



## Maryland State Arts Council Executive Committee

### MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 2025

1:00 - 2:30pm

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, 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.