



# Maryland State Arts Council Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES  
October 25, 2022  
Google Meet

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The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Council, make recommendations to the Council, and shall perform other duties as specified...

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In attendance: Jackie Copeland, John Schratweiser, Shelley Morhaim, Jack Rasmussen, Emily Sollenberger, Laura Weiss, Julie Madden, Zoe Charlton, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Keyonna Penick, Tom Riford, Lily Bengfort

After guiding documents, Jackie Copeland called the meeting to order at approximately 11:07 am.

Zoe Charlton made a motion to accept the August 23, 2022 committee meeting minutes. Shelley Morhaim seconded. All in favor. The minutes were approved.

## **National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Debrief**

- Julie Madden, Lily Bengfort, and Jack Rasmussen attended the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Conference in Kansas City, Missouri in September.
- Councilors agreed that the trip was enlightening and informative. Workshops and sessions were eye-opening and sparked new areas of interest. Councilors enjoyed the conference, appreciated the chance to connect with Mid-Atlantic colleagues, and also noted how high in esteem Maryland is held among the other states.
- Steven thanked the councilors for attending and representing the arts council. Steven found the ED sessions extremely valuable and connecting with new executive directors helped to discuss shared experiences. Ryan Patterson represented the council very well in the Public Art session.

Assistant Secretary Tom Riford thanked Steven for his leadership and expressed his positivity from the conversation with Secretary Mike Gill.

## **Executive Director's Report (Skerritt-Davis)**



### **Staffing Update**

- Grants Mgmt associate in final stages
- Interview panel created for Deputy Director interviews

### **Strategic Planning Update**

- Very successful/helpful first committee meeting on
- Revising RFP
- Timeline: Sept-Oct 2022 - RFP Development; Nov 2022 - RFP Solicitation

### **Regional Office Hours**

- First two in Central Maryland: Ellicott City and Western Maryland: Cumberland completed successfully although low attendance, those who showed up were engaged and appreciative.
- Thanks to Chris for attending in Western Maryland; Julie plans to attend Lower Eastern Shore, Jackie plans to attend Central Maryland and John plans to attend Upper Eastern Shore hours; the importance of connections between the council and grantees was echoed by all
- Hopeful to have these more regularly, perhaps two or three times a year.
- After the next five (Upper Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland, Lower Eastern Shore, Capital Region, and Central Maryland) staff will decide on how to move forward

### **Program Policy & Evaluation preview**

- Special requests policy will be reviewed to make discretionary grant-making more transparent, policies will be presented and reviewed for a vote
- The Arts in Education 2019 revision process is finally being implemented; as a result, one organization has been awarded over 25% of our total allocation; recommending a mid-year policy change to cap the total funds that one org can receive so we can ensure there are funds for a teaching artist to work throughout the state throughout the year

### **Arts relief updates**

- Awarded to Date: \$ 164,874; Creativity:\$57,422.96; Arts in Education:\$107,451.04
- Arts Relief General Operating Support Deadline - October 31  
Public Art Deadlines - October 24 and March 24
- Grants for Artists awarded - mid-February and mid-April
- Next time this committee meets this number will be much different.
- Planning grants and then implementation grants poised to spend 2M



- Through the office of legislative affairs legislators are asking about arts reliefs and how distribution is happening.
- MSAC provides department leadership with updates about the awards and makes funding available
- The state of Vermont has a \$9M fund related to arts relief; following in Maryland's footsteps in programming and capping grant amounts
- MSAC work is making a big difference and having a great influence on spreading joy around the country

### **Post-Secretary Meeting Debrief (Copeland, Skerritt-Davis)**

- October 20, 2022, in office meeting; in person, Secretary Mike Gill, Chief of staff, Executive Director, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Lily Bengfort, and John Schratwieser; on the phone, Julie Madden and Carole Alexander. Purpose: to discuss the Executive Director's proposal for additional staff for a budget that has increased by 72%;
- Council members explained more staff needed to meet the mandate; The ED submitted a request to develop a new org. chart, the ED currently has ten direct reports
- Councilors and the secretary connected through banjo music and football and discussed holding up the importance of the arts.
- Major takeaway: The current secretary has sixty days left in the term so there will not be a huge shift
- The secretary has, however, worked within the department to secure a pin for the Art Capital Director, a mandated position currently waiting to be posted after a Human Resources review.
- Secretary Gill reassured those in attendance that the recommendation will be made to the new secretary for the reorganization proposal and contractual positions to be placed as a priority
- Discussion to be had with Maryland Citizens of the Arts in regards to considering staff capacity with any potential appropriation.

### **November 10 Council Meeting Agenda Review (Copeland)**

- Executive Director's Report
- Executive Committee Report
- Governance Committee Report
- Program Policy Evaluation Committee Report
- Maryland Citizens for the Arts Update
  - Important prep, councilors suggest a convo with MCA about any potential amount of appropriation coming without the capacity of staff.
  - Thinking about being understaffed by comparison to states with the same size budget in the future; capacity is number 3 of our 5 goals.



- Executive Director, Nicholas Cohen has acknowledged the need

### **New Business**

- The final regional virtual exhibition started last week; highlighting work from visual artists in Western MD
- Open discussion is planned to gather visual arts folks to talk about online exhibitions, how they served, where it's going and lessons learned.
- A Recommendation to speak with Peter Brun who has great work building permanent online exhibitions was made.

Congratulations to Zoe for her work at the Great Migration Exhibition at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:49 am