



Council Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2025
10:00am – 2:00pm
Baltimore Center Stage
700 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, Maryland 21202

In attendance:

Councilors: Ruby Lopez Harper, Joel Snyder, Gregory Tucker, Chris Sloan, Albita Rivera, Marva Jo Camp, Monique Walker, Kathy Beachler, Yolanda Acree, Delegate Cheryl Pasteur, Paige Hernandez, Senator Cheryl Kagan, Tonya Miller Hall

Staff: Steven Skerritt-Davis, Ryan Patterson, Ryan Koons, Abby Neyenhouse, Emily Sollenberger, Laura Weiss, Brad Bittner, Derrick Quevedo, Chad Buterbaugh, Elizabeth Morales, Alysha Suryah, Nora Howell, Elli Hernandez, Leslie Gillard

Welcome

Jenn Dewberry, Associate Managing Director, provided the welcome and updates for Baltimore Center Stage.

Call to Order

Ruby Lopez Harper called the meeting to order at approximately 10:09 a.m. and reviewed the guiding documents.

Creative Assignment

Emily showed a video of the Savage Mountain Punk Arts.

Chair Remarks

- Ruby noted that the MSAC staff is doing a great job of continuing the work with thoughtfulness and intentionality, while navigating the current financial climate.
- Ruby thanked Joel, Benny, and Chris for their service as Council Members.
- Ruby welcomed Cori Duggins, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Department of Commerce.



- Ruby welcomed new Council members, Janet Stanford (Montgomery) and Midge Ingersoll (Dorchester) who will join on July 1.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

Marva Jo moved to approve the March 13, 2025 minutes. Monique seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.

Executive Director's Report (Skerritt-Davis)

- Steven provided the following updates on the Department of Commerce
 - New hires
 - Telework Policy change
 - County Tours
 - Strategic Plan 2.0
- Cori provided more updates on the Strategic Plan phases and the Secretary's interest in providing more art pieces in the World Trade Center on department floors.
 - Ruby requested to have a feature on the Arts in the department's newsletter.
- Senator Kagan provided information on a new law offering technical assistance to nonprofit organizations in Maryland.
- Steven provided the MSAC Activity Report pertaining to the implementation of the MSAC Strategic Plan.
 - Steven will provide the report quarterly.
 - A suggestion was made to footnote the goals to indicate which priority each update addresses. An example will be sent to Steven.
- Steven provided other updates:
 - MSAC staffing.
 - Grants
 - Professional Development
 - Maryland Arts Summit
 - 2025 Legislative Session
 - Marva Jo acknowledged advocacy work by the Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA) with the Maryland General Assembly.
 - Federal updates with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
 - FY26 Council Appointments

Executive Committee Report

- Albita provided updates from the May 15, 2025 Executive Committee meeting.



Program Policy and Evaluation Committee Report

- Albita provided policies to be voted on from the May 16, 2025 PPE Committee meeting

Greg moved to send the GFO Revision Policies to the Secretary for final approval. Kathy seconded. All in favor, and the motion passed.

Joel moved to send the GFO FY26 Formula Policy to the Secretary for final approval. Greg seconded. All in favor, and the motion passed.

Discussion

- The Councilors discussed:
 - How the percentages were determined
 - A suggestion was made to list the line items for the public and to define POCA grants.
 - A suggestion was made to review FY26 line items going forward.

Marva Jo moved to send the Line Items Policy to the Secretary for final approval. Senator Kagan seconded. All in favor, and the motion passed. Delegate Pasteur abstained.

Paige moved to send the Arts in Education Policies to the Secretary for final approval. Greg seconded. All in favor, and the motion passed.

- Ryan Koons will provide changes to the Folklife Apprenticeship Program proposal at the September meeting.

Fiscal Report/Finance Committee Report

- Joel provided updates of the FY25 Fiscal Report.
- Joel and Steven provided updates of the FY24-26 Budget Comparison with and without Federal Funds.

Greg moved to send the FY26 Budget Recommendation to the Secretary for final approval. Kathy seconded. All in favor, and the motion passed.

Grants Committee Report

- Greg provided updates from the June 2, 2025 meeting.
- Greg provided updates on the County Arts Development Funding Recommendations
 - CAD Grant Overview



- CAD Process - Funding Formula
- CAD Program FY26 Recommendations with and without Federal Funds.

Joel moved to send the County Arts Development Recommendations to the Secretary for final approval. Marva Jo seconded. All in favor, and the motion passed. Kathy, Ruby, and Yolanda abstained.

- Councilors provided abstentions for organizations where there was a conflict of interest.
 - Kathy - Garrett County Arts Council
 - Ruby - Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County
 - Yolanda - Caroline Arts Council
- Greg provided updates on the Grants for Organizations Funding Recommendations.

Marva Jo moved to send the Grants for Organizations Recommendations to the Secretary for final approval. Monique seconded. All in favor and the motion passed.

- Councilors provided abstentions for organizations where there was a conflict of interest.
 - Greg - Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, American Visionary Arts Museum
 - Paige - Olney Theater, Everyman Theater, Roundhouse Theater, University of MD, College Park (Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center).
 - Ruby - Olney Theater
 - Marva Jo - Maryland Citizens for the Arts, Prince George's African American Museum
 - Albita - Sandy Spring Museum, Maryland Citizens for the Arts

FY26 Officer Elections

- Kathy provided recommendations for the slate of officers from the April 25, 2025 meeting.

Senator Kagan moved to vote for Ruby as Council Chair. Paige seconded. All in favor, and the motion passed.

Marva Jo moved to vote for Albita as Council Vice Chair. Delegate Pasteur seconded. All in favor, and the motion passed.

Albita moved to vote for Marva Jo as Council Secretary/Treasurer. Yolanda seconded. All in favor, and the motion passed.



Staff Reports

- Alysha provided Marketing and Communications updates and MSAC marketing goals moving forward.

Discussion

- The Councilors lauded Alysha for her work on maintaining the MSAC website, and discussed alt-text for images.
- Councilors inquired what could be done to disseminate information to the community beyond likes and shares.
 - Recommendation to sign up for MSAC's newsletter, and word of mouth.
- Chad remarked on how Alysha's work and efforts relate to MSAC's Strategic Plan.
- Ruby thanked Alysha and the staff for the work accomplished with limited resources.

New Business

Marva Jo thanked the Councilors and staff for staying on time.

Senator Kagan suggested a documentary to watch; "[Ain't No Back to a Merry Go Round](#)".

Public Comment

No public comments.

Final Thoughts

Ruby thanked Joel and Benny for their service, and reminded Council of the after-meeting tour of the Walter's Art Museum exhibit.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.