



Maryland State Arts Council Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES
August 22, 2023
Google Meet

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...

In attendance: Lily Bengfort, John Schratweiser, Carole Alexander, Chris Sloan; Shelley Morhaim; Steven Skerritt-Davis, Chad Buterbaugh, Keyonna Penick, Catherine Texeira, Tom Riford, Emily Sollenberger

The meeting was called to order at approximately 11:03 a.m. following guiding documents.

A land acknowledgment pronunciation guide will be distributed to councilors.

Carole made a motion to approve the May 23, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting minutes. Lily seconded. All in favor and the motion passed.

Executive Director's Report (Skerritt-Davis)

Assistant Secretary Update

- Served as Assistant Secretary for almost five years
- Last day Friday, September 1
- Expressed appreciation for staff and volunteers/board members.
- Thanked staff and leadership

John thanked Tom and expressed appreciation for his leadership.

Staff update

- Chad filled the Deputy Director role.
- Senior Program Director vacant
- Ryan Patterson has moved into the Arts Capital Program Coordinator position
- Public Art position vacant - interviews scheduled week
- Marketing and Communications Manager vacant - process moving forward



Arts Relief Wrap-Up

- Awarded in FY 23: \$40M; Paid in FY23: \$39.9M; .23 cents difference accounted for.
- Arts Relief Tracker shared. Record number of applications received, grants awarded, payments processed, and feedback sent.

Strategic Planning Update

- AMS is a Strategic Plan Consultant; an introduction scheduled for the September council meeting
- Work Plan review
 - Scheduling September committee meeting
 - Likely full council session around the December meeting (virtual)
 - Likely retreat around the March meeting (in person)

PPE Preview

- Independent Artist Awards Revision Update - proposing moving funds from IAA to Grants for Artists
- Folklife Network Match - proposing ending match

Working on:

- Fiscal Sponsorship Policy
- Line Items Policy

Clarification:

- Organizations that provide identity-specific programming
 - Clarification - organizations that provide identity-specific programming - are still eligible

Other Updates

- Ryan Koons working with tribal leadership on land acknowledgment update to go beyond performative
- Office of Legislative Affairs audit - undergoing audit as of March of this year - focus on GFO as well as FY21 emergency grants. There were findings that are being addressed with the department.
- Grace's term is coming to an end after a little over four years. Call for the Poet Laureate Selection Committee in process.
- FY23 Annual Report - expected release by October- thanks to Chad, Shaunte, Cathy, and all program directors for pulling information together
- FY25 Capital budget for 3m submitted and will be included in the state budget for review
- FY25 Agency Budget Request - Anticipate the FY25 budget from the Department of Management for the September 11, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting review; Preliminary budget FY25 may include a request for additional staff



- Legislative priorities - updating structure around poet laureate program and policy for preservation of public art fund; POCA remains unclear for the Department of Commerce, DBM, and the Comptroller, clarifying purpose and distribution of funds

Legislative Earmarks Discussion

FY21 Legislative Line Items

- \$100,000 WYPR - New/Next Film Festival (\$131,220.75 - GFO)
- \$1,000,000 - Olney Theater (\$591,604.54 - GFO)
- \$500,000 - Boulanger Initiative (\$15,050.59 - GFO)
- \$100,000 - PGAHC - Film Office (\$236,342 - CAD)
- \$100,000 - Chesapeake Theater Company (\$132,571.08 - GFO)
- \$500,000 - Baltimore Symphony Orchestra - Concerts (\$1,364,792.98); \$1,100,000 - Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Stabilization

Points to Consider

- A handful of other state arts agencies have policies to discourage earmarks
 - The councilor reviewed line item policies and the National Assembly of State Arts Agency's recommendations
- The revenue from non-capital line items currently is considered allowable income for determining Grants for Organizations grant amounts

Options to consider

- Policy to make line items unallowable income for the purposes of calculating Grants for Organizations grant amounts
- Policy stating that MSAC will consider the amount of any budget line item for operating or non-capital projects when making decisions about general operating funding
- Policy deducting the amount of budget line items for operating or non-capital projects from MSAC general operating grant amounts
- Policy-making organizations receiving budget line items for operating or non-capital projects ineligible for MSAC general operating funding

Working with MCA to reform the Preservation of Cultural Arts Fund to send Admissions and Amusement Tax revenue to MSAC

September 14, 2023, Council Meeting Agenda Review

- Creative Assignment (Lily)
- Executive Director's Report
- Staff Reports
- Executive Committee Report



- Strategic Planning Committee Update
- Program Policy and Evaluation Committee Report
- Fiscal Report/Finance Committee Report
- Councilor Roles & Responsibilities
- New Councilor Mentorship
- Line items

No new business.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.