



Council Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2024
10:00am – 1:00pm
Delaplaine Arts Center
40 S Carroll St., Frederick, MD 21701

In attendance:

Councilors: Chris Sloan, John Schratwieser, Joel Snyder, Ruby Lopez Harper, Lily Bengfort, Paige Hernandez, Marva Jo Camp

Virtual: David Fakunle, Albita Rivera, Cheryl Pasteur, Sen. Cheryl Kagan, Shelly Morhaim

Staff: Steven Skerritt-Davis, Alysha Suryah, Cathy Teixeira, Chad Buterbaugh, David Mitchell, Emily Sollenberger, Kirk Amaral Snow, Laura Weiss, Ryan Patterson, Nora Howell, Ryan Koons, Liesel Fenner, Elizabeth Morales, Tammy Oppel

Virtual: Derrick Quevedo

Call to Order

Chris Sloan called the meeting to order at approximately 10:06 a.m. and reviewed the guiding documents.

- Kristen Butler, Director of Programs for The Delaplaine Arts Center, welcomed the group and invited all to a tour of the facility after the meeting.
- Steven reviewed Google Meet slides.

Creative Assignment

Joel led the Creative Assignment.



Interim Chair Remarks

- Ruby recognized new councilors who will begin their term on July 1:

Marva Jo Camp - Prince George's County

Kathy Beachler - Garrett County

Yolanda Acree - Caroline County

Monique Walker - Charles County

- Ruby offered recognition of the importance of the work councilors and staff do for the State of Maryland.

Approval of March 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

John made a motion to approve the March 14, 2024 council meeting minutes. Joel seconded the motion. All in favor with no abstentions; the motion passed.

Executive Director Report

Steven presented reflections on FY24, staffing updates and the legislative update

- Reflections on FY24
 - Arts Relief - \$40 million successfully distributed as additional operating support, project support, artist grants
 - 23 new grantees supported through Grants for Organizations
 - Jackie Copeland
 - Interim Leadership, committee leadership
 - Arts Capital - Year 1 - Program built and 14 projects awarded
 - 244 small organizations and projects supported through the Creativity grant
 - Continued support for county arts agencies and A&E Districts
 - Maryland Traditions supported 40 traditional artists and arts organizations
 - Documented 10+ Folklife Apprenticeship and Heritage Award recipients
 - Celebrated 10 years of the Maryland Traditions Archive
 - Public Art team shepherded four new public art commissions in State buildings
 - Implementation of the Public artist roster - public resource with 435 artists



- PAAM grants are supporting 36 public art projects
 - 220 artists supported through year 2 of Grants for Artists
 - 25 new artists/ensembles added to the Touring Artist Roster
 - Supported 41 engagements of Maryland artists
 - 30 new artists/organizations added to the Teaching Artist Roster
 - Supported 200 educational engagements in schools and community settings
 - Supported 85 professional development opportunities through grants
 - Processed over 4,100 applications
 - Administered 19 synchronous panels, plus asynchronous panels
 - Awarded over 1,200 grants, processed over 1,500 payments
 - Hosted at least one professional development session or office hours per week
 - Strategic planning
 - Legislative Session
 - Welcomed Marva Jo Camp
 - Staff transitions
 - Continued to provide excellent support and service
- Staffing Updates
 - The new Executive Assistant begins June 12, 2024.
 - Interviews for the Fiscal Officer and Senior Program Director positions have commenced.
 - The Special Projects Assistant position is moving forward with HR.
- Legislative Session Update
 - The Governor's recommended budget is intact after the current legislative session.
 - There is a \$462K increase in general funds.
 - There is an increase in staffing, but has not been funded.
 - Arts Incubator Bill
 - Line Items
 - Hippodrome
 - Chesapeake Shakespeare
 - Blackrock
 - WYPR



- PG Cultural Arts Foundation
- BSO
 - \$500K additional
- POCA Updates
- Poet Laureate bill (add stipend/honorarium for appointee)
 - Delegate Pasteur would like to pre-file for FY25
- Line items
 - Points to consider
 - Options to consider
 - John observed the line items are double or near double the MSAC grant amounts. He recommended working with MCA on a long term strategy to educate legislators on the consequences of line items and how this looks to other organizations and to ensure that equity reigns at MSAC.
 - Chris made a suggestion to take it to the PPE Committee.
 - Shelley suggested to not have a head on political battle, and to not take a severe approach. She also suggested to have a conversation with smaller organizations not receiving funds so that they can approach legislators.
 - Ruby recommended to have Nicholas from MCA speak to the Council regarding next steps and the path ahead. She believes it's up to the Council to call it out and do something, but does not know enough about the political climate.
 - Marva Jo Camp reiterated that this is the same conversation as the past several years. She stated several legislators have had very welcoming responses, but does not believe it will work. However, she agrees that John's approach of advocating for equity could be an effective approach. She warned putting legislators in a place where they have to battle each other is a battle you will lose.
 - John suggested to not confuse privilege and access with advocacy.
- Governance Committee
 - There will be a meeting before the September Council meeting.
- 11th Poet Laureate Selection



- FY25 Council Meetings

Staff Reports

Arts Capital Program Coordinator & Public Art Project Manager, Ryan Patterson gave an overview on the FY24 Capital Grant program application process and FY24 submissions

- 81 applications = \$12 million requested funding
- 57 applications advanced to panelists = \$9.4 million
- 20 applications advanced to panel review = \$4.3 million
- 14 Applications awarded = \$3,000,000
- Ryan provided an outline of the FY25 Arts Capital Program Timeline
- John asked about the geographic distribution of funds to applications for FY24.
- Ruby commented that any program should be viewed in a 3-year cycle, as programs evolve over time.

Grants Office

Grants Director, Cathy Teixeira provided an update on General Trends of MSAC grant programs.

- There were over 4,152 applications submitted.
- There were 1,214 grants awarded
- For non-multi-year/LOI programs (non-competitive)
 - 3,798 applications submitted
 - 865 grants awarded
 - 23% award rate

MSAC has raised awareness of its programs, and resources are finite. A question was raised on how we will meet demand.

Executive Committee Report

Chris Sloan provided an update from the Executive Committee.

Strategic Planning Committee Update

Michele Walter, from AMS Planning and Research, gave an update on the status of the Strategic Planning Process

- Staff & Council Alignment Survey Findings
 - Use of buzzwords, i.e. "Thriving," staff/council found problematic
 - Increased focus on artists is desired
 - Increased focus on Equity is desired
- Goals and objectives
 - Need stronger verbs/power words
- Discussion



Program Policy and Evaluation Committee Report

- Grants for Organizations Policies
- County Arts Development Policies
- Arts Capital Policies
- Special Request Grant Policies
- Arts in Education Policies
- Public Art Policies
 - **John made a motion to accept the recommendation. Ruby seconded. All in favor, with no abstentions. The motion passed.**
 - Sen. Kagan questioned the Public Art policy change since applications range in amounts. Staff responded.
 - John praised the approved changes and called them groundbreaking.

Fiscal Report/Finance Committee Report

- Lily provided an overview of the FY24 budget.
- Lily presented the FY25 Budget for approval.
 - Discussion
 - **Joel made a motion to accept the recommendation to send the budget to the Secretary for approval. Sen. Kagan seconded. All in favor with no abstentions. The motion is passed.**

Grants Committee Report

- The Councilors announced their affiliations with organizations to provide transparency.
 - David - Great Blacks in Wax Museum
 - John - Kent Cultural Alliance
 - Ruby - Montgomery County Arts & Humanities Council
 - Marva Jo Camp - MCA
 - Shelly Morhaim - MCA
- FY25 Grants For Organizations grants approval
 - **Lily made a motion to accept the recommendation. John seconded. All in favor with no abstentions. The motion passed.**
- FY25 County Arts Development grants approval
 - **Chris made a motion to accept the recommendation. Ruby Seconded. All in favor with no abstentions. The motion passed.**
 - David F. acknowledged David Mitchell for his work with CAD.



- Joel requested the Access and Equity audit of programs and implementation of a new program dedicated specifically to access and equity.

Nominating Committee Election

FY25 Officer Election

- Nominations:
 - Ruby Lopez Harper, Chair
 - **Marva made a motion to accept the recommendation. John seconded. All in favor with no abstentions. The motion passed.**
 - Albita Rivera, Vice-Chair
 - **John made a motion to accept the recommendation. Ruby seconded. All in favor with no abstentions. The motion passed.**
 - Joel Snyder, Secretary-Treasurer
 - **Marva made a motion to accept the recommendation. Paige seconded. All in favor with no abstentions. The motion passed.**
- Joel and Lily acknowledged Chris Sloan for his service as Interim Chair.
- Chris congratulated the new slate of officers.

Maryland Entertainment Industry Council

Meryam Bouadjemi presented on the mandate and focus of the Maryland Entertainment Industry Council.

- The genesis of the council was economic competitiveness, to identify sectors uniquely competitive across the state of Maryland and bring together this range of sectors to determine where/how to compete in the global market.
- There are three categories of events:
 - Physical production: large- scale (House of Cards)
 - Intersection of technology
 - Independent sector
 - The hope is to work in partnership with MSAC
- Discussion:
 - Historically, the MD film industry has been the biggest financial threat to MSAC. How can we be in closer communication and work in association?
 - The Maryland Entertainment Industry Council is focused on how to bring money to the state as opposed to competing for funding. The Entertainment Industry Council would like to work in partnership with the Arts Council on opportunities for grants



for independent filmmakers, as well as resources and channels for pathways and channels for meaningful success.

Accessibility, Equity, and Justice Sharing

- Ruby shared that she joined the GIA Racial Justice training series (along with staff members Lizzie and Tammy). Ruby reflected on the power of knowledge and expertise, which she found validating and informative.
 - This is a training that is available to Council members. Talk to Steven to discuss professional development opportunities
- Marva Jo shared that the previous MCA board was not racially diverse. She has witnessed significant change. She chaired the strategic planning committee recently, which was previously very board driven.
 - This time, they hired a consultant specifically with equity and justice in mind. The consultant will be sharing the findings soon, which will inform the strategic plan. Marva Jo also noted that sometimes we make assumptions about race, gender, etc and how someone thinks or feels. We too often make assumptions and don't ask.
- Cathy added that the Awareness video that was shared at the beginning of the meeting is something we use in all Panelist Trainings. Cathy invited the Council to consider joining a Panelist Training session.
- Steven also added that we are in talks with MCA to invite the MCA team to discuss their strategic planning efforts.

New Business

- Chris recognized Lily Bengfort, David Fakunle, Ph.D, and John Schratwieser for their Council Service. Chris also expressed his gratitude for their work and service.
 - Gifts were shared from the Sunshine Fund
- Chris recognized Program Director Liesel Fenner for her service to MSAC and the Public Art program, as she will retire this summer.
 - A gift was shared from the Sunshine Fund

Final Thoughts/Adjournment

Lily made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Joel seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 1:14pm.