

**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, APRIL 9, 2026

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The meeting came to order at 9:00 a.m. EDT 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  
CHERRIE DOGGETT, Vice Chairman  
JAY HADDOCK ORTIZ, Treasurer  
MONICA RAY, Secretary  
NINA ALBERT, Member  
ALAN BUBES, Member  
MARISA FLOWERS, Member  
SOLOMON KEENE, Member  
BRIAN KENNER, Member  
GLEN LEE, Member  
GEORGE "TY" SIMPSON, Member

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**OTHER ATTENDEES:**

RACHELLE NIGRO, Commissioner for ANC 2G06  
VINCENT VAZQUEZ, Vice President of Operations, Aramark

**Call to Order and Roll Call:**

Vice Chairman Doggett called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Ms. Jolley called the roll and determined that a quorum was present.

**Closed Session:**

The Vice 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 business development opportunities as provided by D.C. Code 2-575(b)(3), for consultation with counsel as provided by D.C. Code 2-575(b)(4)(a), to discuss personnel matters as provided by D.C. Code 2-575(b)(10), and to discuss commercial or financial information obtained from outside the public body as provided by D.C. Code 2-575(b)(11).

The meeting reconvened in public session at 10:15 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from the March 12, 2026 Board meeting were approved by acclamation.

**Public Comments:**

Ms. Nigro commented on the sparse business opportunities east of the Convention Center and asked the Board to push business towards them. She also commented on the central cell block for the city that will be opened in October and the direct effect it will have on the Convention Center.

**Chairman's Remarks:**

Chairman Dormsjo highlighted the ceremonial first pitch at Nationals Park on April 3, 2026, which included a flyover, a performance of "America the Beautiful" by the U.S. Army Ceremonial Band, and Mayor Bowser declaring play ball. He commended Ms. Gates and the Events DC team for the Nationals stadium lease extension through 2059. The Chairman also expressed excitement for the upcoming festival season and the events that were being hosted on RFK Campus for residents and visitors.

**President and Chief Executive Officer's Remarks:**

Ms. Gates discussed the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade where Events DC will have its own float highlighting Passport DC.

In the Conventions and Meetings Division, Ms. Gates reported on the 18 events held at the Convention Center in March, with a combined attendance of 119,000 attendees. She highlighted Awesome Con, Rock 'n' Roll Running Series Health and Fitness Expo, Satellite 2026, and the Black College Expo. There are 19 events scheduled for April with an anticipated 31,000 attendees. These include Data Center World, a local scholastic chess tournament, and Modern Day Marine.

In the Sports and Entertainment Division, Ms. Gates reported on Capital City Go-Go, the Special Olympics DC Adult Unified Basketball Championship, and NCAA Men's East Regionals, with a combined attendance of 19,000 attendees. In April, Events DC will host 19 sporting and

entertainment events, with a predicted attendance of 11,500 attendees, including the Washington Mystics vs. Minnesota Lynx WNBA game and Day of Play at RFK 2026.

In the Community Engagement Division, Ms. Gates reported 23 events were hosted throughout the District, with 53,000 attendees. Ms. Gates highlighted a partnership with the National Cherry Blossom Festival to host two events: the Blossom Tea Party and Design Day as part of the Blossom Kicks for Kids program.

**Presentation:**

Mr. Vazquez presented the Board with a snapshot of the relationship between Events DC and Aramark and the benefits it brings to the District. Chairman Dormsjo suggested Aramark consider exploring potential office space in the District to get even more deeply rooted in the city and partner on the many upcoming activities. Other members concurred with this suggestion and further expounded on the opportunities in the city. Mr. Simpson asked how the District compares in size and revenue to other markets, and Mr. Vazquez said it outpaced other convention centers in Aramark's portfolio in 2025. Where things will land in 2026 is unclear, but other cities are facing issues similar to the District. Ms. Flowers asked what percentage of Aramark's overall spend goes to local companies and where there may be opportunities for small businesses to connect. Mr. Vazquez responded that 82% of Aramark's spend on vendors in the District goes to CBEs. The supplier side is where Aramark would like to see more small business growth in its operations in the District, and it is looking for ways to help companies scale up production.

**Capital Budget and Finance Committee Report:**

Mr. Lee presented the report on the Authority's financial status. The 2026 fiscal year budget was modified from \$278.6 million to \$249.6 million including \$41.2 million from reserves. The Board will approve a total budget of \$267.7 million for fiscal year 2027, including \$62.9 million from reserves, as recommended by the Interim Chief Financial Officer. Fiscal years 2026 through 2030's financial plan will include \$1.2 billion in revenues and \$1.4 billion in expenses, including \$171.6 million from reserves. Ms. Jackson read a summary of Resolution 26-03, which was moved, seconded and approved.

**Real Estate and Economic Development Committee:**

The Committee received updates at its March 30, 2026 meeting on the RFK Stadium demolition and status of Events DC's role in the RFK redevelopment project. Demolition activities and water installation remain on schedule and within budget.

**Operations Committee:**

At its March 30, 2026, meeting, the Committee received updates on the DC Armory and the Convention Center roof and restroom projects. Phase Two is 100% complete, and Phase Three has begun. Mr. Haddock Ortiz also highlighted Destination DC's bookings from October to December and international expansion.

**Business Development and Strategic Partnership:**

The Committee received updates at its April 1, 2026 meeting about the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Congress activities, including a joint holiday celebration with the U.S. Black Chamber of Commerce and the French-American Chamber of Commerce. The Greater

Washington Hispanic Chamber's newsletter now has 30,000 subscribers. Destination DC faces challenges with international travel due to the current political climate. There were 25 events that brought in \$34 million and 83,000 attendees.

**Cultural Affairs and Grants Committee Report:**

At its April 1, 2026, meeting, the Committee received updates on key grant programs and community and cultural affair initiatives. For the Cycle Two grant program, 164 submissions were received and 35 programs have been recommended for funding. Mr. Simpson highlighted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Nonprofit Resource Fair, the Embassy Breakfast, a sold-out Art at the Center Tour, and a partnership with the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Upcoming programs include the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Day of Play at RFK and the 19<sup>th</sup> year of Passport DC, with 60 embassies registered for the Around the World Tour. The 2027 grants program will open June 15<sup>th</sup> and close August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Finance Monthly Report:**

Ms. Taylor provided the Board with the Authority's financial status. Operating revenues for Conventions and Meetings were approximately \$9.5 million, 3% below budget. Operating revenues for Sports and Entertainment were approximately \$1.7 million, up by 46% due to building rental from CareFirst. Non-operating revenues were approximately \$60.7 million. Dedicated tax revenues are down by 10%. Interest income was \$6.3 million, up by 16%.

Operating expenses for Conventions and Meetings were approximately \$34.5 million, 3% below budget. Operating expenses for Sports and Entertainment were approximately \$8 million, 6% below budget, due to shortfalls and personal services related to vacancies and contractual services. Marketing expenses were \$9.7 million, 11% less than budgeted, due to decrease in dedicated tax transfers to Destination DC. Capital expenditure was nearly \$10.9 million, with 15% of budget used on capital. This includes facility restroom renovations, Nationals Stadium improvements, overall facility updates, and equipment upgrades, among other projects.

Chairman Dormsjo commented on the drop in capital, the facility condition assessment done two years ago, and the assessment of costs.

**New Business:**

Vice Chairman Doggett highlighted the Events DC ads that ran on national television during the NCAA tournament.

**Old Business:**

There was no old business.

**Adjournment:**

The Chairman announced that the next meeting of the Board will take place on June 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. There being no other business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Signed by:  
*Monica Ray* 6/15/2026  
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Monica Ray Date  
Secretary

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*Reginald Smith* 6/16/2026  
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Reginald L. Smith Date  
Vice President and Deputy General Counsel