



Maryland Public Art Commission

Approved Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2025

9:00-10:30 am

Virtual Meeting

Commissioners Attending:

Elaine Bachman, Jerome Gray, Jamie Heater, Elizabeth Hughes, Rebecca Massie Lane, Brittney McGowan, Molline Jackson, Flannery Winchester

Commissioners Absent: Judy Kwon

MSAC Staff:

Steven Skerritt Davis,

C. Ryan Patterson

Nora Howell

Members of the Public:

Call to Order

Meeting Called to order at 9:04 am

Chair Remarks:

Vice Chair Jamie Heater welcomed everyone, noting that she would be filling in for Judy Kwon, who could not attend the meeting. She also noted that it was a busy time for many Commissioners and staff, navigating the ends of the Fiscal year and school year.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes



Jamie Heater entertained a motion to approve the minutes, which Rebecca Massie Lane moved and Elaine Bachmann seconded. The minutes accurately reflected a prior misunderstanding about term expirations, which was clarified.

Vote: Molline Jackson abstained from the vote due to not having seen the minutes

The minutes were approved by the remaining members

MSAC Executive Director Report

Steven Skerritt-Davis, MSAC Executive Director, provided an update to the Commission highlighting the following:

- Secretary Coker has not been officially confirmed as the Secretary of Commerce.
- There have been a number of resignations, retirements, and new appointments within the department, as well as an update to the department's telework policy
- MSAC is working on closing out the FY25 fiscal year and preparing for the FY26 grant cycle. The council approved a budget with a similar allocation for public art, with scenarios created both with and without federal funds due to uncertainty from the National Endowment for the Arts. All grant programs would be slightly reduced without federal funding, and updates to guidelines and applications are underway.
- The State Arts Council's budget was approved with flat funding, and the 1995 Art Stabilization Act was preserved. The commissioned public art artist rights bill did not pass and will be revisited.
- Current fiscal year funds from the National Endowment for the Arts are secured. However, an offer for FY26 federal funds has not yet been received, necessitating budget scenarios. Some Maryland project grantees were affected by grant cancellations or withdrawals at the national level. The National Council has approved FY26 grants for state partnerships and some project grants, with hope for a positive outcome ([00:17:14](#)). The National Endowment for the Arts is prioritizing America 250 projects. The president recommended the elimination of the NEA for FY27, though advocacy efforts are in progress, and a new chair has been nominated

Executive Committee Report

- Jamie Heater presented the Committee's three main goals for 2025: 1) succession planning and nomination, 2) commissioner onboarding handbook and orientation process, and 3) potentially reviewing legislation.
- The primary focus has been on succession planning, following discussions about commissioner term expirations. A chart was developed to clarify terms, with color codes indicating staggered terms. Four red highlights on the chart indicate potential term ends in the coming year for: Jerome Gray, Judy Kwon (stepping down early), Rebecca Massie Lane, and Molline.
- Jamie Heater reviewed relevant excerpts from the bylaws regarding three-year staggered terms, continuation until a successor is appointed, and the establishment of a nominating and governance committee.
- Jamie Heater opened the floor for discussion and expressed interest in having volunteers participate in the nominations committee, ideally with a commissioner serving as the leader and potential ex officio members.
- Ryan Patterson acknowledged there were still questions about the appointment process and agreed to review these questions before finalizing the nominations committee.
- Jamie Heater was thanked for the thorough recap of term statuses. Molline Jackson stated a desire to remain on the Commission if possible.

Program Director's Report

- Ryan Patterson discussed the early planning for public art at the newly renamed Supreme Court of Maryland in Annapolis, a large and noticeable building. Potential locations include exterior spaces or throughout the interior, offering an opportunity to highlight Maryland artists. Elaine Bachmann -MSA- mentioned an upcoming museum of judicial history within the building and existing state art, suggesting collaboration. Elizabeth Hughes -MDP- noted the building's location near a popular trail and the existing Latrobe columns
- Ryan continued with a mention that a new project was advancing at Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) despite restrictions on the eligibility of all other Community College Campuses.
- A project with strong interest from the client and county, The MSP Barracks in Forestville, Prince George's County, has been paused indefinitely. Meanwhile, the contract for the selected artist at the MSP Berlin Barracks has been inexplicably delayed for six months.

- The artist's contract for the New District Courthouse in Baltimore City is now legal after a seven-month delay and hopefully going to the Board of Public Works soon. The Black Patriot Monument in Annapolis is advancing. The largest commission to date at the Zupnik Engineering Building at College Park is progressing and will soon be on the BBW agenda. The Maryland School for the Deaf project has a contracting stall, with a potential design contract approach to move forward. Smith Hall has moved to the contracting phase, with Hypersonic selected as the artist.
- **Projects in Design and Fabrication:** Sherman Hall at UNMBC and the Southern Maryland Autonomous Research and Technology Center at USM. There have been significant leadership transitions at USM.
- Contracts for both artists at the new School of Social Work building at the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus are confirmed. Kip Kobayashi is creating an interior installation, and Latoya Peoples has a design contract for exterior murals.
- **Projects in Fabrication:** The Communication Arts and Humanities building at Bowie State University is in fabrication with From Meyer Studio, translating Victor Ekpuk's work into a large-scale mosaic
- Dixie Friend Gay's interior glass mosaic mural for TU is moving into fabrication, and installation is complete on Jackson Jarvis Studio's mosaic "Relimation Transformation" at Catonsville Courthouse. As staff were visiting the courthouse after installation, we observed positive comments on the work expressed by members of the public going about their day.
- Molly Jackson inquired about Victor Ekpuk's work at Bowie State University, and Ryan Patterson replied that the work was being prepared for shipment to the US and installation would begin very soon.
- Elizabeth Hughes asked about the timeframe for installing the Maryland Black Patriot monument, and Elaine confirmed that the goal was to unveil it on August 27, 2026, for the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Brooklyn.
- Ryan's report continued with a status report on the reimplementation of the Maryland Public Artist Roster. Staff have reviewed the effectiveness of the initial 2-year Roster and have some points to share.

- Data showed that 60% of the 435 artists on the previous roster were reviewed at least once, and those reviewed were considered for an average of two opportunities.
- Thirty-six artists were interviewed as semi-finalists, and eight were selected over two years (which is nearly triple the number of projects with artists selected in the previous two-year period)
- The New roster is being promoted. MSAC received over 80 applications from people interested in serving as panelists from across the country and has selected 25 to serve as reviewers.

Legislative Updates

- The artist rights bill did not pass, but it is expected to be reintroduced in the next legislative session.

Equity and Justice Sharing:

- Molline Jackson raised the topic of equity and the use of related terminology, noting their department's sensitivity to this matter.
- Steven Skerritt-Davis responded that there has been no real change in their approach and that conversations with legal counsel and constituents suggest that altering the language would be superficial and not necessarily in service to MSAC's constituents.

Historic Preservation Funding and Priorities

- Elizabeth Hughes shared information regarding the Historic Preservation Fund, noting that while funds for the federal fiscal year 25 have been appropriated, they have not yet been released, causing concern across state historic preservation offices.

Upcoming In-Person Meeting

- Ryan Patterson noted the next meeting in September would be held in Frostburg State University and inquired about how to best support attendees in preparing for the trip.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.