

Arts Capital Grant FY 2026 Panel Meeting

Panel A: Tuesday, January 13, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

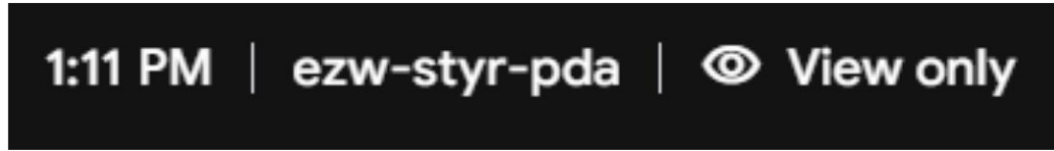
Hosted by:

Abby Neyenhouse, Arts Capital Program Director

Jess Porter, Senior Program Director

Cathy Teixeira, Grants Director

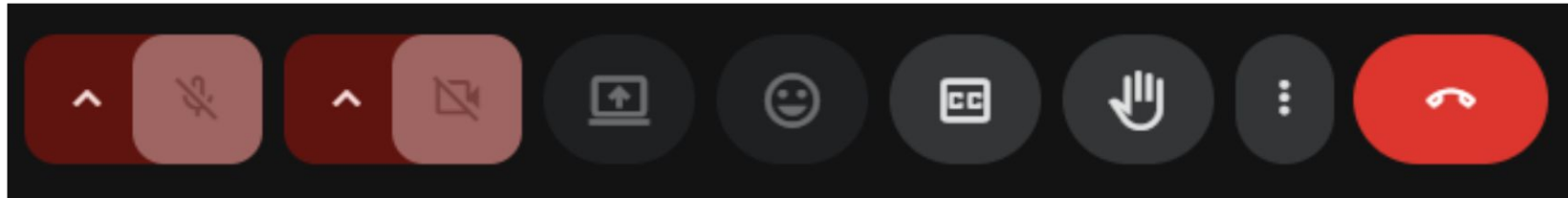
Reference Shot of Features (1 of 2)



Time

Meeting code

Guest status



Audio
settings

Video
settings

Share
screen

Share
reactions

Closed
captions

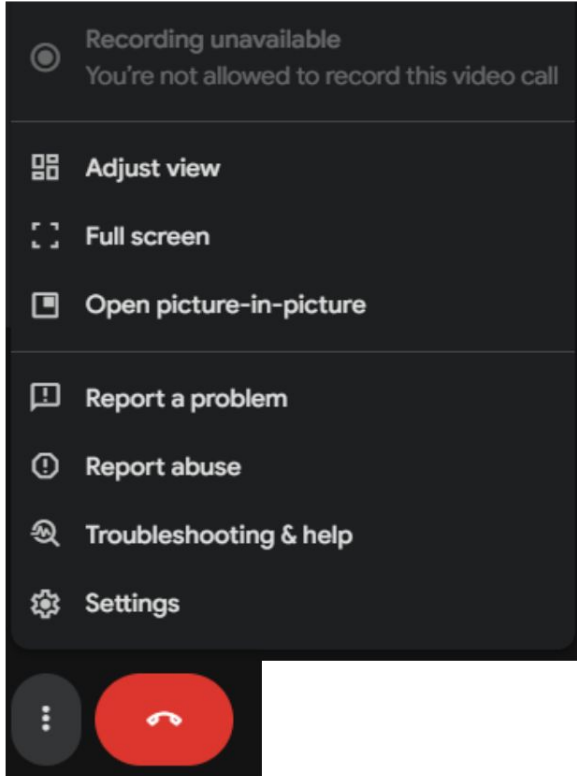
Raise
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More
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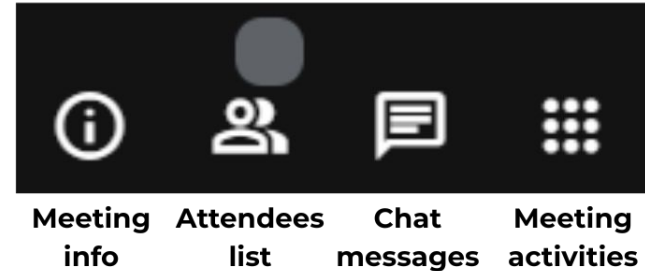
Leave
meeting

In keeping with State of Maryland guidance on generative AI, please do not use AI to record or transcribe.
Virtual assistants and notetakers appearing in the meeting will be removed

Reference Shot of Features (2 of 2)



In 'More options'



Land Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge the lands and waters now known as Maryland are the home of its first peoples: the Accohannock Indian Tribe, Assateague People's Tribe, Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians, Choptico Band of Indians, Lenape Tribe, Nanticoke Tribe, Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians, Piscataway Conoy Tribe, Piscataway Indian Nation, Pocomoke Indian Nation, Susquehannock Indians, Youghiogheny River Band of Shawnee, and tribes in the Chesapeake watershed who have seemingly vanished since the coming of colonialism. We acknowledge that this land is now home to other tribal peoples living here in diaspora. We acknowledge the forced removal of many from the lands and waterways that nurtured them as kin. We acknowledge the degradation that continues to be wrought on the land and waters in pursuit of resources. We acknowledge the right of the land and waterways to heal so that they can continue to provide food and medicine for all. We acknowledge that it is our collective obligation to pursue policies and practices that respect the land and waters so that our reciprocal relationship with them can be fully restored.

Equity and Justice Statement

The arts celebrate our state's diversity, connect our shared humanity, and transform individuals and communities. The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) is committed to advancing and modeling equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion in all aspects of our organization and across communities of our state.

MSAC and its grantees are committed to embracing equity and non-discrimination regardless of race, religious creed, color, age, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, class, language, and/or ability.

Vision

MSAC plays an essential role ensuring every person has access to the transformative power of the arts.

Mission

MSAC advances the arts in our state by providing leadership that champions creative expression, diverse programming, equitable access, lifelong learning, and the arts as a celebrated contributor to the quality of life for all the people of Maryland.

MSAC Strategic Plan - Pillars and Goals

Access

Bolster access to arts experiences and resources

Awareness

Amplify the stories of Maryland's arts sector and the value of public support

Connection

Foster networks within and beyond the arts sector

Equity

Cultivate a thriving arts ecosystem centered in equity

Leadership

Commit to a culture of care and innovation

Creative Meeting Actions

Celebrate being in the space with other creative people.

Engage with everyone's presence as a gift.

Acknowledge that together we know a lot.

Enter the conversation with curiosity and inquiry.

Share your idea and trust that it will be heard.

Use "I" statements.

Focus your language on the task at hand.

Hold one another accountable with care.

Honor all perspectives and build on shared ideas.

Balance speaking with listening.

Equity: Impact vs. Grant Writing

The application is meant to inspire authentic reflection and internal analysis for each applicant, with the knowledge that the Maryland State Arts Council is to be seen and utilized as a collaborative partner in the process.

One aspect of the partnership is to guide panelists to see beyond the “polish” of grant writing that may be inequitably influenced by the privilege of resources (financial, educational, etc...) and, instead, focus upon the impact of the applicant.

Responses as Recommendations

"The application does not include a timeline with enough information for me to understand when the project will be completed"

BECOMES...

"I would recommend that the applicant include a detailed, bulleted timeline of benchmarks that describe when each phase of the project will be completed"

Goals for Today's Meeting:

1. Revisit the **11** grant applications that received an **initial average score** of **77.5%** or higher.
2. Arrive at **final average score** for each application.

Note: Final award decisions will not be made during today's panel meeting.

Panel Meeting Structure

The goal is for each application to be discussed within a **ten minute window** in which the following will occur.

1. The **Application ID #** and **initial average score** for the application is displayed.
2. The assigned **lead reader** introduces the grant in connection to the rubric **(2 min)**
3. The **full panel** may then enter open discussion that may affect the grant score **(4 min)**
4. The **staff discipline expert** may share additional thoughts/recommendations **(1 min)**
5. **Panelists** will then submit final scores and comments in SmartSimple **(2 min)**
6. MSAC staff will then average the panelists scores and re-present the final score
7. This same process repeats with the next grant application...

Application: **-42329**

Organization: **Maryland State Arts Council**

Lead Reader: Abby Neyenhouse

Initial Avg. Score:

Final Avg. Score: **90.83**

Let's Begin...

Application: **2026-39783**

Organization: **Kent Island Federation of Arts, Inc**

Lead Reader: Belvey Russ

Initial Avg. Score: **82.33%**

Final Avg. Score: **82.33**

Application: **2026-39835**

Organization: **Cecil County Arts Council**

Lead Reader: Colleen Daly

Initial Avg. Score: **88.0%**

Final Avg. Score: **88.5**

Application: **2026-39867**

Organization: **MARYLAND THEATRE ASSOCIATION INC**

Lead Reader: Colleen Daly

Initial Avg. Score: **85.67%**

Final Avg. Score: **86.83**

Application: **2026-40099**

Organization: **CULTURA PLENERA INC**

Lead Reader: Belvey Russ

Initial Avg. Score: **91.0%**

Final Avg. Score: **92.33**

Application: **2026-40177**

Organization: **YOUNG ARTISTS OF AMERICA INC**

Lead Reader: Tanya Myers

Initial Avg. Score: **91.5%**

Final Avg. Score: **91.67**

BREAK

Please return in 15 minutes at
2:33 PM

Application: **2026-40279**

Organization: **CUMBERLAND CULTURAL FOUNDATION**

Lead Reader: Marseja Cardwell

Initial Avg. Score: **77.50%**

Final Avg. Score: **79.83**

Application: **2026-40417**

Organization: **CLIFTON HOUSE INC**

Lead Reader: Susan Malone

Initial Avg. Score: **80.5%**

Final Avg. Score: **81.5**

Application: **2026-40455**

Organization: **KOENIG PRIVATE FOUNDATION INC**

Lead Reader: Marseja Cardwell

Initial Avg. Score: **88.33%**

Final Avg. Score: **88.33**

Application: **2026-40484**

Organization: **Music City Maryland**

Lead Reader: David Kanter

Initial Avg. Score: **80.17%**

Final Avg. Score: **78.67**

Application: **2026-40508**

Organization: **Arena Players Incorporated**

Lead Reader: Marseja Cardwell

Initial Avg. Score: **81.0%**

Final Avg. Score: **84.83**

Application: **2026-40518**

Organization: **GROOVE CITY BLACK HERITAGE & CULTURE
GROUP INC**

Lead Reader: Susan Malone

Initial Avg. Score: **83.33%**

Final Avg. Score: **84.33**

Thank You!

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