



# Maryland State Arts Council Program Policy Evaluation Committee

MEETING MINUTES  
Friday, November 21, 2025  
1:00 – 2:30pm  
Google Meet

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It shall be the duty of the Program Policy Evaluation Committee to review and assess, as necessary, ongoing programs maintained by the Council; to study new program initiatives for Council consideration; to direct the Council's ongoing planning process with respect to policies, programs, and Council operations; to make recommendations for Council action on these matters when appropriate; and to undertake such other duties as the Council may from time to time direct. The committee shall consist of no fewer than three members.

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In attendance: Albita Rivera, Shelley Morhaim, Ruby Lopez Harper, Midge Ingersoll, Chad Buterbaugh, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Jess Porter, Leslie Gillard

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:07 p.m. following guiding documents.

**Shelley made a motion to approve the August 15, 2025 meeting minutes. Ruby seconded. All in favor and the motion passed.**

## **Grants for Artists Policy Proposal**

- Jess provided an overview of the Grants for Artists (GFA) program.
- Jess reviewed the policies and recommended changes.
- Steven and Cathy provided data on counties who submitted eligible applications but didn't receive awards under the current geographic distribution guidelines.

## Discussion

- Councilors inquired about discipline inclusion and geographic representation, and whether funds could be used fully for capital needs.
- Councilors inquired how literary/nonfiction writers would submit proofs.



- Councilors expressed strong support for the program and recommendations, and praised the geographic equity solution as especially impactful.

**Midge made a motion to send the Grants for Artists Policy Proposal to the full council for a vote. Shelley seconded. All in favor and the motion passed.**

#### **New Business**

- No new business.

The meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.