



Maryland Public Art Commission
March 16, 2023, 9:00-10:30 am
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDING:

Tom Riford, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Ben Seigel, Rand Griffin, Cathering Leggett, Elaine Bachmann, Elizabeth Hughes, Jerome Gray, Judy Kwon, Kathy O'Dell, Leslie Kahn, Molline Jackson, Liesel Fenner, Rosa Chang, Ryan Patterson

Public Meeting Opens - Welcome, Rand Griffin, Chair

- Liesel Fenner presented MSAC Grounding Documents
- Meeting called to order, 9:15 am
- Rand Griffin welcomed Ben Seigel to the Commission as the new designee of the State Comptroller's office.
- Rand asked for approval of minutes
 - Catherine Leggett put forward the motion
 - Elaine Bachman seconded
 - All were in favor: The motion passed
 - Molline Jackson Abstained
- Chair's Remarks
We welcome the new Comptroller designee: Ben Seigel, Deputy Comptroller for Policy, Public Works & Investment

Commerce Update, Tom Riford, Asst. Secretary of Commerce

- The new Secretary of Commerce has been officially accepted and sworn in
- Over 300 individuals have been recently sworn in to new rolls on State boards and commissions as part of the transition
- Tom attended several events having to do with public art and quality of life:
 - Downtown Baltimore's State of Baltimore address; Baltimore Convention and Tourism Board.
 - MSAC has been processing grants at a sprint and record pace. In a typical year MSAC approves about 800 grants, this year they are processing 2,500 grants, and they are still short of staff.
 - Every week or so, I get a review about customer service response- people who fill out the customer surveys, and the staff of MSAC has the highest number of outstanding praise and accolades.

MSAC Updates, Steven Skerritt-Davis, MSAC Executive Director

- Staffing- we are in final interviews for the Deputy Director Position

- The Arts Capital Program position is in the final stages of hiring for that position and includes a public art project management role. We are excited about the \$3M capital budget becoming a part of our work at MSAC. Former Sec. Gill did prioritize the capacity of MSAC for the new administration.
 - Status update on the \$40M in Arts Relief funding:
 - \$24,216,510 awarded- 859 grants
 - \$13,221,374 paid
 - \$ 1,014,746 PAAM grants awarded- 58 grants
 - Grants Volume with MSAC's annual budget grant funding:
 - \$48,447,663 in grants awarded or about to be
 - 1438 grants so far
 - On track to award ~\$65 M this FY
 - Estimated 2,500 grants
 - Rand: How does this compare to other states?
 - Steven noted that Maryland is second nationally in per capita state arts funding. Our budget is higher than many other states.
 - Ben: Do you break the grant data down in any other ways? Types of uses? Geographic distribution? Average grant size?
 - Steven: this will be detailed in our annual report and MSAC can provide data in a number of ways - let us know.

FY24 Commissioners & Leadership, Liesel Fenner, Public Art Program Director

- On June 30, the terms of both Rand Griffin and Catherine Leggett will close. Rand and Catherine are the public art program founders and we look forward to celebrating and honoring their service.
- We are currently cultivating candidates, one from Montgomery County, and one from the Eastern Shore. Bio will be sent for your review.
- Emeritus Role, Kathy O'Dell, Co-Chair (*Rand and Catherine logged out of the mtg*)

A few members brought this to the table and through Liesel's research we can create an Emeritus position. The Emeriti position - it is not only about honoring the person, but also keeping them available for program information to help carry us forward. As described by the Assistant Attorney General the emeriti role would be ex-officio, not official and non-voting. First we need a motion to create an Emeritus role, second we need to motion who might be granted that title.

 - Elaine Bachman: I've been in these discussions and I fully support it. I've been able to observe the leadership over time and know the importance of handing down this institutional knowledge.
 - Molline: I highly recommend the Emeritus position. I've learned a lot from Rand and Catherine and still hope to be able to call on them as needed.
 - Kathy: Proposed the motion establishing an Emeritus role
 - Molline: seconded
 - All were in favor: the motion passed
 - Kathy proposed the motion that both Rand Griffin and Catherine Leggett will be given the status of Emeritus Commissioners effective July 1, 2023
 - Leslie: seconded

- All were in favor: the motion passed
(Rand and Catherine logged back into the mtg)
- Kathy: announced that we have established an Emeritus position for MPAC
- Catherine: It would be an honor to be able to continue to be engaged and share our knowledge
- Rand: accepted as well and welcomed next steps
- Nominating Committee, Rand Griffin, Chair
 - We need to establish a Nominating Committee both to cultivate and find new members as well as consider who will be transitioned into the Commission Chair and Vice-Chair position. The Chair recommendation will go to the Governor's office for approval.
 - Liesel: We need four members to volunteer
 - Judy, Leslie, Catherine, and Jerome volunteered

Program Administration/Policy, Liesel Fenner, Public Art Program Director

- Public Art Across Maryland Grants Program Update
 - We have a surplus of Arts Relief funding to spend this spring, so we have extended the grant deadline to April 14, to allow additional time for those who received planning grants in December to continue their work and make the Spring deadline for a project grant application.
 - We have been providing extensive technical support to potential applicants for eligible applications to be submitted.
- Maryland Public Artist Roster Update
 - We shared the presentation about the Roster presented in December.
 - We are actively moving forward with this process:
 - We have contracted with Submittable.com for the online application software.
 - The program guidelines are written.
 - We are aiming to go live April 1
 - The deadline will be May 31 (2 months)
 - We will conduct webinars (that will be recorded) to help artists apply
 - The review of the Roster applications will be conducted over June and the results will be emailed to the commission in July for administrative approval.
 - We want to have the Roster ready for active projects by August.
 - Ryan: I wanted to point out that the Roster will be viewable to the public and will help promote in-state artists
 - Kathy: I wanted to applaud the work that has gone into this whole project - research and building something that will serve our constituents.
 - Rand: do we have anyone we will invite to be on the panel?
 - We will be inviting experienced professionals from our networks but note that it is an open national call for panelists.

Artwork Commission Projects, Ryan Patterson, Public Art Project Manager

- Coppin State, College of Business sculpture is in fabrication
- Bowie State, Communication Arts & Humanities Building, the project kick-off meeting was held with selected artist Victor Ekpuk. The design process and community engagement with students will be starting.
- Catonsville Courthouse: Martha Jackson Jarvis Studio and Wesley Clark's contracts have taken a long time to get processed with DGS, but are in process.
- St. Mary's College of MD, New Auditorium: Aurora Robson's contract is signed and she will be finalizing design for the lobby suspended sculpture.
- Frostburg State University, Education and Health Sciences Center: Two finalist artists were selected:
 - Stacia Goodman (MN): Interior wall, tile mosaic (\$75,000)
 - David Hess (MD): Exterior sculpture, (\$210,000)
- Jerome: This was my first time participating in a project artist selection process and I had a couple of observations:
 - The artists who presented were so careful and thoughtful in their understanding of the University and the materials they proposed
 - The University and staff were also very thoughtful and considerate

Open Sharing Discussion - Equity & Justice, Rand Griffin

- Liesel announced that MSAC will cover the registration fee for Commissioners to attend the Grantmakers in the Arts, Racial Equity in Arts Funding workshop series in May.
- Molline noted how important this training is for our artist selection processes.

10:33 Meeting adjourned