

## IMAGINE MARYLAND

### RAW TRANSCRIPT

Date: September 18, 2008  
Location: Maryland Institute, College of Art  
1300 W. Mt. Royal Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21217  
Forum: MICA Students  
Facilitator: Carla Dunlap, Sharon Blake  
Scribe: Shirley Howard

### SUMMARY OF MAJOR THEMES:

- Arts education in K-12 public schools is severely lacking
  - Public and school administrators need to be educated as to the value of arts education and the arts in general
  - Get future generations to respect the arts through education
  - Integrate the arts in education: Art history should be taught right beside U.S. history and use the arts to teach concepts in science
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- The arts need a political voice
- Internet is changing how people look at art – both a positive and negative issue
- Arts need to be more accessible to everyone, people should not feel intimidated or separate from arts world

### SOME KEY QUOTES:

- “Art history, dance, music should be a part of primary education. We need to re-direct the minds of those in charge.”
- “Get future generations to respect the arts through education.”
- “Before, an artist could get an apprenticeship. Now , everyone thinks that they are a designer because of the internet...this is an increasingly large issue.”
- “People should be educated not only about we make things but that we are making things in a special way.”

Introduction by Carla Dunlap, MSAC Senior Program Director

- Welcome, thanks for coming
- What MSAC does? What is Imagine Maryland?
- Explained Strategic Plan
- Introduced staff; Sharon Blake, Shirley Howard
- Protocol of meeting—a series of questions asked at each forum, gave a sense of timeline

Question: Please tell us what you do and why you are here this evening.

- Sophomore, design major involved in community arts
- Program manager for services and volunteers/community arts intern
- Community arts and communications major, currently in teaching program

- Senior, fine arts major, heard about the Arts Council and has used registry on line
- Sophomore, graphic design major, does not know much about the Arts Council
- Junior, illustration major, interested in learning a little more about Maryland's arts scene besides ARTScape
- Senior, doesn't know much about the Arts Council but wants to learn
- Sophomore, art history major, arts have been a major part of history since 17<sup>th</sup> century, here to learn more about the arts in Baltimore

Question: What do you value about living/working in Maryland? (None of the participants are from Maryland)

- Proximity to New York and DC
- Culture Diversity
- Great city
- Eclectic – go ten minutes in any direction
- Nice middle ground—friends can easily access
- People are very friendly
- Nice atmosphere
- Live on border -- VA and MD
- Impressed with community arts organizations, especially Creative Alliance
- Public transportation is scarier than using it
- Easy city to bike around or walk in
- Not especially dangerous – parts

Question: What are the major issues facing the arts and the community today?

- Funding in schools
- Primary school funding
- Significance value of the arts
- Appreciation of the arts should be stressed
- The way funding is distributed shows that the arts is not important
- Went to public school in PA, arts really weak. Only one out of 533 graduates went on to an arts school
- The arts are a workable field
- Practicality of the arts -- in quantifiable data
- The arts are the first things cut—instead of math
- Impressed by overall awareness of this community
- Lot of pressure to more to NY...folks think you have to go there to succeed
- Arts isolate itself...normal people do not go to museums
- Incorporation of arts in popular mainstream media would be a good way to go
- People should be educated not only about we make things but that we are making things in a special way
- Art is about the product and the process is ignored
- Art is more than just the thing that is done at the end
- Creative Alliance is for the middle and lower class. Lot of efforts in getting everyday folks in the arts
- BSO gives college students discount tickets, special prices for students --- which is a good thing. Other organizations should do the same.
- Some people feel that their place is not in the arts ---someone in lower class may feel uncomfortable walking into the BSO

- The public needs to be educated on important issues
- Internet has changed the way people look at artists. Before, an artist could get an apprenticeship. Now, everyone thinks that they are a designer because of the internet...this is an increasingly large issue
- I know what he means but I don't know how to combat that. Many internet taught web designers are making poorly designed websites and getting paid for it.
- Lucian Freud, one of the biggest artists of all times, would you believe a student in my class never heard of him? People don't appreciate art.
- Changing the nature of what a BFA means

Question: In the next five years, what would you like to see happen to change or improve your community: (Participants broke into two groups and discussed question)

#### **Group One**

- Education aspect – get future generations to respect the arts through education
- The arts need a political voice
- Extra-curricular arts programming for grades K-12
- Art history should be taught right beside U.S. history
- We should use the arts to teach concepts in science
- Have programs to educate the educators –re-train the minds of people on school boards
- Increased attention toward the quantifiable results of the arts –something you can put a number to
- Accessibility of the arts...like Free Fall Baltimore and museums with free admission. We need more of that..not just one month out of the year People shouldn't feel weird going into BSO if they are lower class

#### **Group Two**

- Art history, dance, music should be a part of primary education. We need to re—direct the minds of those in charge
- More after school programs
- Community art centers –they are many successes across the country..anyone can be involved. Take emphasis off of “place”.
- The Philadelphia Mural Project –it re-directed energy towards murals. Hope Baltimore continues with murals and not cast a negative light on graffiti. There is a place for it and graffiti artists.
- Attract more cities to summer arts festivals, gallery scenes, etc.
- Educate the masses
- Build up our theatre district—Cleveland has the second largest district after NY
- Connect to other fields –how do the arts relate to science, etc.
- Maybe others can see their field in a different light
- More collaborative disciplined based projects

Question: What do you know about the Maryland State Arts Council?

- Nothing
- You deal with now the money gets distributed....voice in the community
- How do you differ from BOPA?

Carla explains what MSAC does and what the county arts councils do.

- Anything for children K-12. There is nothing where I grew up

Carla explained AiE, AEMS, Young Audiences and afterschool programs.

- Is there a community space or can MSAC promote something like that where local artists and students can exhibit their work. There was something like that when I grew up—gallery with work space classes underneath.

Carla explained that a lot of the CACs have artist/work space and some organizations do as well. She also explained A & E districts

- Center Stage has housing---build everything on site—promote something like that. It would create lines of communication that help promote the arts more...through the performing arts---everybody likes plays
- Incorporate an arts space at the Inner Harbor. Why didn't they put a theatre there to bring in small acting troupes and small non profits

Carla: Although it is not at the Harbor, they are trying to do something similar with the Hippodrome, which is still considered downtown Baltimore.

Question: Give us “five closing words”

- Accessibility education/funding and integration
- Education politics community art and change
- Baltimore copies arts downtown
- Free museums --Vote for change
- Performance visual education children funding
- Structure integration accessibility exposure distribution

Carla thanked the group for their participation.

(Andy Mangold designs websites—if MSAC is interested.)