



Maryland State Arts Council Council Meeting MINUTES

June 8, 2023
UMBC University Center
1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250

Staff attended: Steven Skerrit-Davis, Keyonna Penick, Shaunte Roper, Ryan Patterson, Emily Sollenberger, Laura Weiss, Catherine Teixeira, Ryan Koons, David Mitchell, Elizabeth Morales, Chad Buterbaugh, Assistant Secretary Tom Riford, and Special Guest: Secretary Kevin Anderson

Councilors attended: Jacqueline Copeland, John Schratweiser, Joel Snyder, Tonya Miller Hall, Jack Rasmussen, Chris Sloan, Shelley Morhaim, Carole Alexander, Molline Jackson, Delegate Cheryl Pasteur (v)

Jackie Copeland called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. and reviewed the guiding documents.

Creative Assignment

Jack Rasmussen shared work from grantee Rhonda Baer's exhibit at the American University Museum in Washington, D.C.

Welcome Secretary Kevin Anderson

The Secretary shared updates from the administration. The Governor has seen American exceptionalism in a great way in his travels and educational path, and the unintended consequences on society, he understands the real work to maintain a balance of equitable practices. Governor Moore has accelerated the minimum wage, has new goals for renewable energy, and opportunities for graduates transitioning into the workforce.

This administration wants to move broadly and quickly and understands the arts communities are the strongest asset as the arts add value to our lives and make the state more beautiful and thoughtful. The arts make Maryland a place where people want to live and be which helps attract the economy, which is why investing in all areas of our state is important. The Secretary shared that he's proud he gets to work with the agency and be a part of making Maryland prosperous.



John thanked the Secretary for attending. He shared that in reference to Economic development Kent County commissioned is facing troubling times although the budget from the county grew 10% and emphasized the importance of investment in the county's economy by attending festivals and checking out the art scene.

He shared that a focus on economic development should be met with making sure the government is in its full capacity to serve. Shelley echoed John and expressed her gratitude about the arts and community development being interconnected in this administration's vision. She also shared her excitement about working with the Secretary.

Several council members shared that overall the goal is to create a cultural economic business aspect and an ecosystem of structures that eliminate the struggling artist. Councilors agreed that when it comes to economic development artists and the arts community are most at risk when it comes to leveraging resources and being the soul of an economy isn't always recognized. Chris mentioned that Western Maryland has a very strong arts community that has benefited from COVID relief and public art grants, however, people don't know they're there.

The Secretary mentioned that this administration is fully committed to working towards leaving no one behind and he welcomes any and all creative ideas to weave that thread all through Maryland. Suggestions were made for an arts road trip throughout Maryland.

The Secretary also pointed out that the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs has made unprecedented strides to make small and minority women's businesses become a strong part of our economy.

Steven thanked the Secretary for attending the meeting as well as the staff meeting a few weeks prior to the council meeting.

Chair Remarks

Jackie thanked the staff and acknowledged John for stepping up in her absence. Thanked departing councilors Julia Madden, Jack Rasmussen, and Molline Jackson. Welcomed new council members Tonya Miller Hall, Joel Snyder, and Ashley Minner Jones and as of July 1, 2023, Gregory Tucker, Ruby Lopez Harper, and Paige Hernandez.



Shelley made a motion to approve the March 9, 2023 council meeting minutes. Chris seconded the motion. All in favor, Ashley abstained. The motion passed.

John made a motion to approve the April 27, 2023 council meeting minutes. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor, Ashley abstained. The motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Assistant Secretary Tom Riford thanked the staff for their herculean efforts over the past years.

Steven presented the organizational chart and shared that Ryan Patterson serves as the Arts Capital Program Manager. The Deputy Director position is moving forward and the Marketing and Communications Manager position remains vacant.

Arts Relief Updates

- Awarded to date: <39.9M
- Paid to date: <28.8M

Arts relief tracker shared to reflect the record number of applications received, grants awarded, payments processed, and feedback received. MSAC budget reallocations shared.

Strategic Planning

- Consultant interviews completed
- Updated Timeline
 - May/June 2022 - Proposal Review and Selection
 - July 2023 - Feb 2024 Plan Development
 - March-May 2023 - Drafting; July 2024 - Plan Launch

Staff Reports

Art Services shared a record number of applications and grants awarded across all programs.

Arts in Education had a record-breaking year with an increase in grant amounts awarded. Arts in Education grant supported arts activities across 18 counties in Maryland for a variety of demographics; Arts in Education Teaching Artist Roster currently lists 120 teaching artists. Poetry Out Loud -



Madison Harrison, Maryland Champion, won 3rd place in the National Poetry Out Loud Finals.

Public Art developed a new roster. Public Art Across Maryland Grants produced 88 new artworks and 16 conservation projects were funded. Artwork Commissions had over 500 applications received; 11 artists were under contract to create new art works for state capital building projects across 6 counties.

Grants for Artists pilot program had 1,900 applications received; 270 grants were awarded across 19 of 24 jurisdictions totaling 1.6M. Special Request 2023 relaunch 74 applications received; 9 grants awarded.

Maryland Traditions -oldest program; Folklife Apprenticeship awarded 95K in general funds and 150K in arts relief funds. Heritage Awards - 6 awards totaling 60K. Folklife Network - 680K from general funds for 8 grants and 875K of arts relief for 16 grants.

County Arts Development 4.75M in general funds for 24 grants and 6.05M of arts relief for 45 grants. Arts and Entertainment Districts awarded 27 grants from general funds and 44 grants from arts relief funding; Leonardtown, Historic Stevensville, Cambridge, Frederick, and Highlandtown redesignated. Network Organizational Development - 9 grants awarded.

Grants Office & Fiscal Snapshot

- Over 2,200 grants awarded MSAC-wide
- ~2,250 grant payments processed + non-grants

Executive Committee Report (Schratwieser)

FY24 Legislative Earmarks were presented along with resources from National Assembly State Arts Agencies about line items. The council agreed that there should be an objective to make sure the process for supporting artists and arts organizations stays within the well-developed process of the Arts Council and its equitable funding model.

Fiscal Update and FY24 Budget Recommendations presented.

Shelley made a motion to approve the budget recommendation from the finance committee and send the Council's recommendation to the Secretary for approval. Carole seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.



Grants Committee Recommendations (Schratwieser, Mitchell, Skerritt-Davis, Sollenberger, Weiss)

County Arts Development FY24 Grant Recommendations - \$5 million total

- County Arts Development (CAD) grants support county arts agencies, with the goals of providing:
 - A vital connection with artists, arts organizations, and audiences throughout the State.
 - Encouragement of local arts activity of all disciplines in all of Maryland's diverse communities.
 - Equitable funding for the arts on the local level through transparent processes that are accessible to all county constituents.
- 6 county art agencies submitted FY24 on-year applications and received full panel review; 18 submitted off-year applications reviewed by staff
- The funding formula includes two components:
 - Block grant - 90% of the allocated budget divided equally
 - Population grant - 10% of the allocated budget by % of the State population

Jackie made a motion to approve the FY24 County Arts Development funding recommendations and send them to the Secretary for approval. Molline seconded. All in favor. John, Shelley, and Carole recused themselves. The motion passed.

Grants for Organizations FY24 Funding Recommendations - \$18 million total

- Grants for Organizations (GFO) provide operating support that strengthens and sustains Maryland's arts infrastructure.
- The funding formula includes three variables:
 - $(\text{Total Allowable Income } \$) \times (\text{Panel \% Score}) \times (\text{Cap Allocation \%}) = \text{Grant Amount}$
- Total FY24 application reviews = 297
 - 25 New Orgs, 98 On-Year w/full panel review, 174 Off-Year w/staff review
- Meeting materials included:
 - 3 organizations not recommended for funding
 - 2 organizations not meeting financial requirements
 - 11 organizations not submitting an application/completing the review process
 - 23 new organizations funded; Breakdown by discipline



- Reminder of the beginning of the five-year implementation of Equitable Funding Formula; Tier comparison

Ashley made a motion to approve the FY24 Grants for Organizations funding recommendations and send them to the Secretary for approval. Carole seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.

Program Policy and Evaluation Committee Report

Grant Program Consolidation Policies

Network Organizational Development (NOD) Proposal

- Pause NOD in FY24 and direct constituents to Special Request grant.

Special Request Grant Proposal

- Lower grant request range to \$2,000 - \$25,000.
- Make pre-application consultations recommended, not required.
- Clarify that eligible requests must represent a departure from the applicant's regular arts activities; add a question and an evaluation criterion to this effect.

Emergency Grant Policy Proposal

- Pause the Emergency Grant program in FY24
- Publish other available emergency resources
- Reevaluate with intentionality to determine the best ways to support artists

Arts Education Program Revision Proposal

- Increase maximum grant amount to \$6,000; Establish a Lead Artist on all applications
- Establish a maximum on AiE grant awards for Lead Artists and Organizations; Broaden the definition of who may serve as a Site Coordinator
- Clarify when the presence of a site coordinator is required during AiE-funded projects; Clarify and expand allowable expenses
- Remove the AiE Equitable Funding Formula from the website and future guidelines; Remove the electronic signature of the Site Coordinator from the AiE grant application
- Add the electronic signature of the Lead Artist to the AiE grant application; Change the application question of site-wide support from a scored criterion to an eligibility criterion
- Add 1 point to applications from underrepresented counties (1 or 0 applications in a previous fiscal year); Adjust the weights of the questions more evenly throughout the application.



Arts in Education Teaching Artist Policy Proposal

- Streamline the application/review process from a two-step to one-step process. Replace site visits with a recording of instruction, performance, and/or online program.
- Replace the Teaching Artist Statement question with three short answer questions scored to ensure the applicant's work aligns with MSAC's values.
- Update the rubric to align with modified application questions. Adjust the weight of the questions more evenly throughout the application.

Public Art Across Maryland New Artworks & Conservation Grants Policy Proposal

- Establish a definition for "Public Art" that can be supported through the PAAM grant; Change from bi-panel reviews to one annual review
- Reduce New Artworks project grant maximum to \$30,000 (currently \$50,000); Reduce Conservation project grant maximum to \$30,000 (currently \$50,000); Change New Artworks grant eligibility to require that applications are submitted by organizations working in collaboration with a lead artist (establishing a project team at the outset). Currently, Independent Artists may apply directly without an established team or organizational partners

Panelists, Jurors, Editors, and Judges Policy Proposal

- Codifying the approval of slates of panelists, editors, jurors, and judges as an administrative business not subject to the Open Meetings Act to continue the procedure of council approval via email.

Grants for Organizations Formula Policy Proposal

- Define "significant increase" as a 50% or more growth in allowable income from the previous fiscal year and "significant decrease" as a 50% or more decrease in allowable income from the previous fiscal year. For FY24 only, amend the significant decrease threshold to a 40% or more decrease in allowable income from the previous year to support especially small to mid-sized organizations in stabilizing post-pandemic.

John made a motion to approve policy proposals for Secretary of Commerce approval. Ashley and Carole second. All in favor. The Motion passed.

Independent Artist Awards Update
Program revision process to date



- Surveys; Listening sessions
- Staff input; Councilor input
- Editing process; Staff review

Results

- Additional staff or contractors are required to facilitate the program; recommendations would result in minimal change
- Staff to revisit the process in mid-July and update PPE Committee at the August meeting

Election of Officers

Election of officers bylaws and the Nominating Committee presented recommended slate of officers.

Carole made a motion to approve Jackie Copeland as Chair. Jack seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.

Chris made a motion to approve John Schratwieser as Vice-Chair. Carole seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.

John made a motion to approve Lily Bengfort as Secretary-Treasurer. Chris seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.

Equity & Justice Sharing

Molly and John attended the Grantmakers for the Arts equity workshop training. Both shared that the workshop highlighted the importance of how policies should be implemented and made a priority. They discussed the challenge of finding the right language to discuss racial equity in an organizational environment.

Cathy shared that from the staff perspective, it is meaningful to have councilors join. Its demonstrative staff and council are trying to work together and being able to share that experience and space makes it a lot easier when in other spaces together. Takeaways- The artistic excellence conversation came up; what are other metrics or ways to assign value?

Farewell Julie, Jack, and Molly

Carole presented each exiting councilor with a bowl designed by local designer Tom Conneley.



Sunshine fund

Fund managed and funded by councilors for gifts, special events, rotating offs, and other life events. Councilors are encouraged but not required to support the fund.

Public Comment

Grantee from the audience thanked Emily and Laura for the creativity grant. Suggested a creativity grant for separate sections, highlighting specific disciplines. Expressed concerns about exposure to the colleges and no advocacy for awareness of grant opportunities or grant writing workshops.

Ali Oliver-Krueger from InterAct Story Theatre from the chat shared: Thank you for the opportunity to observe virtually, and thank you for all you do to support the arts and our arts communities here in our great state of Maryland. A large part of the reason we are able to achieve their mission is because of the work that we all do. Thank tireless staff for working hard and thank you to the council.

Delegate Cheryl Pasteur thanked everyone for their incredible work and looks forward to being more involved and being of service to the council.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.