

# Maryland Public Art Commission

## Approved Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2025

9:00 – 10:30 am

Virtual Meeting

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### Commissioners Attending:

Elaine Bachmann, Jerome Gray, Jamie Heater, Elizabeth Hughes, Judy Kwon, Rebecca Massie Lane, Catherin Legget, Brittney McGowan, Molline Jackson, Ben Sigel, Flannery Winchester

**Commissioners Absent:** MSAC Staff: Nora Howell, C. Ryan Patterson, Steven Skerritt-Davis

### Members of the Public:

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**Call to Order (Kwon):** 9:01 am

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### Grounding Slides (Patterson)

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### Chair Remarks & Review Agenda:

Chair Judy Kwon offered a warm welcome to the Commission and the winter season. She reviewed the agenda items, stating she looks forward to the reports regarding the Council and Commission's ongoing work.

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### Approval of June Minutes (Patterson)

#### VOTE:

Recommendation to approve the September 18, 2025 Commission meeting minutes

**Motion:** Elaine Bachmann

**Second:** Rebecca Massie Lane

**Discussion:** Fix names at the top of the meeting minutes, "Jackson, Jackson" should be Molline Jackson

**In Favor:** Unanimous

**Opposed:** None  
**Abstained:** None

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## **Executive Directors Report, Steven Skerritt-Davis**

### **Department of Commerce/MSAC Updates**

- Secretary's county tours continue, including a recent stop in Garrett County (featuring public art).
- A Commerce all-staff event on 12/18 at the Parkway included a panel on the intersection of arts with other Commerce priorities.
- The Secretary is meeting with Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA) and MSAC officers on 12/19 to discuss MCA's legislative priorities and advocacy for the arts.
- September meeting follow-ups are underway.

### **Staffing**

- The hiring freeze exemption was approved for all positions.
  - Independent Artists Program Director (new position)
  - Grants Assistant (re-classification)
  - Public Art Project and Grants Manager (soon to be posted; project manager equivalent to Nora Howell's role)
  - Poetry Out Loud (Poetry recitation for high schoolers) is moving forward with Maryland Humanities as a new partner.
- Ben Stone is the Arts Incubator Report Writer.
- Ryan Patterson thanked the commission for advocating for the new position and noted that Judy Kwon will be involved in the hiring process. Ryan will send information once the job posting is live.

### **Grants**

- Payments for general operating programs are wrapping up.
- Arts Capital is reviewing 45 applications requesting \$14.5M (a large volume of quality requests).
- Public Art Across Maryland deadline was 12/12/25.
- Grants for Artists applications open in January.
- Roster Artists update: Touring (8 added/177 total), Teaching (8 added/140 total).
- Application volume and feedback requests for programs with multiple application cycles per year are increasing.

### **Federal Updates**

- NEA State Arts Partnership: First Quarter Payment procedures are normal.
- America 250 Public Art Grant: Limited Opportunity with a 12/19/25 deadline, showing

good interest.

- Arts & Health: Contract negotiations with Art Pharmacy are ongoing, with a hopeful launch in the new year.
- NEA Procedural Audit: Report is complete, public, and findings are being addressed.

### Strategic Plan Implementation Update

- Milestones over the last six months are complete.
- A link to the completed milestones will be sent to the commission after the meeting.

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### Public Art Program Director's Report (Patterson)

#### FY26 Public Art Across Maryland Grant

- One hundred nine grant applications were received, potentially a record number.
- The high volume of applications necessitates hiring up to 15 review panelists and dividing the review into three groups.
- Diverse geographic representation will be a priority of panelist selection.

#### America250 Public Art Grant

- MSAC was awarded \$25,000 as part of its annual NEA grant award that will be regranted to public art projects that align with local efforts to celebrate the semiquincentennial
- The funding consists of Federal Funds, which entail specific federal reporting requirements and a limited timeline ending in July 2026.
- These factors, and the limited amount of funding to redistribute will be factored into the grant awards.

#### Review of 2025 Program & Committee Goals

<b>GOAL:</b>	<b>Recorded Progress:</b>
Resolve or close out outstanding commission projects.	- MPAC celebrated the dedication of <b>seven completed artworks</b> at five facilities across the state.
Initiate and schedule all approved new commission projects.	- <b>Ten new projects initiated</b> since September 2024. - As of December, all artists are under contract and on schedule.

Implement Version 2.0 of the Maryland Public Artist Roster.	- The <b>FY26-28 Maryland Public Artist Roster was approved.</b> - It is scheduled for its first utilization in January 2026.
Succession Planning & Nominations.	- The Executive Committee <b>clarified current public seats and terms.</b> - With process clarification received from the Governor's Appointments Office, Staff will reconvene the Nominations Committee in 2026.
Review Governing Legislation and recommend revisions.	- <b>Careful examination of the governing statutes by the committees</b> has helped to elevate specific topics and questions to the Assistant Attorney General (AAG) for clarification and guidance, potentially leading to a revision of Regulations.
Committee on Collection Management.	- The establishment of this committee has <b>illustrated the priority to define MPAC responsibilities</b> and elevated the <b>importance of adding collection management policies and a dedicated budget line.</b>

2025 in Summary:

- Several projects were concluded, resulting in the completion of seven works at five different locations, which nearly doubled the Commission's collection.
- Ten new projects were initiated since September 2024.
  - The majority are now under contract.
- The Maryland Public Artist Roster supports the capacity to undertake additional projects.
- The new roster will be utilized for the first time in January 2026.
- Committee meetings:
  - Seats and term limits were clarified.
  - Each committee met at least twice, reviewing existing statutes and legislation.
  - A review with the AAG for clarification was conducted.
    - This process will lead to the rewriting of the Commission's regulations, which are a public document.
    - The regulations require updating to accurately reflect current operating procedures.
  - The Collection Management Committee, in conjunction with the AAG, is developing policy and budget considerations for collection management.

Review of Legislation:

The Commission shall:

- (1) work with the Department of General Services, the State Department of Transportation, and the University System of Maryland to ensure that new public facilities constructed by State units include the installation of artwork;
  - (2) allocate money from the Fund to commission artwork for installation at public facilities around the State;
  - (3) establish selection panels to recommend artists and artwork to be funded by **the Fund**; and
  - (4) make final recommendations concerning the disbursement of money allocated to the Program.
- The Commission has not yet undertaken a project with the State Department of Transportation, but staff are in active conversations advocating for its role in an upcoming federally funded transit project located in Baltimore.

The Fund: A determination needs to be made regarding the funding sources of this fund, and how the fund can be utilized for collection management must be established. The Commission manages funds held by the agencies with which it collaborates; however, the mechanism and meaning of item #4 remain unclear.

Invitation to meet with Maryland Citizens for the Arts:

- Nicholas Cohen was invited to the meeting but was unable to attend.
- He offered to meet with any commission members in January.
- Maryland Arts Day is scheduled for February.
  - Staff can assist with registration.
  - Members may also register independently.
  - The event will take place in Annapolis.
  - It includes a rally followed by meetings with lawmakers.
  - Maryland Arts Day was influential in Ryan Patterson's long-term commitment to work in Arts Administration in Maryland.
  - Rebecca Massie Lane: Participated daily as an arts administrator, describing it as an inspiring day.

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## 2026 Department of Budget Management Project List - Vote Required- (Patterson, Howell)

Howell: The complete list of eligible projects is displayed. Projects highlighted in green are recommended for advancement, purple projects require additional research, yellow projects are placed on hold, and we recommend that two projects be declined.

The following review criteria were applied during the project research phase: Timeline, Location,

Visibility, Budget, Collaboration, and Staff Capacity.

Four projects are recommended to proceed, based on their strength:

1. Supreme Court of Maryland (DGS), \$784,931
2. Thurgood Marshall Academic Commons & Library (BSU), \$1,009,544
3. Montgomery Hall Renovation, SMCM, \$183,612
4. Hagerstown Courthouse, Washington, \$TBD

Seven projects are currently on hold due to timing or prospective changes in the project program.

Two projects, both State Police Barracks, are recommended for waiver for the following reasons:

- limited public access,
- low budgets, and
- challenges/delays associated with coordinating work on Barracks projects with DGS and MSP.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Commissioners expressed gratitude for the research, and well organized information and how it was presented.

Commissioners cautioned against any decisions to cut out Maryland State Police Barracks properties altogether, and suggested that Staff should continue to look for opportunities to collaborate with the agency when appropriate.

An example of where the program has worked with MSP is Barracks V in Berlin, where the budget and visibility of the location allowed for an exterior sculpture, but even that project, which has been received very positively, has been challenged by extensive delays in procurement and contracting that will impact its installation date. Commissioner Kwon suggested that perhaps similar locations in the future are good opportunities to consider purchasing artwork to simplify the process.

Conversation turned towards the difficulty of working with unresponsive or uncollaborative partner agencies.

The example of the projects at Morgan State University was raised. Multiple projects have been included on the CIP list for over four years, but communication with the University is strained. Meanwhile the projects represent an opportunity to invest ~\$3M in public art in north east Baltimore, something that residents, and legislators would be very interested in seeing happen. Staff have been requesting a restart to discussions with the campus representative since the fall and were unable to confirm a meeting before the December Commission meeting. There is a meeting scheduled for January 30 that commissioners Kwon and Grey will attend.

Commissioner Seigal suggested that the issue should be elevated to Commerce's legislative affairs department. Commissioner Heater suggested that perhaps there is an alternative contact at the campus; and cautioned against altering the programs procedures or regulations to accommodate reluctant or uncollaborative partners when the established process works well in other places.

Commissioner Grey stated that feedback he had received from University personnel indicates a need for clarity on the existing process; and suggested that the process may feel opaque or be misunderstood and the campus's primary concern is about maintaining local involvement in the selection process.

Commissioner Heater expressed gratitude for that perspective and suggested that there was opportunity for self-assessment and to improve communication around the existing process based on this feedback. She looks forward to hearing about the results of the meeting, and suggested that the lack of clarity is an area for improvement to be considered internally, when communicating the program externally, and when welcoming new Commissioners..

Program Director Patterson thanked the Commission for the good conversation and feedback.

**VOTE:** Recommended to approve for staff to pursue Public Art Investment at four new locations: New Supreme Court of Maryland Building, New Courts of Appeal, New Thurgood Marshall Academic Commons and Library, Montgomery Hall Renovation, and the 3rd Courtroom Addition - Hagerstown Courthouse

**Motion:** Jamie Heater makes a motion as presented

**Second:** Jerome Gray

**Discussion:** None

**In Favor:** **Unanimous**

**Opposed:** None

**Abstained:** None

**VOTE:** Recommended to approve submitting waiver, declining to utilize the public art premium for two State Police: Barrack Q - College Park: New Barrack and Garage, and Barrack L: Forestville - New Barrack and Garage

**Motion:** Jamie Heater, motion to approve as presented

**Second:** Judy Kwon

**Discussion:** Rebecca Massie Lane advised staff to take as diplomatic an approach possible in notifying agencies of declined projects.

**In Favor:** **Unanimous**

**Opposed:** None

**Abstained:** None

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## Program Report & Active Projects Updates (Patterson, Howell)

Program Staff presented a status report of ongoing active MPAI projects across the state.  
The status of individual projects and significant updates are reflected in the meeting slides

<b>Artwork in Fabrication</b>	Dixie Friend Gay	\$309,326	Towson University College of Health Prof.	<b>Baltimore Co.</b>
<b>Fabrication</b>	Marc Archambault	\$371,972	UMBC Sherman Hall	<b>Baltimore Co.</b>
<b>Under Design/Fab.</b>	Branly Cadet	\$311,500	State House, Mon. to Black Patriots	<b>Anne Arundel</b>
<b>Under Design</b>	Mike Szabo	\$165,230	,Salisbury University Blackwell Hall	<b>Wicomico</b>
<b>Under Design</b>	Po Shu Wang	\$339,614	USMSM Autonomous Research & Tech	<b>St. Mary's</b>
<b>Under Design</b>	Kipp Kobayashi	\$259,000	UMB School of Social Work	<b>Baltimore City</b>
<b>Under Design</b>	Latoya Peoples	\$10,000	UMB School of Social Work	<b>Baltimore City</b>
<b>Under Design</b>	Rob Ley	\$725,225	UMD Stanley R. Zupnik School of Eng.	<b>Prince George's</b>
<b>Under Design</b>	Rodney Carroll	105,000	MSP Police Barracks V- Berlin	<b>Worcester</b>
<b>Under Design</b>	Yiqiao Wang	\$61,997	MSD Veditz Building	<b>Frederick</b>
<b>Under Design</b>	Flux Studio	\$310,000	Baltimore City District Court	<b>Baltimore City</b>
<b>Contracting</b>	Hypersonic	\$503,469	Towson University Smith Hall	<b>Baltimore Co.</b>
<b>Contracting</b>	Wesley Clark	\$80,000	BCCC Learning Commons	<b>Baltimore City</b>
<b>Artist Selection</b>	TBD	\$521,452	Human and Health Sciences Complex -UMCP	<b>Prince George's</b>

### Active Project Recent Highlights:

1. Three Commissioned artists conducted in-person site visits with clients
2. Wesley Clark was selected as the finalist for the new project at Baltimore City Community College
3. Marc Archambault's project for UMBC advanced into the fabrication stage

4. Yiqiao Wang is now under contract with DGS for her project at Maryland School for the Deaf
  5. Flux Studio is now under contract with DGS for their project at the New Baltimore City District Court
  6. In 2025, 5 projects were dedicated and fully closed.
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## **New Business, Equity & Justice Sharing**

### **Commissioner Elizabeth Hughes made a presentation about the exhibit MONUMENTS at the Geffen Contemporary, MOCA LA**

The exhibit showcases four Confederate monuments that were removed from Baltimore City in 2017, alongside removed monuments from other locations, displayed in conjunction with contemporary artworks.

The Maryland Historical Trust granted permission for the monuments to travel.

- Three of the monuments have existing easements.
- The ten-year process leading to the monuments' removal was precipitated by the mass shooting at the Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina.
- Co-Curators include Hamza Walker, Kara Walker, and Bennett Simpson].
- Baltimore City's loan of four monuments is considered a significant contribution to the exhibition.
- The first monument to draw attention is Baltimore's Soldiers and Sailors Monument, notably bearing red paint applied while it was on public display.
  - The easement stipulates that the monuments must be on public display and properly maintained.
  - Significant security measures were implemented at the exhibition to ensure the terms of the easement were met, demonstrating the monuments are publicly accessible while on view.
  - Ryan Patterson noted that one sculpture is missing an arm.
    - The storage location, which was intended to be undisclosed and was not publicly accessible, had the sculptures positioned outdoors without a protective fence.
    - Individuals gained access to the property and severed an arm, a sword, and a few other pieces.
    - It is speculated that the intent may have been to salvage and re-sell the metal, though the extent of the removed pieces was limited.

- Ryan Patterson commented that the sculptures, which are iconic, are afforded better protection in their current location.
    - The inclusion of a "Dukes of Hazzard" car references how these symbols of the Confederacy are still present in popular culture.
  - The monuments are imposing in scale when compared to the viewer.
  - Jon Henry's "Stranger Fruit" show, featuring photographs of parents holding their children, is also included in the exhibition.
    - These photographs are juxtaposed with the Confederate Women's Monument.
  - Karon Davis's "Descendants" depicts a figure holding the tail of an equestrian monument.
  - The exhibit includes a sculpture of Roger B. Taney by William Henry Rinehart.
  - Photographs by Hugh Mangum feature individuals who were alive during the Wilmington massacre.
    - These depictions of people who lived during that era stand in contrast to the white supremacist ideology associated with the monuments.
- At "The Brick," a space reserved for one monument, Kara Walker re-constructed and deconstructed a monument, assembling the pieces to create a striking "monster" sculpture. This re-made monument, titled "Unman drone," offers extensive interpretation regarding the Charlottesville incident, the debate over monument removal, and the violence that occurred in Charlottesville.
- The exhibit is scheduled to conclude in May, at which point the Baltimore monuments will be returned to the city.
  - There is currently no definitive plan for the final disposition of the monuments.
  - The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) Board is drafting a proposal for the city to solicit interest from potential hosts who might display the monuments, possibly by commissioning new works or through other forms of public response.
  - St. Mary's Confederate [Group] is advocating for the monuments to be gifted to them.
  - The unresolved matter of where these large pieces will ultimately be housed and how they will be managed will require accelerated attention.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Bachman suggested that the Maryland Trust's Board must have been very trusting in offering their support for the works to travel to the exhibit. Commissioner Jackson suggested a field trip to the exhibit would be very beneficial for the Commissioners. Patterson responded that he will be looking into finding a way to

attend. Commissioner Huges commented that she found the show very enjoyable and it is located in the Little Tokyo area of LA which was also an enjoyable place to visit.

Patterson asked if there were any plans to tour the Exhibit. Hughes replied that because of the cost and scale touring the exhibit would not be possible, but there was a catalog in the works.

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### **2026 Proposed Meeting Schedule (Patterson)**

Thursday, March 19

Thursday, June 11  
Last meeting for outgoing Commissioners  
Welcome New Commissioners

Thursday, September 17- Annual Meeting  
Elections

Thursday, December 17, 2025

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### **Public Comment**

None

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### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 am