



# MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

**January 11-12, 2019**

Academy Art Museum | 106 South Street | Easton, MD

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The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC), held its meeting and strategic planning retreat on January 11-12, 2019, at the Academy Museum in Easton, Maryland. Council Chair, Jack Rasmussen called the meeting to order.

**Present:** Timothy App, Carole Alexander, Lily Bengfort, Barbara Bershon, Zoe Charlton, Carla Du Pree, Joan Lyon, Julie Madden, Shelley Morhaim, Jack Rasmussen, Gary Vikan, Anne West

**Absent:** Jackie Copeland, Anthony Cornwell, Senator Jack Madaleno, BG Muhn, Alonzo Washington

The Council and staff participated in strategic planning exercises facilitated by Lynette Turner and Michele Walter of AMS Consultants.

## **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The November 2018 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

## **Welcome from the Chair**

- ✚ Thank you to the Academy Museum for hosting us today
- ✚ We are excited about all the new activity and initiatives
- ✚ Special thanks to the staff for their continued hard work and dedication

## **Event Outreach Report**

- ✚ The Council shared their event attendance and experiences
  - Council “Kisses” were given to the Councilors for their outreach efforts
  - MSAC was acknowledged and recognized at various attended events throughout the State
  - Arthur will add the Poetry Out Loud and Poet Laureate dates to the Council Event Log
- ✚ Jack thanked everyone for the great amount of attendance and participation

## **Financial Report**

- ✚ Due to internal personnel issues, MSAC is currently working with Commerce to complete an updated budget report
  - All expenditures are encumbered, with a few exceptions
  - Once completed, an updated budget report will be sent out to the Council, electronically
  - Special thanks to Arthur Brown for offering the additional fiscal assistance

## **Marketing & Communications Update**

- ✚ The MSAC website is currently undergoing a full reconstruction
  - Please let Kayla Morgan know if you would like your photo and bio updated for the new website
  - MSAC is also working on improving and increasing our social media presence
  - Thanks to Kayla and Steven for their assistance in the website redesign process
  - Special thanks to Kayla for handling MSAC's marketing and communications responsibilities

## **Grants & Professional Development Update**

- ✚ It is a busy time at MSAC
- ✚ The Creativity Grant preparation has begun
  - Dana will share the guidelines with the Council to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the Creativity Grant application and process
  - There has been a lot of conversation and activity surrounding these grants
  - The grant request amounts are between \$1000-\$3500
  - There is not a deadline for these grants
  - Funds will be dispersed until the money "runs out"
  - Dana will put together something that Councilors can have on hand for providing information, while out in the field
- ✚ Grants for Organizations (GFO) Action, Timeline & Update:
  - Panelist Review (Full) and Staff Review (RFF)
  - Dana provided an example of a mission statement change and narrative from Single Carrot Theatre, as a result of the new application process
  - There has been such positive feedback on the new GFO process and applications
  - The public is feeling like the new applications are simpler and less intimidating
  - Dana also shared an example of how MSAC serves as a connector to the arts community
  - Councilors expressed a greater interest of being more involved with grants and other administrative processes
  - The Council requested a future conversation, to address concerns and other ideas moving forward
- ✚ The June Arts Summit is on the way
  - MSAC and MCA are working in partnership for the Summit
  - There have been 25 proposals submitted (to date) for facilitated sessions/groups
  - The committee and staff will meet regularly to discuss logistics and planning
  - We encourage everyone to attend
  - This will be an amazing professional development opportunity
  - More details coming soon

## **Program Director Updates**

- ✚ The MSAC Program staff provided a brief review of each program
  - Chris Stewart                      AiE, Poetry Out Loud, Poet Laureate Update
  - Chad Buterbaugh                  MD Folklife Network Update
  - Liesel Fenner                        MD Public Art Projects, Public Art Legislation Update
  - Steven Skerritt-Davis              A&E, CAC Leadership Transitions, Program Revision, CAAM Update

## **Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA) Update**

- ✚ Nicholas Cohen provided an update to the Council
- ✚ The 2019 Legislative Session has begun

- We are expecting a great Session this year
- The Maryland arts sector has achieved record funding for three consecutive years
- MSAC received \$22.7 million in state appropriated funds, during the 2018 Legislative Session
- The “forecast” for this year is around \$23 million
- MCA is requesting the following funding guidelines for MSAC:
  - ✓ Net General Fund Expenditure: \$22,382,603
  - ✓ POCA: \$1,000,000
  - ✓ Special Fund (Maryland Education): \$300,000
  - ✓ Federal Appropriation: \$620,000
  - ✓ TOTAL EXPENDITURE: \$24,302,600
- ✚ Budget Hearings are scheduled in Annapolis, as follows:
  - ✓ The House Budget hearing is February 27
  - ✓ The Senate Budget hearing is February 28
- ✚ Registration is still open for MD Arts Day
  - The event will be held on February 14, in Annapolis
  - We hope to see you there
- ✚ Thanks for your continued support

### Executive Director Report

- ✚ NASAA
  - Ken shared a presentation from NASAA reflecting diversity, funding and demographic breakdowns
  - The presentation provided significant background information on racial equity and accessibility
  - It has been stated that in 2020, “Minority will be the Majority” in Maryland
  - Updated and State specific information will be provided at the March Council meeting
- ✚ Program Revision Overview
  - Independent Artists, Public Art, Arts in Education, Presenting and Touring
  - All Documents Uploaded and Prepared
  - Planning Meetings Complete
  - Call for Editors Sent, Received and Being Screened by Program Directors
  - Upcoming Programs:
    - ✓ Community Arts Development - January – June 2019
    - ✓ Maryland Traditions - July - November 2019
- ✚ Facility Update
  - MD Art Place is now interested in being considered for our new office space
  - The current list for consideration is as follows:
    - ✓ 10 N. Howard
    - ✓ Saratoga Street Firehouse (Next to MAP)
    - ✓ MAP
    - ✓ BOPA/MSAC Co-Occupants
    - ✓ Architecture Institute of America
  - Ken will keep everyone updated as we move along in the process
- ✚ Staffing Update
  - We currently have two Program Director positions vacant
  - The Executive Committee has agreed to meet with the Secretary of Commerce to discuss MSAC’s current staffing issues
  - We hope to have our new Marketing & Communications Manager in place by the end of the month

- Arthur Brown (Office Secretary) has applied for the Administrative Associate position, that will assist Steven Skerritt-Davis
- As of November 1, Steven is Acting Deputy Director
- The Grants Administrator position remains vacant
- A brief discussion was held regarding productivity, capacity, staff retention, etc.
- Special thanks to the UALP Fellows (Kayla and Teara), Dana and Arthur for stepping up and filling in all the “gaps” during these hectic times

### **Independent Artist Network**

- ✚ The Independent Artist Network (IAN) is a virtual and live community for Maryland artists who, without affiliation to a larger organization, are working within the creative economy of the state
  - The objective of the IAN is to encourage sustainable employment for artists through a supportive structure that values the impact of creative work on communities throughout the State
  - Benefits of the network include:
    - ✓ Offering a public page on the MSAC website
    - ✓ Using the MSAC website as a one-stop for calls for artists
    - ✓ Continuing regional and centralized convenings for professional development
    - ✓ Creating a statewide event calendar (all activities - presentations, classes, etc.)
    - ✓ Offering professional development that leads to endorsements for expanded employment opportunities
    - ✓ Centralizing access to grants and other funding sources
    - ✓ Developing opportunities to clarify relationships between funders and grantees
    - ✓ Proactively expanding the of circle of artists

### **Individual Artist Awards Recommendations**

- ✚ There were 669 eligible applications this year
- ✚ Applications were submitted from 24 counties
- ✚ We are still lacking the desired amount of geographical and demographic diversity and representation

The recommendations were approved as presented.

### **Bylaws Updates**

- ✚ The last bylaws revision was in September 2010
- ✚ The Executive Committee met in October 2018, and made suggested revisions to the current standing bylaws
- ✚ There were not any further suggestions made from the remaining Council members
- ✚ These suggestions have been submitted to the Full Council for approval

The bylaws revisions were approved as presented.

### **New Business**

- ✚ Strategic Planning Reflections
  - A brief discussion was held around possibly “wordsmithing” the Mission
  - Council and staff felt that there was very open, honest and engaging conversation
  - The exercises were inclusive, interactive and sparked broader thoughts and meaningful communication

### **Business Adjourned**

- ✚ The next meeting will be held on March 13, 2019