



# Maryland State Arts Council Governance Committee

MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, December 2, 2025  
9:00am - 10:30am  
Google Meet

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The Governance Committee shall enhance the engagement and participation of Council members, and to ensure the effective operation of the lay leadership structure.

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In attendance: Paige Hernandez, Ruby Lopez Harper, Monique Walker, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Chad Buterbaugh, Leslie Gillard

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:06 a.m. following guiding documents.

**Monique made a motion to approve the March 4, 2025 Governance Committee minutes. Ruby seconded. All in favor and the motion passed.**

## **By-Laws Updates Review**

- Steven gave the justification and background for By-Laws reviews.
- Steven reviewed the track changes in the By-Laws updates.
- Steven recommended the following:
  - Panelist approval administrative votes be a duty of the Grants Committee (rather than the full Council)
  - Consult the AAG for updates about open meetings act updates
  - Conduct a final review at the January committee meeting, and vote to send to Council for approval.
  - Obtain Council approval at the March Council meeting.
- The committee agreed with Steven's recommendations.

## Discussion

- Councilors discussed the reason the suggestion was made to send panel votes to the Grants Committee, and if that should be added to the By-Laws officially.



## **Ongoing Board Member Engagement Discussion**

- The Councilors brainstormed additional suggestions to existing councilor engagement materials:
  - Discuss with Council what really matters, in order to put more effort and time in events of interest.
  - Provide updated talking points to the council.
  - Revisit the mentorship program for new council members, especially in preparation for Council meetings
  - The committee could generate a survey for Councilors regarding what they're involved in around the State, and disseminate to the entire Council (Monique).
  - Host a "Get to Know You" social event for council members (Paige).

## **Discussion**

- Councilors asked Steven to provide details on previous efforts to engage councilors that are no longer in existence.
- Councilors clarified what "engagement" means and what's preferred; with a specific audience, the public, or only with the Council?
  - Engagement with the Council, but it's also important to engage with constituents to bring back to council discussions.

## **Nominating Committee Process Proposal**

- Steven suggested gathering suggestions for new councilors by asking currently serving council members on a regular basis, to streamline the process and aid the Governor's appointments office.

## **New Business**

No new business.

## **Public Comment**

No public comment.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:50 a.m.