

COFFEE WITH THE COUNCIL

What's new at MSAC in FY24

Steven Skerritt-Davis, Executive Director, MSAC

MSAC Overview

Established 1967

State agency within the Department of Commerce

- Secretary of Commerce, Kevin Anderson
- Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Tom Riford
- MSAC Executive Director, Steven Skerritt-Davis

Appointed body of 17 citizens from across the state

- 13 are appointed by the Governor to three-year terms that may be renewed once
- 1 private citizens and 1 legislators are appointed by the President of the Senate
- 1 private citizens and 1 legislators are appointed by the Speaker of the House

19 member staff

Our work ensures equitable funding for and access to the arts for all Maryland residents.

Programs

Arts & Entertainment Districts

- Staff Support for Districts
- Operating Support

Arts in Education

- Teaching Artist Roster
- AiE Grants

County Arts Agencies of Maryland

- County Arts Development Grant

Creativity Grants

- Operating Support
- Project Support

Grants for Artists

- Operating Support

Grants for Organizations

- Operating Support

Independent Artist Awards

- Recognition of Accomplishment

Maryland Traditions

- Heritage Awards
- Folklife Apprenticeships
- Folklife Network

Programs

Presenting and Touring

- Performing Artist Roster
- Touring Grant

Professional Development

- MSAC Offerings
- Professional Development Opportunity Grant

Public Art

- Commissions
- New Artworks Grants
- Conservation Grants

Special Requests

- Special Request Grant

Also

- Maryland Poet Laureate
 - Poetry Out Loud
-

New for FY24

- Arts Capital

Pausing for FY24

- Emergency Grant
- Network Organizational Development Grant

What's new for FY24?

Arts in Education

Public Art

Grants for Organizations

Independent Artist Award

Creativity

Network Organizational Development

Special Requests

Emergency Grants for Independent Artists

Match Removal

Arts Capital

Review FY24 Approved Budget

Arts in Education (AiE) Grant

- Increased maximum grant amount to \$6,000
 - Grant maximum was temporarily increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500 in FY23 (due to Arts Relief Funding)
- Established a maximum on AiE grant awards for Lead Artists and Organizations
 - Lead Artist: 4% of overall AiE budget (\$23,000)
 - Organizations: 15% of overall AiE budget (\$86,250) + observing Lead Artist max above
- Broadened definition of who may serve as a Site Coordinator
- Clarified and expanded allowable expenses
- Add 1 point to applications from underrepresented counties (determined by the number of applications received during the previous fiscal year)
 - Allegany, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Worcester

Arts in Education Teaching Artist Roster

- Streamlined the application/review process from a two-step to one-step process.
 - Replaced separately scheduled “site visit” with a recording of instruction, performance, and/or online program that is included in the online application.
- Replace Teaching Artist Statement question with three short answer questions scored to ensure applicant’s work aligns with MSAC’s values.
- Updated rubric to align with modified application questions
- Biannual application reviews in September-October and April-May

AiE Information Session: Thursday, August 3, 4-5 p.m.

AiE Teaching Artist Office Hours: Tuesday, August 8, 4-5 p.m.

Public Art Across Maryland

Changes to be aware of in Fiscal Year 2024:

- A definition for “Public Art” that can be supported through the PAAM grants is included in the MSAC Glossary.
- There will be one annual application deadline: **January 26, 2024.**
- The maxim grant award for both New Artworks & Conservation is **\$30,000** (no match req.)
- New Artworks project grants will require that applications are submitted by **organizations working in collaboration with a lead artist.**
- Updated FY24 **Grant Guidelines will be posted in late August.** A “How to Apply” info session will be held on **Friday, September 8, 2023.** Register now on MSAC’s Eventbrite.
- Public Art Program Director **Liesel Fenner** is the lead contact for ALL grant applications.

Grants for Organizations Formula - FY24 Calculation

The GFO funding formula includes three variables:

(Total Allowable Income \$) x (Panel % Score) x (Cap Allocation %) = Grant Amount

- FY23 (and prior years of program) - All organizations received the same Cap Allocation Percentage (6.699%)
- FY24 is year 1 of a 5-year transition for the Equitable Funding Formula:
 - 5 Tiers based on Allowable Income = 5 different cap allocation %
 - Cap Award amount of \$1.4M in place (*did not need to implement*)

Grants for Organizations Formula - FY24 Calculation

Tiers - Year 1 of 5 year transition	Cap Allocation %	Number of Orgs	Total Amount by Tier	% of funding by Tier
Tier 1 (\$50K-\$500K) - working toward 15% (cap allocation) over 5 year transition	8.3705%	183 orgs	\$2,517,577	~14%
Tier 2: (\$500K - \$1.5M) - working toward 10% (cap allocation) over 5 year transition	7.7%	65 orgs	\$3,626,143	~20%
Tier 3: (\$1.5M - \$5M) - working toward 6% (cap allocation) over 5 year transition	6.7%	32 orgs	\$4,700,015	~26%
Tier 4: (\$5M - \$10M) - working toward 4.5% (cap allocation) over 5 year transition	6.1%	6 orgs	\$2,363,502	~13%
Tier 5: (\$10M+) - working toward 4% (cap allocation) over 5 year transition	5.75%	5 orgs	\$4,792,879	~27%

Independent Artist Awards - Revision Process Ongoing

Program revision process to date

- Surveys
- Listening sessions
- Staff input
- Councilor input
- Editing process
- Staff review

Results

- Editor recommendations resulted in minimal changes to the program
- Reviewing staffing capacity

Creativity Grant

- Applicant Eligibility - limiting resubmission of applications for same project
- Project Eligibility - limiting applications from collaborative groups to one per project
- Applications Scoring - sending all applications to panel for review (no staff scoring)
- Shift in monthly review schedule. Applications received in one month, will be reviewed the next month, with notifications sent early the following month.
 - For example: Applications received in July (July 1 - July 31) will be reviewed by the panel in August. Notifications of that review will be sent by early September.

Professional Development & Touring

- Shift in monthly review schedule. Applications received in one month, will be reviewed the next month, with notifications sent early the following month.
 - For example: Applications received in July (July 1 - July 31) will be reviewed by the panel in August. Notifications of that review will be sent by early September.

Upcoming Information Sessions

- Creativity Grant - Project Support (artists & orgs) - Tues., Aug. 8 at 12PM
- Creativity Grant - General Operating (orgs only) - Thurs., Aug. 10 at 12PM
- Professional Development Grant - Tues., Aug. 15 at 12PM
- Touring Grant / Roster - Fri., Aug. 18 at 12PM

Network Organizational Development (NOD)

- Pause NOD in FY24 and direct constituents to Special Request grant.

Special Request Grant

- Reduce grant request range to \$2,000 - \$25,000.
- Make pre-application consultations recommended, not required.
- Clarify that eligible requests must represent a departure from the applicant's regular arts activities; add a question and an evaluation criterion to this effect.
- Noting that Special Request revenues cannot count toward increased awards in the GFO program

Background - Emergency Grant

Program was created out of necessity as COVID response. Cont'd w/ dedicated funding

- FY20-21: various COVID-specific funds (for orgs + ind. artists)
- FY22: ARPA funding (for ind. artists)
- FY23: Arts Relief (for ind. artists)

In FY22, expanded to include losses sustained from non-COVID emergencies

- Need is varied and great
- Guidelines do not define “emergency” clearly (range of hardships described in apps)
 - Staff/agency not equipped to evaluate/field some of these events
- MSAC/State payment timeline insufficient for emergency situations
- Staff capacity issues (for program management and reviews)

Emergency Grants for Independent Artists

- Pause the Emergency Grant program in FY24
- Publish other available emergency resources
 - msac.org/resources
- Reevaluate with intentionality to determine best ways to support artists

Note: the [Grants for Artists](#) program will continue in FY24, after a successful pilot last year. Application details forthcoming.

Match Removal

- Matching MSAC grant funds no longer required
 - County Arts Development
 - Touring Grant

Arts Capital Program

- Research and development of program guidelines and grant application is underway.
- A **new grant program to distribute \$3 million in capital funding** among a number of organizations and projects statewide.
- This new program is expected to **open for applications in early 2024**, and the first round of awards will be announced by June 2024.
- **Projects must have a 15-year life span** and may include: property acquisition, design costs, new construction; and demolition, renovation, and rehabilitation of existing facilities .
- Eligible organizations must have an **annual operating budget less than \$3 million**, be open to the public, and provide cultural education or experiences.
- Listening Sessions scheduled for **August 2** and **August 21**. Register on MSAC eventbrite.

FY24 Budget

Administration	\$3,667,580
Grants for Organizations	\$18,000,000
County Arts Development	\$5,000,000
Creativity	\$700,000
Professional Development Opportunity	\$100,000
Touring Grants	\$132,000
Special Request	\$100,000
Arts & Entertainment Districts Operating Support	\$464,000
Arts in Education	\$575,000
Independent Artist Awards	\$275,000
Public Art Across Maryland	\$675,000
Maryland Traditions	\$775,000
Grants for Artists	\$275,000
Arts Capital	\$3,000,000
Legislative Line Items	\$1,800,000

Info Sessions, Etc.

- Arts Capital Grant Program Listening Session - Wednesday, August 2 at 1 p.m.
- Arts in Education Information Session: Thursday, August 3, 4-5 p.m.
- Creativity Grant - Project Support (artists & orgs) - Tuesday, August 8 at 12 p.m.
- Arts in Education Teaching Artist Office Hours: Tuesday, August 8, 4-5 p.m.
- Creativity Grant - General Operating (orgs only) - Thursday, August 10 at 12 p.m.
- Professional Development Grant - Tuesday, August 15 at 12 p.m.
- Touring Grant / Roster - Friday, August 18 at 12 p.m.
- Arts Capital Grant Program Listening Session - Tuesday, August 21 at 11 a.m.
- How to Nominate for a Heritage Award - Monday, August 28 at 1 p.m.
- Grants for Organizations, Intent to Apply - Tuesday, August 29 at 12 p.m.
- Public Art “How to Apply” info session will be held on Friday, September 8 at 12 p.m.

Register: www.eventbrite.com/o/maryland-state-arts-council-17190128438

Questions/Comments

Reflections

Send any additional reflections to
msac.commerce@maryland.gov

Thank You!

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