



Maryland State Arts Council Meeting

MEETING MINUTES
March 8, 2022

Called to Order at 11:06.

Welcome Secretary Gill

Secretary Mike Gill returns after previously serving as Secretary of Commerce from 2015-2019. Secretary Gill has always had a vision for the Arts Council to house gallery and performance space as well as administrative offices that present and promote Maryland artists. Secretary Gill is eager to be of service wherever he can during his short tenure and expressed how impressed he is with the council.

Chair Jacqueline Copeland welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance and dedication.

Shelley Morhaim made a motion to approve the March 8, 2022 council meeting agenda. Julie Madden seconded the motion. All in favor.

David Fakunle made a motion to approve the January 13, 2022 council meeting minutes. Julie Madden seconded the motion. All in favor.

Executive Director Report (Skerritt-Davis)

Staffing Updates

- Grants Director - Position posted, closes March 18, 2022
- Deputy Director - Pending reclassification
- Program Director - County Arts Development and Arts & Entertainment Districts, interviews scheduled
- Program Director - Arts in Education, start date March 30, 2022
- Arts Education Grants Management Associate - being reevaluated to better serve all grant programs

How we Meet Discussions Update

- Staff reviewing when and how we meet in a series of staff meeting discussions
- Emerging Trends



- Site visits necessitate in-person meetings
- A lot of the work we do can remain virtual
- Periodic in-person staff meetings
- There are a lot of possibilities for meeting around the State!
- Council and Committee meetings
 - Aiming for June Council meeting in person
 - Committee work to remain virtual

Strategic Plan Update

- Plan adopted in 2019; was a 3-5 year plan
- Staff re-examining the implementation in March/April
- Will bring proposal to next Executive Committee meeting for next process timeline

Preservation of Cultural Arts (POCA) Update

- Discrepancy between the General Accounting Division (GAD) in the Comptroller's office and the Department of Legislative Services accounting of Admissions and Amusement Tax Revenue that funds the Preservation of Cultural Arts statutory and legislative request grants
 - 12.2022 - Commerce requested holding \$500k to ensure meeting POCA grant obligations
 - 2.7.2022 - GAD transferred \$281K to Commerce
 - 3.4.2022 - Commerce Budget Team reported funds are available to meet all grant obligations
- Going forward, any non-MSAC transaction will go through the POCA appropriation/program

Mid-Year Budgeting Review, Discussion

- Mid- Year Budget Review
 - Goal - end the year with minimal surplus
 - As a result of match removal, staff expecting FY22 surplus
 - Councilors held discussion around increasing independent artists awards
 - Independent Art Initiative will help distribute leftover funds
 - Independent artists also being granted through project funds
 - Request from program teams
 - Net total requested: \$690,000
 - Net total w/ 40K moved to Public Art: \$730,00



Shelley Morhaim made a motion to 40K within the FY22 budget to Public Art Across Maryland. Zoe Charlton seconded the motion. All in favor.

Special Request Grant Revision Process

- Follow Public Editor Process
- Goal: creating a process for applying for MSAC funding for
 - new initiatives
 - organizational development
 - ongoing projects with statewide impact
- Timeline will be communicated as staff capacity allows

Digital Votes

FY22 Life Journeys Writers Club Special Request February 7, 2022; Move \$690,000 from FY22 budget February 17, 2022; FY23 Folklife Network Panelists February 17, 2022; Alice Ferguson Special Request, February 25, 2022.

Staff Reports

Public Art Across Maryland

PAAM Grants

- Quarter 3 Grants Application Submissions February 18, 2022
 - New Artworks
 - Planning Grants: 5
 - Project Grants: 4
 - Conservation
 - Project Grants: 2
 - We anticipate a larger number of submissions in Quarter 4 as prior planning grantees will submit Project Grant requests for full implementation
- Public Art staff provide one-on-one grant feedback and technical assistance to all declined applicants to encourage re-applying to the program

Artwork Commissions

- Coppin State University (1) and UMES (2) projects are in design development
- Salisbury Animal Health Lab: Finalist Thomas Sterner (Westminster) under contract and commencing design development
- Catonsville District Courthouse: Two MD artists finalists will go before the Board of Public Works for approval, April 6. Following approval, finalists announcement



Current Artist Selection Processes Underway

- St. Mary's College of Maryland
 - 215 applications received/158 eligible and advanced for panel scoring
- Bowie State University
 - 208 applications received/126 eligible and advanced for panel scoring

Upcoming Projects:

- Towson State University, College of Health Professions
- Frostburg State University, Education and Health Sciences Center
- 10 Projects backlogged and cannot begin due to staff capacity

Maryland Traditions

Land Acknowledgement Project

- Maryland Traditions-facilitated consultations of all tribal groups in Maryland
- Collaborative development of land acknowledgement language for public use
- Resource guide approved and available on MSAC.org
- Marketing plan to cover social media, state arts agencies, and conferences

Folklife presented a Sharecropping-style Quilting video from Wide Angle Production.

Fiscal Report (Roper, Russell)

- FY22 Revenue Budget
 - Total of all funds: \$28,269,337; Special Request Grants Remaining Budget: \$271,000; Remaining surplus: \$516,625

Maryland Citizens for the Arts Update (Nicholas Cohen)

- MD Arts Day a success, keynote speaker Quanice Floyd well received, Sue Hess award winner Cara Ober spoke to the importance of arts journalism
- Legislative session currently underway; MSAC budget being discussed and looking forward to 30M next year; general assembly should acknowledge wrong formula implemented
- Emergency granting cannot go on indefinitely; approved to ask for \$50M from state budget surplus to be administered over the next 2 years within programs that exist
- Call for MD Arts Summit is out and the summit will be held June 9-10 in person at the University of Maryland Baltimore Campus



Executive Committee Report (Copeland)

Executive Director's report and March council meeting agenda reviewed.

Governance Committee Report (Madden)

Councilors were reminded of roles and responsibilities. Encouraged to participate in arts events in their communities and professional development held by MSAC. Councilors are also encouraged to continue equity, justice and inclusion work. Julie to attend upcoming CityLit event to hear keynote speaker Nikole Hannah-Jones speak.

Nominating Committee Election (Penick)

Current members Carole Alexander, Shelley Morhaim and Zoe Charlton of Nominating Committee presented to the council.

Lily Bengfort made a motion to vote for the current slate of nominating committee members. Jackie Copeland seconded. All in favor.

Nominating Committee to meet April 15, 2022 to nominate slate of officers for full council and present nominations for a vote during annual meeting in June.

Special Requests Review and Vote (Buterbaugh)

FY22 Special Grants Request Grants Review

Budgeted: \$600,000; Spent/Allocated: \$329,000; Currently remaining: \$271,000. March recommended totals: \$0

Artrepreneurs (Arts on the Block) funding request \$18,000; staff rating 74%; staff recommendation to decline.

Jackie made a motion to approve the staff's recommendation with the contingency of feedback provided to the applicant. Benny Russell seconded the motion. All in favor.

Three Special Request applications were submitted after the deadline for March council presentation

- All will require full council review
- Activities proposed in these applications are for FY 2022
- Staff recommendation:
 - *Move forward with staff review and send funding recommendations for electronic vote by full council*



New Business

Chris Sloan mentioned that the council should look into Non-fungible tokens (NFT) and help artists navigate this new avenue of artistic expression for future development.

Jackie acknowledged the past two years have been challenging and thanked Steven and the staff for all of their hard work and not missing a beat to continue to make the arts accessible.

Adjournment 11:58am.