

**Maryland Public Art Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**June 2, 2022**

Hybrid meeting at Universities at Shady Grove (USG)  
Piney Branch Water Garden Tour 9:00-10:00 am  
Business Meeting 10:00-11:00 AM

**Attendees:**

Tom Riford, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Liesel Fenner, Ryan Patterson, Elaine Bachmann, Rand Griffin, Elizabeth Hughes, Leslie Kahn, Molline Jackson, Judy Kwon, Catherine Leggett, Kathy O'Dell, Jerome Gray, Rebecca Massie Lane.

The meeting was held in person and virtually through Google Meet and phone.

The Commissioners first took a tour of the Piney Branch Water Garden at the USG campus.

Chair, Rand Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:05.

March 10, 2022, meeting minutes were approved.

**Commerce Update:**

Tom Riford provided an update: Commerce is wrapping up in the fiscal year 2022. MSAC will receive an additional \$40m in Arts Relief Funding in FY23. Starting July 1, we have a lot of work to do to award these funds. In a typical year, MSAC awards 800 grants; in the last two years, we awarded 1500 emergency grants. We have another big year ahead.

**MSAC Updates:**

Steven Skerritt-Davis, this represents a 72% increase and does not account for the \$12m in emergency funding and \$40m. Next year will be transformational; we're in a great position.

Staffing: David Mitchell has been hired as Program Director for County Arts Councils and Arts and Entertainment Districts. We are in the final stages of hiring the Grants Director, which will be followed by posting the Deputy Director, and Grants Management Associate positions. Steven is developing a new position, the Arts Capital Grants Coordinator, that will be split with public art as well as additional positions for FY24 to address staff capacity.

The staff has developed strategies for awarding the \$40m Arts Relief Funding:

General Operating Support for Organizations. Increasing the grant amounts for the Public Art Across Maryland grants.

Piloting the Artist Employment Initiative. Chad Buterbaugh, Senior Program Director, is developing the program, including a new title that will provide unrestricted support to independent artists.

We recognize the increased grant will impact staff capacity.

Kathy O'Dell asked if the \$40m could support public art education and if it could go towards a pilot initiative. Steven responded that the \$40m must be spent on grants, so that would have to work out with an organization to execute it.

The Maryland Arts Summit takes place June 9-10 at UMBC and will include two MSAC presentations.

### **Public Art Administration/Policy:**

Liesel updated the Commission that MSAC has contracted with Forecast Public Art to present Making it Public, professional development. The 5-week workshop will start with an Artist Edition series on July 7 and an Administrators series starting September 15. We've had a record 106 registered artists.

Artwork Commission Procurement Guideline revisions proposed schedule was reviewed. Staff will be meeting with the new DBM coordinator for the Artwork Commissions program later this month. A Committee was formed, including Rebecca, Judy, and Catherine, and it was suggested the USG building project manager who has gone through the process be included. Ryan noted that DBM might have procedures that will inform the revisions as well.

Liesel summarized the increase in PAAM Grant awards over the past two fiscal years. **ROSA added the FY23 total grants awarded; was it about 50 for both New Artworks and Conservation?** Rand notes that this has impacted the public art staff. Steven noted that the new Grants Management Associate will help with the grants administration so that staff can focus on program and project management. In FY23, we will move to only two application deadlines instead of quarterly.

### **Artwork Commission Project Updates:**

Ryan presented that the Catonsville Courthouse artist contracts for Martha Jackson Jarvis Studios and Wesley Clark were approved by BPW. We are hoping the artist contracts are finalized with DGS by July 1.

Artist Victor Ekpuk (Alexandria, VA) has been selected for the new \$515,000 project at Bowie State University. Four semi-finalists competed for the artwork commission. Thanks to Catherine and Molly for serving on the selection committee. Catherine noted how much work it was for the staff to reduce the applicant pool and then the committee to reduce the pool to the final four. Molly noted that each artist brought different strengths to their respective proposal ideas.

St. Mary's College of Maryland artist selection committee virtually interviewed six semi-finalists in early May. The Committee selected four semi-finalists whom we will meet for a site tour later in June.

Ryan shared his studio visit with Thomas Sterner for his project for the Salisbury Animal Health Lab. The sculptural feather and an interior wall relief of carved wood horses will be installed on June 8.

An RFQ solicitation for two projects at Frostburg State's Education and Health Sciences Building was posted in May and with a June 29 deadline.

The Towson University College of Health Professions RFQ will be posted shortly once approved by USM.

The UMES School of Pharmacy and Health Professions projects are in fabrication with the goal of installing the lobby artwork in late August for the building ribbon cutting.

Ryan referred to the Project Staging Calendar. We are lining up the projects for next year that will be discussed at the September meeting.

Catherine appreciated Ryan's objectivity in leading the artist selection process, as well he made himself available for artist selection technical assistance on a weekend.

**Open Sharing Discussion**

Elizabeth provided an update on the Baltimore confederate monuments.

Liesel noted the public art articles listed in the agenda.

**The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.**

The next meeting is on Sept 15, 2022.