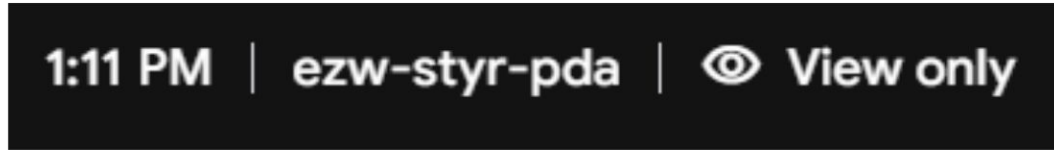


FY2027 Folklife Apprenticeship Panel Meeting

**Thursday, June 11, 2026
10 AM - 4 PM**

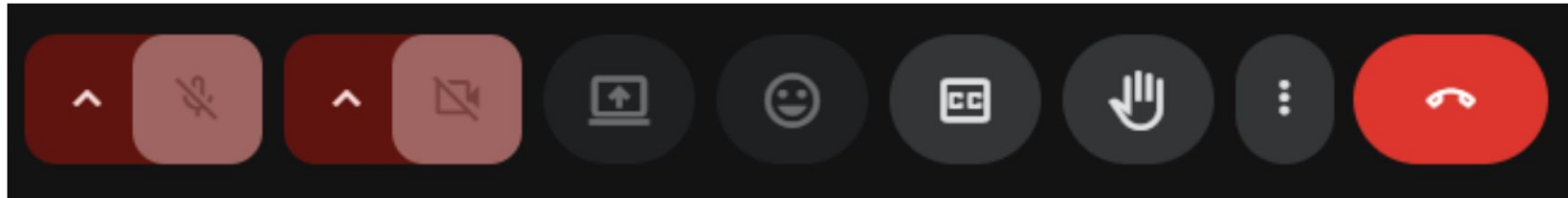
Reference Shot of Features (1 of 2)



Time

Meeting code

Guest status



Audio
settings

Video
settings

Share
screen

Share
reactions

Closed
captions

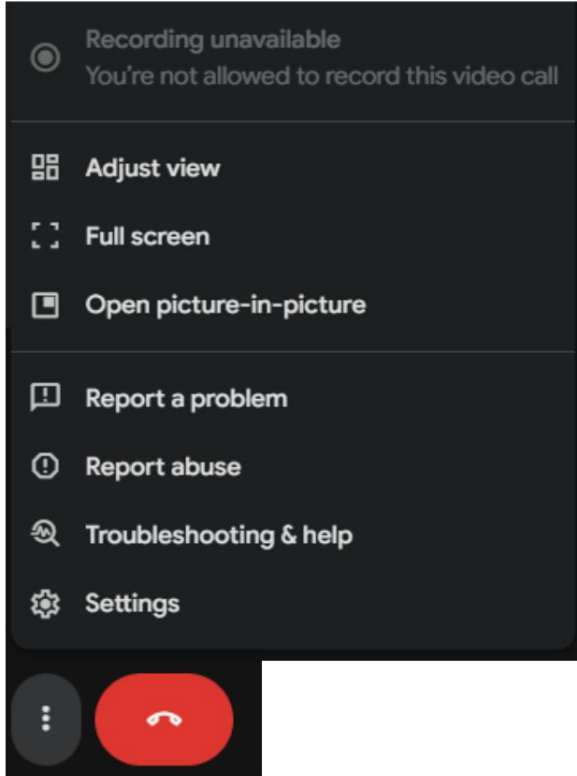
Raise
hand

More
options

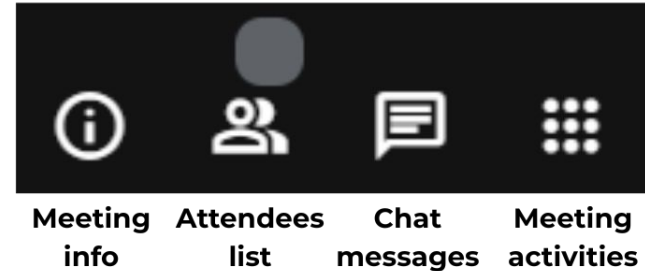
Leave
meeting

In keeping with State of Maryland guidance on generative AI, please do not use AI to record or transcribe.
Virtual assistants and notetakers appearing in the meeting will be removed

Reference Shot of Features (2 of 2)



In 'More options'



Introductions

Land Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge the lands and waters now known as Maryland are the home of its first peoples: the Accohannock Indian Tribe, Assateague People's Tribe, Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians, Choptico Band of Indians, Lenape Tribe, Nanticoke Tribe, Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians, Piscataway Conoy Tribe, Piscataway Indian Nation, Pocomoke Indian Nation, Susquehannock Indians, Youghiogheny River Band of Shawnee, and tribes in the Chesapeake watershed who have seemingly vanished since the coming of colonialism. We acknowledge that this land is now home to other tribal peoples living here in diaspora. We acknowledge the forced removal of many from the lands and waterways that nurtured them as kin. We acknowledge the degradation that continues to be wrought on the land and waters in pursuit of resources. We acknowledge the right of the land and waterways to heal so that they can continue to provide food and medicine for all. We acknowledge that it is our collective obligation to pursue policies and practices that respect the land and waters so that our reciprocal relationship with them can be fully restored.

Equity and Justice Statement

The arts celebrate our state's diversity, connect our shared humanity, and transform individuals and communities. The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) is committed to advancing and modeling equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion in all aspects of our organization and across communities of our state.

Vision

MSAC plays an essential role ensuring every person has access to the transformative power of the arts.

Mission

MSAC advances the arts in our state by providing leadership that champions creative expression, diverse programming, equitable access, lifelong learning, and the arts as a celebrated contributor to the quality of life for all the people of Maryland.

MSAC Strategic Plan - Pillars and Goals

Access

Bolster access to arts experiences and resources

Awareness

Amplify the stories of Maryland's arts sector and the value of public support

Connection

Foster networks within and beyond the arts sector

Equity

Cultivate a thriving arts ecosystem centered in equity

Leadership

Commit to a culture of care and innovation

Creative Meeting Actions

Celebrate being in the space with other creative people.

Engage with everyone's presence as a gift.

Acknowledge that together we know a lot.

Enter the conversation with curiosity and inquiry.

Share your idea and trust that it will be heard.

Use "I" statements.

Focus your language on the task at hand.

Hold one another accountable with care.

Honor all perspectives and build on shared ideas.

Balance speaking with listening.

Equity: Impact vs. Grant Writing

The application is meant to inspire authentic reflection and internal analysis for each applying organization, with the knowledge that MSAC is to be seen and utilized as a collaborative partner in the process.

One aspect of the partnership is to guide panelists to see beyond the “polish” of grant writing that may be inequitably influenced by the privilege of resources (financial, educational, etc...) and, instead, focus upon the impact of the applicant.

Responses as Recommendations

"The application was unclear and did not speak to the applicant's connection to the traditional arts."

becomes

"I would recommend that the applicant clarify their connection to the traditional arts by adding language that connects their work to living cultural traditions."

Today's Goal

- Review 26 Folklife Apprenticeship applications from across the state
- Applications with initial score of 86% and higher will be reviewed today
- Based on final scores, staff will determine awards

Panel Meeting Structure

The goal is for each application to be discussed within a nine minute window in which the following will occur. *Timing is subject to change.*

- The average initial score for the nomination is projected.
- 2 minutes: Lead reader introduces the application in connection to the rubric
- 3 minutes: Additional discussion by all panelists
- 2 minutes: Final scoring submission in SmartSimple
- Sharing final average scores

Practice Round!

Application Score - practice round

APP 2027-45279

Applicant: Ryan Koons

Lead reader: Chad Buterbaugh

Initial average: 0%

Final average: 76.6%

Application Score

APP 2027-42665

Applicant: Michael Seipp

Lead Reader: Joan Ayap

Initial average: 92.4%

Final average: 92.4%

Application Score

APP 2027-42692

Applicant: Chynna Golding

Lead Reader: Madhuvanthi Sundararajan

Initial average: 91.8%

Final average: 91.4%

Application Score

APP 2027-42804

Applicant: Sylvia Stephens

Lead Reader: Vanessa Moore

Initial average: 86.4%

Final average: 88.8%

Application Score

APP 2027-42824

Applicant: Alif Laila

Lead Reader: Kate Spanos

Initial average: 97%

Final average: 98%

Application Score

APP 2027-42856

Applicant: Jeff Cosgrove

Lead Reader: Vanessa Moore

Initial average: 88.6%

Final average: 86.2%

Application Score

APP 2027-43105

Applicant: Rebecca Hill

Lead Reader: Maria Gabriela Aldana

Conflict of interest: Kate Spanos

Initial average: 89.3%

Final average: 91%

15 min break

Return at 11:35

Application Score

APP 2027-43122

Applicant: Corinne Ducey

Lead Reader: Madhuvanthi Sundararajan

Initial average: 94.2%

Final average: 92.6%

Application Score

APP 2027-43404

Applicant: Melinda Byrd

Lead Reader: Joan Ayap

Initial average: 86.2%

Final average: 85.6%

Application Score

APP 2027-43500

Applicant: Evan Nicole Bell

Lead Reader: Vanessa Moore

Initial average: 90.2%

Final average: 93%

Application Score

APP 2027-43530

Applicant: Elizabeth McKeown

Lead Reader: Madhuvanthi Sundararajan

Initial average: 95.6%

Final average: 95%

Application Score

APP 2027-43752

Applicant: Alessandra Keener

Lead Reader: Kate Spanos

Initial average: 90.6%

Final average: 93.8%

Application Score

APP 2027-43949

Applicant: Saj Dillard

Lead Reader: Maria Gabriela Aldana

Initial average: 90.6%

Final average: 91.4%

Application Score

APP 2027-44147

Applicant: Amirreza Sharifi

Lead Reader: Kate Spanos

Initial average: 90.6%

Final average: 89%

Application Score

APP 2027-44442

Applicant: Anastasiia Kucher

Lead Reader: Kate Spanos

Initial average: 90%

Final average: 90%

20 min break

Return at 1:16

Application Score

APP 2027-44533

Applicant: Jeanne Gibbons

Lead Reader: Vanessa Moore

Initial average: 94.4%

Final average: 93.8%

Application Score

APP 2027-44546

Applicant: Amanda Gough

Lead Reader: Kate Spanos

Initial average: 90.6%

Final average: 89.2%

Application Score

APP 2027-44567

Applicant: Sika Koudou

Lead Reader: Kate Spanos

Initial average: 93.4%

Final average: 94.8%

Application Score

APP 2027-44586

Applicant: Arlene Mei Pinpin Stevens

Lead Reader: Kate Spanos

Initial average: 86.8%

Final average: 89%

Application Score

APP 2027-44600

Applicant: Eric Jackson

Lead Reader: Madhuvanthi Sundararajan

Initial average: 93.6%

Final average: 93.8%

Application Score

APP 2027-44603

Applicant: Mark H Rooney

Lead Reader: Vanessa Moore

Conflict of Interest: Joan Ayap

Initial average: 89.8%

Final average: 91.8%

Application Score

APP 2027-44627

Applicant: Nicholas Wilson

Lead Reader: Maria Gabriela Aldana

Initial average: 93.4%

Final average: 95%

10 min break

Return at 2:28

Application Score

APP 2027-44640

Applicant: Yara Cordeiro

Lead Reader: Maria Gabriela Aldana

Initial average: 90%

Final average: 92.2%

Application Score

APP 2027-44641

Applicant: Sache Jones

Lead Reader: Joan Ayap

Conflict of Interest: Maria Gabriela Aldana

Initial average: 92.3%

Final average: 94%

Application Score

APP 2027-44642

Applicant: Judith Sweet

Lead Reader: Vanessa Moore

Initial average: 89%

Final average: 89.4%

Application Score

APP 2027-44644

Applicant: Bertrand Mao

Lead Reader: Madhuvanthi Sundararajan

Initial average: 88%

Final average: 89.8%

Application Score

APP 2027-44649

Applicant: Slava Zonova

Lead Reader: Madhuvanthi Sundararajan

Initial average: 89.8%

Final average: 91.4%

Thank You!