



Maryland State Arts Council Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 2025

1:00 - 2:30pm

Google Meet

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...

In attendance: Ruby Lopez Harper, Albita Rivera, Shelley Morhaim, Marva Jo Camp, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Chad Buterbaugh, Leslie Gillard, Laura Weiss, Emily Sollenberger, Kirk Amaral Snow, Tammy Oppel

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:04 p.m., following guiding documents.

Chair Remarks (Rivera)

- Ruby lauded the MSAC staff with support from the Council for their work, which is guided, informed, and aligned with our Strategic movements and responsive to the current climate.

Marva Jo made a motion to approve the May 15, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting minutes. Shelley seconded. All in favor and the motion passed.

Executive Director's Report (Skerritt-Davis)

- Steven provided the following updates:
 - Department of Commerce - Secretary tours, staffing changes
 - State Hiring Freeze - impacts on vacant positions
 - Steven thanked Chad and the MSAC staff for their efforts in keeping things running smoothly during his 3-week vacation.
 - Arts Incubator Working Group
 - Working on the final report due in October.
 - NEA Partnership Update
 - Award materials were received for FY26.
 - Councilors discussed NEA's guidance being in compliance with language pertaining to equity and inclusion.



- Grants
- NEA Procedural Audit
 - Steven will report at the next Executive Committee meeting.

State of the Council/Survey Results/Goals

- Steven provided feedback from the survey, and goals for the coming year.
- Steven provided ideas for FY26 priorities.

Discussion

- Councilors discussed thinking about more outward-facing items that could build on work that the MSAC staff is working on.
- A suggestion was made to distribute a list of conferences on an annual basis.
- A suggestion was made to have Councilors engage more with the Maryland Citizens for the Arts.
- Suggestion for Councilors to accompany MSAC staff or individually, to events in their geographical area.

Agenda Review

September 4, 2025, Council Meeting Agenda Review

- Welcome by Hagerstown Arts Council and Town of Hagerstown
- Secretary Harry Coker Roundtable Discussion
- Creative Assignment
- Executive Director's Report
- Executive Committee Report
- Fiscal Report
- Program Policy Evaluation Committee Report
- Staff Reports
- Tour - Hagerstown Arts & Entertainment District

New Business

Ruby remarked on her visit to the Chestertown RiverArts Exhibition.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:47 p.m.