RFK and St. Elizabeths East campuses, with a total of 16,000 attendees. She highlighted Race the District, the Because They're Funny Comedy Festival at the Wharf, 2025 Capital City Go-Go season, and Inaugural Blake Bozeman Foundation HBCU in DC Tip-Off Experience at CareFirst Arena. Ms. Gates is looking forward to the 12 events scheduled for December, with an expected total of 27,000 attendees. She highlighted Six Feet Under with the Undertaker, the John Cena Final Match and Official Fan Fest, and the return of the Battle for the Real HU, which will feature both the men's and women's basketball teams.

In the Community Engagement Division, Ms. Gates reported on the success of the annual Costume Carnival and the 26th Annual Safeway Feast of Sharing, which provided holiday meals for 5,000 people, and she is looking forward to the return of Winter Wonderland. Ms. Gates thanked the Events DC team for their work to make these events happen.

Mr. Haddock Ortiz noted that kindness influencer Samuel Weidenhofer planned to bring a child with cancer to attend the John Cena event.

National Cherry Blossom Festival (NCBF) Presentation:

Ms. Mayhew presented a report on the Festival and acknowledged her colleague Ms. Melissa Lembke, Senior Sponsorship and Development Manager. Ms. Mayhew noted that the Festival began to transition from an all-volunteer organization 25 years ago and thanked Events DC for supporting the vision to take the Festival beyond the tidal basin into all eight Wards of the city.

In 2025, 1.6 million people attended the Festival, which garnered over 22 billion media impressions from 204 countries. This year, Yahoo! was a media partner, which extended the reach of the Festival's media messaging. One Hundred Thirty Thousand people participated in the Blossom Kite Festival this year, and NCBF has been taking on more of the fees around this event as the National Park Service budget is impacted. The 2025 Festival generated over \$202 million in visitor spending for the District. As a Leadership Circle Sponsor, Events DC presented the Blossom Tea Party, Blossom Kicks for Kids, and the Parade, and received over 276 million impressions. The Parade also featured DC's Different Drummers, a WorldPride custom-wrapped bus, and a Petals the Panda helium balloon.

Events DC and other partners joined the NCBF in Japan, participating in leadership exchanges with Japanese government officials and hosting a reception including four former Japanese Ambassadors to the United States and more than 70 business leaders. The NCBF has been counseling Marunouchi business district leaders on expanding their own cherry blossom festivals into the business district in Tokyo. 2027 will mark the 100th anniversary of the festival, and NCBF is excited to celebrate history while looking to the future of the event.

Mr. Haddock Ortiz congratulated the NCBF team for making the Festival one of the three busiest times of the year for the District. Ms. Gates thanked the NCBF team for their work. Mr. Simpson noted that the National Mall has become synonymous with cherry blossoms, and complimented SHŌTŌ's cherry-blossom themed cocktail, Yoshino.

Operations Committee:

At its meeting on December 1, 2025, the Committee received an update on the Convention Center restroom project and considered one recommendation. Demolition in Exhibit Hall B commenced in November, and work continues until the last two weeks of December. Six sets of restrooms will be replaced in Phase One of FY 2026. The Restroom Replacement Project is slated for completion in 2026. Staff shared a promotional preview prepared by the Creative Services Division for the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The recommendation was the approval of increased funding for the contract with Venable LLP for legal services, bringing the total not-to-exceed amount for FY 2026 to \$950,000. The Committee unanimously voted to approve placing the recommendation before the full Board. Ms. Jackson read a summary of Resolution 25-26, which was moved and seconded and approved unanimously.

Real Estate and Economic Development Committee Report:

At its meeting on December 1, 2025, the Committee received updates and one recommendation. As the RFK Stadium demolition proceeds, the Committee reviewed the schedule for demolition, as well as dust monitoring and safety reports. The Committee received formal feedback from the National Park Service concerning the approval of crushed concrete for backfill material. The Committee held a confidential discussion with counsel about transaction documents. A quarterly meeting on the RFK demolition was held on December 8, 2025, and quarterly meetings will continue until the completion of the project in the fall of 2026.

The DC Council designated the District as the Sports Capital of the United States and directed Events DC to deliver a plan to implement strategies elevating the District's sports positioning within 120 days. Staff expected deliverables to be prepared in time to meet this target.

The recommendation was the approval of an office space lease with TMG 800 K Street LLC for the seventh floor of 800 K Street NW, with an initial term of eleven years and five months and two five-year renewal options, at a not-to-exceed cost for the initial term of \$7,777,174, with an additional not-to-exceed cost of \$910,000 for furniture, fixtures, and equipment. The Committee unanimously voted to approve placing the recommendation before the full Board. Ms. Jackson read a summary of Resolution 25-27, which was moved and seconded and approved unanimously.

Finance Monthly Report:

Ms. Taylor provided the Board with the Authority's financial update. Operating revenues were approximately \$1.3 million above projections. Ms. Taylor highlighted as key events the U.S. Army Expo, the SCTE TechExpo, Nvidia, and the American Dental Association. Non-operating revenues were approximately \$1.46 million below projections, as dedicated taxes and interest income underperformed. Operating expenses were approximately \$308,000 below budget. Marketing expenses were \$120,000 below budget, due to the downturn in dedicated tax revenue, while debt services were at budget. Capital expenditures totaled \$996,000 and supported the RFK Stadium demolition project, carpet and flooring replacement, building enhancement, ESA-limited capital expenditure, and lease-tenant improvements. The Office of Tax and Revenue was still updating the calculation for the Destination DC transfers, so those totals were not included in the report. Ms. Gates noted that the Operations team has efficiently and aggressively utilized funding.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

There was no new business.

