



## Maryland Public Art Commission

### Committee on College Management

#### Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2025

2:00-3:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

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**Commissioners Attending:** Judy Kwon, Elizabeth Hughes, Elaine Bachmann, Kathy O'Dell, Rebecca Massie Lane

**MSAC Staff:** C. Ryan Patterson

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- **Defining Scope of Care and Maintenance**

Judy Kwon discussed the need for clear definitions regarding responsibility for repair, upkeep, and preservation of art pieces throughout the state, suggesting a conservation fund and conservator for issues beyond the scope of local agencies. She highlighted the necessity of a top-level authority, like a commission, to ensure equal care standards across agencies, acknowledging that smaller agencies may lack resources. Judy Kwon also emphasized the need for clear guidelines on ownership, especially when art is transferred between locations, suggesting a more granular approach to language and contracts.

- **Legislative Revisions vs. Regulations**

- Ryan Patterson inquired about the necessity of amending the code through legislative sessions versus defining responsibilities through regulations, noting that legislative revisions seem more difficult.
- Elaine Bachmann shared their experience with art conservation funding, noting the difficulty in securing consistent funding and that the only way conservation work has been done is by creating a precedent for display locations or loaning museums to pay for it. Ryan Patterson expressed a



preference for addressing issues through regulations rather than legislation due to the unpredictable nature of political processes.

- **Collection Management and Funding Challenges**

- Elaine Bachmann shared the Archives long-standing efforts in conserving the state-owned art collection, noting that while the Commission on Artistic Property owns the collection, funding for conservation is severely limited.
- Elizabeth Hughes explained that their archaeological collection's care is funded through box fees from accepting non-state collections and conservation work for other agencies, not ideal in that you are encouraged to collect more, to keep the work funded.
- Both Elaine Bachmann and Elizabeth Hughes discussed the challenges of securing adequate funding for art conservation

- **Ownership of Art and Loan Agreements**

- Judy Kwon raised questions about the ownership of artwork, particularly concerning new art installations that are considered property of the commission rather than the owning agency.
- Elaine Bachmann clarified that their state-owned art collection is managed through formal loan agreements administered by the commission's staff when displayed at different locations. Elaine suggested that it would make more sense for the art to be owned by the entity where it is displayed, transferring responsibility to them.

- **Insurance and Appraisals for Art Collections**

- Judy Kwon inquired about insurance coverage for art pieces after project completion, noting that Ryan Patterson was unaware of any fine art insurance being carried
- Elaine Bachmann stated that the state's collection is self-insured.
- Judy Kwon stressed the importance of insurance and an initial condition assessment for new art pieces, citing the City of Austin's practice of insuring all public art under a collective policy.



- Elaine Bachmann pointed out the difficulty in appraising older state art, but noted that newly commissioned art might be easier to value for insurance purposes.
- **Strategic Approaches to Funding and Policy**
  - Elaine Bachmann suggested incorporating art into capital projects managed by DGS as a way to include conservation costs in larger budgets.
  - Elizabeth Hughes questioned whether changes or clarifications to the statute could be made through regulations, avoiding the unpredictable legislative process. She also advised investigating the legislative history to understand any pushback from agencies like DGS regarding maintenance responsibilities.
- **Importance of Collection Management Systems**
  - Judy Kwon emphasized that a comprehensive collection management policy and system are crucial for any collection, providing a structural backbone for documentation, tracking, and protection, especially during turbulent or litigious times.
  - Elaine Bachmann affirmed that such systems and policies are protective, citing their formal process for loaning state art and conscious removal of the state art collection from the state's fixed asset system to prevent its sale.
  - Ryan Patterson highlighted that better documentation is essential for preparedness, especially in the event of natural disasters, allowing for quick retrieval of information about art in affected areas.
- **Next Steps:**
  - Ryan Patterson was asked to investigate the artwork ownership question in more detail, and to look into the legislative history and whether any regulations exist, and how they may define ownership or conservation responsibilities.