



## Maryland State Arts Council Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES  
February 28, 2025  
11:00 - 12:30pm  
Google Meet

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The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Council, make recommendations to the Council, and shall perform other duties as specified...

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In attendance: Ruby Lopez Harper, Albita Rivera, Shelley Morhaim, Marva Jo Camp, Kathy Beachler, Joel Snyder  
Steven Skerritt-Davis, Chad Buterbaugh, Leslie Gillard, Catherine Texeira, Laura Weiss, Elizabeth Morales, Emily Sollenberger

The meeting was called to order at approximately 11:03 a.m. following guiding documents.

A land acknowledgment pronunciation guide will be distributed to councilors.

### **Chair Remarks (Lopez Harper)**

- Ruby thanked the Maryland Citizens for the Arts for their advocacy work, and discussed her plans to attend a budget hearing testimony in Annapolis, MD.
- She encouraged holding space for those affected by Federal governmental changes.

**Joel made a motion to approve the November 22, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting minutes. Albita seconded. All in favor and the motion passed.**

### **Executive Director's Report** (Skerritt-Davis)

- Steven expressed appreciation to all in the arts in Maryland and the country; to include the National Endowment for the Arts.
- Steven provided staffing updates with the Department of Commerce.
  - Acting Secretary Coker is to be confirmed in the Senate.
  - Looking for opportunities to interface with the arts community, to include attending the June Council meeting.



- The Department of Commerce released a Strategic Plan entitled “Winning the Decade”, to advance the Governor’s priorities in future technologies for the benefit of the State.
  - Links will be sent to the Councilors.
- Steven provided staffing updates for MSAC for internal positions.
  - Will inform Councilors when external positions are moving forward.

#### Discussion

- A Councilor inquired if a current staff member is eligible for an internal position.
  - Steven confirmed that a current staff member is eligible.

#### Other Updates

- Arts Incubator Workgroup submitted a preliminary report in January to the General Assembly, and Phase Two is underway.
  - A link will be sent to the Council.
- Grantmaking updates:
  - Arts in Education (AiE) grants updates will be provided in the March Council meeting.
  - Awarded 6 Heritage awards
  - Processing 30+ Public Art Across Maryland (PAAM) grants
  - Grants for Artist review is wrapping up.
- Working on how MSAC activity is tied to the Strategic Plan, and how it’s reported. This will be discussed at the March Council meeting.
- Steven thanked Councilors who volunteered to observe at panel meetings.
  - Will request feedback of the Councilors’ experience as panel observers.
- Poetry Out Loud state final will occur on March 1, 2025.
- Continuing to work on a procedural audit with the National Endowment for the Arts for FY20-FY23.

#### **Federal Funding Update**

- Steven provided updates on MSAC’s budgetary funding.
- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) assigned Special Advisor Mary Anne Carter
- Steven provided updates to Project Grants.
- Steven provided updates on State and regional partnerships.
- Steven provided award payment updates as the revised project budget awaits approval.



## Discussion

- Councilors discussed proposed budget cuts, and suggested providing more advocacy work at budget hearings.
- Councilors discussed effects on State arts agencies from budget changes with the NEA.
  - The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) is currently monitoring the situation.
- Steven discussed language used on MSAC website and how it aligns with Federal mandates, and the statement issued by the Governor's office.
- Steven would like to have a full discussion at the March Council meeting, and create a communication to constituents on where we stand.
  - Councilors agreed to have staff expand the statement in draft form.

## GFO Revision Update

- Emily and Laura presented on steps taken since the last Council meeting.
  - Feedback recommendations were presented.
- Emily and Laura plan to present their revisions at the June Council meeting. If approved, the plan would need approval from the Department of Commerce Secretary.
  - Several information sessions would be presented to GFO grantees during the summer.
  - This will culminate in the Fall of FY25 with a new Application process for FY27 funding.
- Councilors thanked Emily and Laura for their work on the revisions.

## Discussion

- Steven mentioned NASAA will provide a national overview of the GFO revision process.
- Michele Johnson will give an update on the Maryland 250 Commission, with a full reality on the founding of our country.
- Chris Appleton of Art Pharmacy who will discuss social prescribing for the arts.

## Agenda Review

### March 13, 2025, Council Meeting Agenda Review

- Call to Order, Welcomes
- Kent Cultural Alliance (Schratwieser)
- Guiding Documents, Agenda Review (Lopez Harper)



- Creative Assignment (MSAC Staff)
- Remarks, Approval of December 5, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes (Lopez Harper)
- Executive Director's Report (Skerritt-Davis)
- Staff Reports
- Executive Committee Report (Lopez Harper)
- Governance Committee Report (Camp)
- Fiscal Report/Finance Committee Report (Snyder, Bittner)
- Program Policy and Evaluation Committee Report (Rivera)
- Lunch (collect and return to table)
- NASAA Presentation/Grants for Organizations Revision Process Update (Weiss, Sollenberger)
- Maryland 250 Update (Johnson)
- Art Pharmacy (Appleton)
- New Business
- Public Comment
- Adjourn
- Invitation - "Tour Through Chestertown"

### **New Business**

Councilors are encouraged to attend Accessibility meetings provided by Lizzie and Derrick.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.