

Central Maryland Regional Meeting – June 27, 2008

Date: July 24, 2008
Location: Center Stage
700 N Calvert Street, Baltimore
Forum: Regional Meeting
Facilitator: Morrie Warshawski, Theresa Colvin, Elizabeth Carven, Janel Cohen,
Carla Dunlap, Shirley Howard, Angela Lohr
Scribe: Elizabeth A. Bentley-Smith
Councilor: Scott Johnson, Abby Hoffman

MAJOR THEMES

What people value about Maryland: Lack of pretentiousness, affordability, landscape, food, education, size of state, access to culture centers

Concerns:

- Funding (including lack of corporate support)
- Technology
- Diversifying audiences
- Marketing
- Reaching young people

In the future we want:

- More ongoing dialogue
- Better use of technology
- More funding
- More arts in the schools

Re MSAC:

- Appreciate its accessibility
- MSAC grants provide credibility
- Good local arts council system
- Want help with technology, advocacy, professional development, a resource guide
- Appreciate convening opportunities

SAMPLE QUOTES

“The arts community has a can-do attitude...specifically in Baltimore.”

"[I value} the history of the state and Baltimore ...architectural history...transportation and railroads...very rich with history."

"Technology in the arts provides both opportunities and challenges in the arts especially with the young...how will this change traditional arts and traditional venues."

"More ongoing dialogue with artists and arts organizations statewide."

"Need for great attention to the arts so it becomes top of mind and leads to more funding and more support as a whole."

"The local arts council system is a very effective system that allows for the infusion of money to small and emerging arts orgs...they are still able to get state funding just in a different format."

"Few people know what else the arts council does except for knowing that it gives grants. Information meetings may be helpful. Higher profile...better marketing of what they do."

"Would like MSAC to ensure protection of the arts...it is not about money but need to protect art...maintain a focus on the art."

"The Council is always responsive...MSAC can be a leader in helping us market why it is so important to get involved in the arts."

RAW TRANSCRIPT

Introduction by Scott Johnson, MSAC Councilor

- Discussion of the strategic planning process and its purpose; various forums held around the state to discern information in various formats
 - Transparent process via website
 - Intend on adopting the plan by February 2009
 - Welcome to MSAC staff; councilor Abby Hoffman; Hannah Byron from DBED
 - Housekeeping... be sure to pick up handouts, be sure to sign in...
 - Introduction of Morrie Warshawski

Statement by Hannah Byron

- Thank you for coming this is our last regional forum and we hope to get some great ideas out of this process

Morrie Warshawski

- Wife is a presenter and always works to bring in artists and is always wanting to bring in jazz...working to bring in Max Roach for a 3-day residency in St. Louis...was able to do it and Morrie worked as chauffeur, so while driving asked if he had any stories about Thelonius Monk...while Max's wife was recording Monk walked in and she became very nervous...Monk came over and whispered in her ear to "make a mistake"...this process is similar to that, we want you to make a mistake so that we can learn and move on
- Discusses more about the process and regional meetings, issue based forums, and all other assessment tools and how they will be used to collaborate

❖ **1st question: What is it about Maryland that you value the most?**

- Love the fresh food
- Mountains, seashore...urban and rural atmospheres...good crabs
- Four seasons
- Good education, schools
- Affordable place for artists to live...artist friendly
- Access to NYC and DC without having to live there
- Can get to Baltimore very quickly from the suburbs
- Land of pleasant living
- Small, very tight knit arts community...great network of artists and supporters of artists
- Love Baltimore ...great city with tremendous potential
- Arts community has a can-do attitude...specifically in Baltimore
- History of the state and Baltimore ...architectural history...transportation and railroads...very rich with history
- Real sense of collaboration as an artist and arts organization...allows the organization to be dynamic...artistic scene
- Smallness of the state allows for continuity...very easy to become acclimated to one area but still work with others
- Authenticity...lack of pretentious...provides a very fertile art environment...stems from blue-collar roots...the audience is a very large part of the process

❖ **2nd question: What are the major issues for you as an artist or arts organization or the arts community as a whole? What are some concerns you have in general for the arts?**

- Funding
 - Calvert County okay with education funding, but concerned about other types of funding resources
- Volunteer organization to staff organization progression
- Better marketing toward audiences
 - Group ad...dance company with other organizations
 - Better media training
- More diverse audiences
- The effect of NCLB on arts education programs

- Response to funding cuts within education
- Losing corporate community and how to make up the difference in funding
 - Learn other ways to get support
- Need to build new audiences
- Help artists adapt to changes within the school systems to better connect
 - Support and training is important
- Decline of corporate community
- Access to cultural arts resources by the schools
 - Question of equitable access...how do we equal out the playing field
- Lack of general operating support by corporate and foundation support
 - Where MSAC comes in
- Idea of transparency...need more info on how MSAC process works in the grant process allocation of funds
 - Response from Theresa: very open process, will meet individually with organizations, but also hold workshops
 - Use of the Cultural Data Project is very helpful in this process
- As an arts community we are competing with pop culture in the young
 - An issue within education in K-12
- Collaborative and cooperation is good amongst orgs when realize on same track...but before then it is difficult
 - Need for an overall map to decipher the purpose of various arts orgs...what are they doing with children, etc...catalogue of the arts
- More support from arts orgs of giving tickets not purchased to K-12 students
 - Need to figure out ways to expose kids to the arts...not going to be the students' parents responsibility
 - Doreen: free admission at BMA has led to an increase of 10% in attendance and of those 42% were first time visitors
- Technology in the arts provides both opportunities and challenges in the arts especially with the young...how will this change traditional arts and traditional venues

❖ **3rd question: Imagine the arts community in 5-years for the better...what does that look like...what recommendations do you have...? [The group was divided into two groups and came back with 5 recommendations per group]**

- Group 1
 - Increase local government funding
 - More art volunteers in the schools and their coordination
 - Free admission and more accessibility
 - More incorporation of technology in the arts community as w hole
 - Chicago arts resource.org
 - More arts endowments
- Group 2
 - More ongoing dialogue with artists and arts organizations statewide...resources too

- Resource guide for artists
- Importance of making arts available in every community along with its accessibility
 - Reflects diversity of area
 - A&E districts as an aspect
- Artists and art teachers in every school
 - Music conservatories can bring art into the area
- Secure and dedicated support from government, audience base, endowments
- Need for great attention to the arts so it becomes top of mind
 - Leads to more funding and more support as a whole

❖ **4th question: How has the MSAC made a difference in your community past/current...and what changes do you see in its future for you?**

- Makes a huge difference in support for small organizations all staff members are willing for them to go into small communities and rural areas...allows that opportunity
- Grants determined by peer review leads to a “stamp of approval” on the community as a whole
- Very accessible organization...very helpful staff
 - But where are all of the other small orgs
- The local arts council system is a very effective system that allows for the infusion of money to small and emerging arts orgs...they are still able to get state funding just in a different format
- Few people know what else the arts council does except for knowing that it gives grants
 - Information meetings may be helpful
 - Higher profile...better marketing of what they do
- Appreciate the individual artist grants...rare opportunity to allow for recognition
- Professional development opportunities through workshops are very helpful
 - Informal arena but extremely informative
- Really appreciate the arts in education grants...done so well in reaching the underserved communities
 - Would like to see that be more built up
- Build the capacity of artists working in the schools... education and development of our kids
- MSAC can help incorporate technology in arts orgs by acting as a resource
- MSAC can help document public art in the state/community as a brochure... better tourist brochures
 - All organizations advertised in one booklet
 - Better cultural tourism
- Would like MSAC to ensure protection of the arts...it is not about money but need to protect art...maintain a focus on the art

❖ **5th question: Anything else you'd like to say to MSAC?**

- Would have appreciated a better notice of the meeting...maybe a different time
- Press for more responsibility by the audience members for their participation
- Can be harder to “dig people out of Baltimore” for higher participation
- Asked if could attend other forums...answer is yes
- Would like to see MSAC provide an on-line guide for all of the resources in this State
 - Programs...performance venues...if you want to bring a group to Cumberland where do you go...central guide
- Appreciate that MSAC is asking our opinion
- Would like to see continued support of small organizations
- Nice to collaborate with other people within the process as grantees or lobbying institutions
- This community is full of so many resources that can really help further their political stability...just scratching the surface
- MSAC has the ability to help act as collaborator and convener
- Good opportunity to get out of our silo
- Would like to see more ways to collaborate in tourism and the arts
- Great to hear everyone's point of view
- The Council is always responsive...MSAC can be a leader in helping us market why it is so important to get involved in the arts
 - More integration...make the arts a phenomenon
- Excited about seeing what the other groups have discussed
- Great to just talk to others within the arts community