



Maryland State Arts Council Governance Committee

MEETING MINUTES
November 13, 2024
Google Meet

The Governance Committee shall enhance the engagement and participation of Council members, and to ensure the effective operation of the lay leadership structure.

In attendance: Marva Jo Camp, Joel Snyder, Monique Walker Ruby Lopez-Harper, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Chad Buterbaugh, Leslie Gillard

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:40 p.m. following guiding documents.

Joel made a motion to approve the February 26, 2024 Governance Council minutes. Monique seconded. Marva Jo abstained. All in favor and the motion passed.

Review of Committee History/Purpose

- Steven provided a committee refresh/history report.

Discussion

- Joel - Requested a committee assignment list. Also provided his support on the benefits of the informal mentorship program.
- Joel - Feels council members should be more active beyond being "cheerleaders for the arts", to include running meetings instead of staff having to do it.
 - Questioned if there's a by-law that precludes more councilor activity in meetings and setting up agendas.
 - Steven - Supports the idea of more councilor involvement. However, statutorily decision making power is held by the Secretary of Commerce.
- Joel - Questioned which committee would be the appropriate place to propose a new committee or an ad hoc committee.



- Steven - There's no process in the By-Laws, but can be brought up in New Business at the Executive Committee or in a Full Council meeting.
- Marva Jo - Are there items inside the By-Laws that Councilors or staff are reviewing?
 - Steven - Yes, as included in the Strategic Plan. Steven, Chris and Joel provided revisions/recommendations, which were sent prior to the originally scheduled meeting.
- Marva Jo - Have the revisions/recommendations been discussed?
 - Steven - No, but recommends having the Governance Committee review the By-Laws and what's been proposed, then send them to Leslie for review at a future committee meeting.
- Marva Jo - What is the timeframe to review, deadline, and how often the committee meets?
 - Marva Jo would like to provide recommendations sooner than later, prior to the next meeting in February.
 - Joel agreed with Marva Jo's suggestion.
- Monique - Suggested meeting bi-monthly.
 - Joel and Marva Jo agreed to meet bi-monthly on Tuesdays, beginning in January.
- The committee agreed to meet on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 9 AM.
 - Marva Jo requested to have Leslie send the original By-Laws to the committee for review and revisions, due by Friday, December 20, 2024 by noon.
 - Leslie will track changes, and send the revisions to the committee by Monday, December 23, 2024.
- Steven reminded the committee of the March Full Council meeting, which will allow an opportunity to complete the By-Laws revisions in a March committee meeting.
- The committee agreed to meet on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 9 AM.

Equity and Justice Statement Update

- Steven provided the following revisions to the statement:
 - Remove collaborators (staff), as we still collaborate with Maryland Citizen for the Arts, Arts Education in Maryland Schools and the Department of Education, but are no longer a unit as were under the previous MSAC Executive Director.
 - Joel suggested discussing the word "ability" at the end of the statement.
- The committee agreed to remove "collaborators" from the statement.
- Joel wants to add the word "disability".



Discussion

- Monique - Asked for more clarification on the difference between ability and disability as it refers to the quality of art. Supports using the word "disability".
- Ruby - Supports changing the word to "disability", which is in line with the Federal Anti-Discrimination language.
- Marva Jo - Mentioned the term "different abilities" as possible language in the Equity and Justice Statement for those who have an aversion to the word "disability".
- Joel - Responded that everyone has "different" abilities, and feels "disability" is a word to be embraced.
- Ruby - Asked for more background on staff's decision to use the word "ability" in the statement.
 - Steven will confer with staff on that decision for the next meeting.
- Joel - Mentioned the "community" embraces the word disability and is willing to share more resources.
 - Marva Jo suggested having further discussion at the January committee meeting, prior to voting on the revisions.
- Steven - Will take the proposed revision to our Assistant Attorney General for their consideration.

New Business

The following additional agenda items will be held until the January meeting:

- Ongoing Board Member Engagement
- Status of Term Renewals, New Councilor Recruitment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:36 p.m.