

Maryland Public Art Commission
March 21, 2023, 9:00-10:30 am
Meeting Minutes

Join with Google Meet

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Join by phone

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9:04: Meeting Begins

Attendees:

Elizabeth Hughes (until 9:43), Ben Seigel, Chris Sloan, Elaine Bachmann, Jamie Heater, Jerome Gray, Judy Kwon, Kathy O'Dell, Leslie Kahn, Liesel Fenner, Ryan Patterson, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Rebecca Massie Lane, Nora Howell

9:09 am Public Meeting Opens

Kathy O'Dell, Chair

- Call Meeting to Order
- Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 14, 2023
 - Motion: Rebecca
 - Second: Judy
 - Favor: All
 - Opposed: None
 - Abstentions: None

MSAC Updates

Steven Skerritt-Davis, MSAC Executive Director

- Staffing update:
 - Re-structuring MSAC staff - moving some Program Directors to report to Senior Program Director and Deputy Director
 - Fiscal Officer - new hire will start soon
 - Assistant Secretary of Commerce - in interviews
 - MSAC Senior Program Director - will have a listing soon
 - MSAC and Commerce are undergoing strategic planning
 - Noting General Trends
 - Demand for grants is high, we have more applicants than funds
 - We promoted our programs with the artist relief funds in FY23, and continue to see high demand.
 - Funded 31% of PAAM applications, declined applicants can reapply in FY25
 - Continue to evaluate the number of requests vs. the amount of money we can distribute via grants
- Other updates:
 - Arts Capital Grant Program: Very popular program. Panelists will have work to do to review, score and determine the awards first round. Round 2 will open shortly after in FY25.

- Strategic Planning with staff and Council met in Annapolis. We will adapt our plan in June, our next meeting I should have updates on the Strategic plan
- FY24 budget/legislative updates: proposed - a \$31m budget (less than \$500,000 increase of general funds) which is an increase, we are pleased considering the tight budget year.
- Senator Hayes and Delegate Embry proposed a new bill: establish a working group, staffed by MSAC to investigate how arts organizations can better support artists. Rent is too high - for studio and performance spaces. Research case studies to increase support of artists in Maryland.

MPAC Administration

Kathy O'Dell

- FY25 Commissioner Candidates: Discussion and Vote
 - Two candidates: Brittany McGowan and Flannery Winchester
 - Bios: McGowan is a Public Art specialist for the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission - Princes George's County, Arts and Culture Division
 - Bios: Flannery Winchester is a Public Art Project Manager at Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County.

Motion: Rebecca, move to approve

- Second: Leslie
- Discussion:
 - Kathy : I worked with Brittany for four years at UMBC, she is extraordinary as a team mate, leader.

In Favor: ALL

- Opposed: None
- Abstained: None
- Unanimous vote for both candidates to be advanced for Sect. approval

Project Reports

- Coppin State University, Artwork Dedication Liesel Fenner
 - February 22, 2024 Dedication with the artist and Coppin community
 - Project began in 2020, the beginning of pandemic, and had some challenges as a result of the pandemic.
 - The artwork was fabricated in China, the artist could not find a foundry domestically to create the work within budget.
 - The celebration was spectacular, held during Homecoming week, the President of the University gave a moving speech, excited to have sculpture that welcomes people to the campus from North Avenue
 - Thank you to Jerome and Steven for their remarks, and Ryan who started the project
- Catonsville Courthouse, Wesley Clark Studio Visit

Ryan and Liesel took a visit to the artist's studio to view the artwork for the Catonsville Courthouse. The artwork will depict the whole Patapsco River Valley and will be located outside of a legal support services center.

- Frostburg State University Education and Health Sciences Center
Stacia Goodman's mosaic depicts a section cut of the landscape around Frostburg and also includes fossil and stone contributions for students and staff. David Hess' sculpture is a geomorphology-inspired piece for the exterior grounds. Both Frostburg pieces will be installed this Summer 2024.
- UMBC Sherman Hall
Nora Howell shared an update on the community engagement sessions she and Liesel led during February with over 500 users of the building, students, staff and faculty. The information informed the Artwork Program document semi-finalist artists to-be-selected will respond to in developing their concept proposals.
- University System of MD, Southern MD (USMSM), SMART Bldg
First committee to use the Public Art Roster to select an artist for the artwork commission process. Top four scoring candidates: selected through the public have accepted the invitation to interview on April 16, 2024.

MD Public Artist Roster Efficiencies

Ryan Patterson

- The artist selection process using the Roster has reduced the selection time from 6-9 months to ~3 months!
- Has enabled us to start our next 6-8 upcoming projects and tuned up the process enabling us to meet building construction deadlines

Q: Kathy O'Dell: How does it work?

We work with the client agency and artist selection committee (ASC) to create the artwork themes/goals. Using that information and the tags we pull a list of artists who are a good fit ~60-70 artists for the committee to review. Previously the ASC would review 300+ artists. The committee narrows it down to 3-4 semifinalists, then one finalist. The Roster will allow more time for community engagement.

Liesel: UMBC is unique, the culture of the university is a community of collaborative leadership. They wanted more engagement, so we tested out the Menti App (the students loved answering questions on their phones). On future projects we will have the selected artist lead the community engagement process.

Rebecca: I just finished reviewing 68 artists, it was amazing how much better it works than the old system. In previous processes, I was panicked that I would have time to finish. The new system is clear, easy to use, and you have a good understanding of the artist's work.

Kathy ODell: I think this is a pivotal moment in our Commission's oversight of public art.

Ben: Any negative feedback? From artists not on the roster?

Ryan: We tell people it will reopen next year. The Roster is viewable to anyone. I often share that our Roster is based on other states' rosters. It is a process used elsewhere.

Jamie: Are there pitfalls for artists who aren't taking advantage of the self-selective tags? Are those artists more or less likely to be in the selection pools?

Ryan: Some artists pick labels accurately to self-describe their work. Other artists were aspirational and selected everything they want to do. We use our experience to review emerging and experienced artists for a diverse selection pool. One goal of the Roster we've achieved is that the same artists that got the top scores and rose to the top on every project - has not happened. There are more diverse names on the shortlist.

Future Projects:

Liesel Fenner/Ryan Patterson

- We are bringing the list of top priority and future projects we would like to advance in the next 18 months using the Public Art Roster, before we open it in for new applicants
Top Priority: School of Social Work - in design
 - Shilman - high visibility Courthouse, ideal building for public art
 - Supreme Court: Going into bid, possibility an outdoor exterior work on Rowe Blvd in Annapolis
 - African American Soldiers Memorial - will not use the Roster but will do a national open call
 - DGS: BCCC Learning Commons
 - School of the Deaf Veditz Bldg
 - Salisbury University: Blackwell Hall

Vote: Approve the list of state building projects advancing for public art integration

Recommendation: Requesting your approval of the projects in the Top Priority and Future project column to advance and incorporate public art in these projects

Motion: Ben Siegel

Second: Chris Sloan

Discussion: None

In favor: All

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

The motion was passed unanimously

New Business

- Conservation/Collections Management Committee FY25 Ryan Patterson
At the last Executive Committee meeting- we discussed the need to conserve our growing collection and to establish a committee on how to manage the conservation procedures. It is proposed that we start in FY25 after new commissioners are appointed.

Kathy: I'm excited, good discussion concept/theories on next practices. If allowed, I would like to serve as a member of the public on the committee, as an ad hoc member.

Judy: I'm excited, I volunteer to service on the committee

Elaine: I'll volunteer that the Archives serve on the committee, our team has experience developing guidelines.

- African American Soldiers Memorial Elaine Bachmann
This will be a project of the State House Trust and a member of MPAC will be included on the Monument Advisory Committee. We have a verbal commitment of funding, but not finalized. And we will have a DGS project manager. The artwork will be figural. This will move quickly to be dedicated by July 2026.

Open Sharing: Equity & Justice

Kathy O'Dell

- <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Public-art-and-the-promotion-of-racial-equity-Day/c91d5a05ee504dde9e033fe9832419062238f2f0>
Article by Christian Day - public art in the promotion of equity. I feel like things have come so far in the last 12 years. Our community engagement is increasing in public art. Public art is challenging views, correcting past wrongs, redistributing resources, a lot of that has happened.
- **Ryan:** The artist James Early Reed who spent most of his life in Baltimore and created the Billie Holiday Monument in Baltimore City has passed away. His family is struggling w/his property and his works. If anyone is interested in finding out more/ helping with guidance to get his works into a collection, contact me.

MPAC FY24 Quarterly Meeting Dates

- June 4, 2024 (in-person, Annapolis Comptroller's Office, followed by tour)
We will see Art in Treasured Spaces and then a tour of the State House grounds - the location of the future African American Soldiers Memorial.

10:20: Adjourned

ATTACHMENTS:

- Artwork Commissions Project List