MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Fellow Marylanders:

It’s my pleasure to introduce the Maryland State Arts Council’s FY 2023 Annual Report with the exciting news that our state ranks second in the nation in per capita public spending on the arts! This historic investment demonstrates this administration’s belief that the arts are an essential part of life in Maryland; they’re part of what makes our state such a great place to live and work, and they contribute significantly to our economy.

Notable this year was the addition of $40 million in pandemic recovery funding to MSAC’s record regular budget of $28.9 million. The MSAC team worked diligently, thoughtfully, and tirelessly to deliver funding through its regular programs as well as much needed Arts Relief funds to Maryland’s arts sector. These funds have and will help to ensure a robust job market in the arts, as well as a quality of life that bolsters the state’s appeal to current Marylanders, visitors, and prospective residents.

I invite you to look through the following pages for the full story about MSAC’s recent activities. From the largest arts organization to the ambitious startup to the many artists at work in the studio, every layer of our creative economy has been touched by their work.

Kevin Anderson
Secretary
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MSAC is an agency of the State of Maryland’s Department of Commerce. It provides resources to the state’s arts sector through grants, professional development, and other opportunities.

Founded in 1967, MSAC’s vision is to play an essential role ensuring every person has access to the transformative power of the arts.

Its mission is to advance 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 is committed to justice in grantmaking. Centering equity, diversity, and inclusion in all decisions ensures that Marylanders have the opportunity to participate in the arts as affirming, enhancing, and necessary life experiences.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Funding sources
- Special state funds: $41,300,000 (60%)
- General state funds: $26,592,924 (39%)
- Federal funds: $766,290 (1%)

Grant types
- Project: 950 (49%)
- Operating: 1,309 (51%)

Grantee types
- Organizations: $61,961,713 (93%)
- Individuals: $4,572,210 (7%)

Maryland was 2nd in the nation in per capita spending on the arts in FY 2023.
It has been a busy and rewarding year at MSAC. Our biggest achievement was the successful expenditure of the Arts Relief funding package, $40 million in state supplemental budget funds provided to help support economic stability as Maryland's arts sector continues to navigate the effects of the pandemic.

I feel honored to have worked with an incredible team to develop a plan that distributed the entirety of the $40 million dollars equitably through increases in the number and dollar amount of existing grants, as well as the creation and implementation of new grants supporting organizations and artists.

It was MSAC’s privilege to steward this funding, which we hope puts our grantees on stable footing as they look toward the future.

Steven Skerritt-Davis
Executive Director

“I feel so lucky to live in a state with such robust arts support, and so much of that is because of the thoughtful and generous work your team at MSAC does! I’m always so impressed by your systems and care — you really stand out amongst funders.”

— Kate Reed Petty, writer (Baltimore City)
ARTS RELIEF

$40 million

Arts Relief General Operating Support: $34,471,478
  - Grants for Organizations: $26,621,478
  - County Arts Development: $6,050,000
  - Arts & Entertainment District Operating Support: $925,000
  - Folklife Network: $875,000
Public Art Across Maryland: $1,760,000
Grants for Artists: $1,290,000
Creativity: $1,042,503
Arts in Education: $796,012
Emergency: $300,000
Folklife Apprenticeship: $150,000
Professional Development Opportunity: $100,000
Special Request: $90,007

In FY23:

- 282% increase in operating grants
- 209% increase in grants to artists
- 164% increase in grants to organizations
- 55% increase in project grants
A large portion of this year’s Arts Relief funding went toward the creation of the Arts Relief General Operating Support (ARGOS) program, a temporary offering that provided pandemic recovery funds to grantees of MSAC’s existing Grants for Organizations, County Arts Development, Folklife Network, and Arts & Entertainment District General Operating Support programs.

“The return from the pandemic has been anything but smooth, and the ups and downs and all-over swings of the past two-plus years have been pretty challenging, to say the least. To get this level of support now is a real testament to the importance of the performing arts in Maryland. Thank you for all that you do to promote the value of arts institutions and artists.”

— Olney Theatre Center (Montgomery)
GRANTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS

$16,973,738
282 grants

The Grants for Organizations program strengthened and sustained Maryland’s arts infrastructure by providing operating support to organizations producing or presenting arts programming for public audiences across Maryland. The increasingly popular program served 30 new grantees in FY 2023.

“We at the Ward Foundation are grateful for the ongoing support of the MSAC — through funding, but also by being mindful of the available resources (personnel, time, etc.) of the nonprofits applying for funds. MSAC has been hands-down the most responsive to the needs and challenges of arts organizations during the pandemic, and we thank you for your work on our behalf!"

— The Ward Foundation (Wicomico)
$1,956,888
449 grants

The Creativity grant supported two kinds of arts activities: general operations for smaller organizations and projects for organizations and artists. Creativity grant funding increased substantially in FY 2023, due to an infusion of Arts Relief support.
COUNTY ARTS DEVELOPMENT

$4,750,000
24 grants

The County Arts Development program bolstered Maryland's network of county arts agencies with operating funding for the designated government offices and nonprofit organizations supporting local arts activities in each jurisdiction of the state — 23 counties plus Baltimore City. All county arts agencies provide local arts funding opportunities, programming, and other resources.
GRANTS FOR ARTISTS

$1,620,000
270 grants

Grants for Artists, MSAC’s newest program, piloted last year to support working and living expenses for 270 artists making work independently of an organization or institution. The program attracted an unprecedented level of interest and received applications from every jurisdiction in the state.

“A thank you so very much for this grant opportunity! It means a lot to be approved for this grant in order to acquire the sewing and quilting tools and services that will help me to continue and to improve the quality of making, sharing, and selling quilt blocks and quilts and other items to Smithsonian Enterprises and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.”

— Sylvia G. Stephens, quilter (Prince George’s)
PUBLIC ART ACROSS MARYLAND

$2,519,041
89 New Artworks grants
17 Conservation grants

The Public Art Across Maryland program funded the planning, creation, installation, and conservation of publicly accessible art integrated into the everyday experiences of Marylanders statewide.

In addition, the program supported progress on seven commissioned works at state-owned facilities and introduced the Public Art Roster, a directory easing artists’ access to work opportunities and addressing high demand from those wishing to connect with the Public Art Across Maryland program.
The Arts in Education program supported the work of teaching artists in school and community settings by funding members of the Teaching Artist Roster, a vetted list of Maryland artists and organizations whose efforts deepen lifelong learning.

The Arts in Education program also administered Poetry Out Loud, a state recitation competition helping students master public speaking skills and build self-confidence. State champion Madison Harris, a freshman from Indian Creek High School in Anne Arundel County, went on to place third in the national Poetry Out Loud competition.
MARYLAND TRADITIONS

$985,000
49 Folklife Apprenticeships
8 Folklife Network grants
6 Heritage Awards

Maryland Traditions, MSAC’s traditional arts program and the oldest of its kind in the country, provided support for one-on-one traditional arts education experiences, long-term achievement in the traditional arts, and a network of eight regional folklife centers raising the profile of the many cultural communities that call Maryland home.

“Having the opportunity to share an art form that I am so passionate about with an aspiring artist and help ensure it continues to be practiced and shared is an exhilarating feeling! Thank you MSAC.”

— Colleen Tiefenthal, fiber artist (Cecil)
Maryland’s 29 Arts & Entertainment Districts received support from MSAC in promoting community involvement, tourism, and revitalization through the availability of tax-related incentives. This support included funding to most districts through the Arts & Entertainment District General Operating Support grant.

The Presenting & Touring program fostered connections between Maryland’s performing artists and performance venues through the Maryland Performing Artist Touring Roster, a listing that encourages connections between the two groups. The program also provided funding to presenting organizations that engage roster artists through the Maryland Touring grant.
The Network Organizational Development (NOD) grant funded capacity building projects for organizations participating in three MSAC programs: Arts & Entertainment Districts, County Arts Development, and the Folklife Network.

Professional Development Opportunity (PD Opportunity) grant supported the cost of relevant training and skill-building for artists and organizations seeking to grow their impacts in the arts sector.
EMERGENCY

$590,000
295 grants

Emergency grants supported artists experiencing income losses as a result of the pandemic and other unforeseen circumstances.

SPECIAL REQUEST

$324,271
7 grants

The Special Request program helped organizations seeking to fund pilot projects, build capacity, and become more responsive to constituent requests.

“Thank you for your guidance during the application process for the Special Request grant! We are very grateful for this much-needed support, and we could not have successfully made ourselves understood by the review committee without your help.”

— Mayur Dance (Montgomery)
MSAC maintains a regular schedule of free virtual and live professional development offerings, including topic-specific workshops, grant application strategy sessions, informal meet-and-greets, and in-person conversations between staff and arts leaders in every region of the state.

"I want to express my gratitude to you all and to everyone involved for the outstanding workshop series for administrators! I found it to be a valuable and well-planned program, and I deeply appreciate all the hard work, expertise and wisdom that went into it."

— Cochran Studio, Public Art Across Maryland constituent (Frederick)
EXHIBITIONS

Two exhibitions provided curated virtual and live artistic experiences to the public last year. The first marked the closure of a five-part virtual exhibition series that began in 2021, and the second brought viewers together in person to celebrate the work of MSAC’s Arts Directory.

Regional Virtual Exhibition Series #5: Western Maryland
Oct. 21–Dec. 16
The final installment of MSAC’s virtual showcase of multidisciplinary artists from each region of the state highlighted visual artists drawing inspiration from the mountain landscapes of Western Maryland.

Arts Directory Triennial Juried Exhibition
May 18–June 24
In celebration of the talented and diverse array of artists across the state, and the ever growing scope of the Maryland Arts Directory, MSAC presented this survey of Maryland visual, literary, and performing artists in collaboration with Baltimore City’s Maryland Art Place (MAP). All featured artists were drawn from the Arts Directory, MSAC’s free online platform that showcases the work of Maryland artists and is maintained by MAP.
# Financials by Jurisdiction

## Allegany
- **A&E District Operating Support:** $34,179
- **ARGOS:** $528,070
- **County Arts Development:** $183,343
- **Creativity:** $85,053
- **Emergency:** $8,000
- **Folklife Network:** $85,000
- **Grants for Artists:** $36,000
- **Grants for Organizations:** $44,833
- **NOD:** $10,000
- **Presenting and Touring:** $5,000
- **PD Opportunity:** $3,911
- **Public Art Across Maryland:** $120,000

**Total:** $1,143,388

## Anne Arundel
- **A&E District Operating Support:** $17,089
- **ARGOS:** $2,319,025
- **County Arts Development:** $223,608
- **Creativity:** $83,406
- **Emergency:** $52,000
- **Folklife Apprenticeship:** $15,000
- **Folklife Network:** $85,000
- **Grants for Artists:** $84,000
- **Grants for Organizations:** $990,337
- **NOD:** $10,000
- **Presenting and Touring:** $12,160
- **PD Opportunity:** $9,115
- **Public Art Across Maryland:** $120,000
- **Special Request:** $48,546

**Total:** $4,070,568

## Baltimore City
- **A&E District Operating Support:** $68,357
- **Arts in Education:** $243,897
- **ARGOS:** $11,874,828
- **County Arts Development:** $222,542
- **Creativity:** $642,244
- **Emergency:** $190,000
- **Folklife Apprenticeship:** $55,000
- **Folklife Network:** $85,000
- **Grants for Artists:** $450,000
- **Grants for Organizations:** $8,046,112
- **Heritage Award:** $20,000
- **NOD:** $10,000
- **Presenting and Touring:** $20,509
- **PD Opportunity:** $77,668
- **Public Art Across Maryland:** $116,621
- **Special Request:** $48,546

**Total:** $22,969,098

## Baltimore County
- **A&E District Operating Support:** $17,089
- **Arts in Education:** $243,897
- **ARGOS:** $1,362,044
- **County Arts Development:** $243,562
- **Creativity:** $186,112
- **Emergency:** $70,000
- **Folklife Apprenticeship:** $20,000
- **Folklife Network:** $85,000
- **Grants for Artists:** $138,000
- **Grants for Organizations:** $458,086
- **Heritage Award:** $10,000
- **NOD:** $10,000
- **Presenting and Touring:** $15,150
- **PD Opportunity:** $23,110
- **Public Art Across Maryland:** $87,855
- **Special Request:** $75,725

**Total:** $2,812,511
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**MSAC 2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Harford**
- A&E District Operating Support: $34,179
- Arts in Education: $18,347
- ARGOS: $471,192
- County Arts Development: $198,386
- Creativity: $27,500
- Emergency: $14,000
- Grants for Artists: $24,000
- Grants for Organizations: $118,610
- Presenting and Touring: $9,000
- PD Opportunity: $5,293
- Public Art Across Maryland: $60,000

**Total:** $980,506

**Howard**
- Arts in Education: $62,553
- ARGOS: $909,634
- County Arts Development: $203,899
- Creativity: $111,996
- Emergency: $16,000
- Folklife Apprenticeship: $10,000
- Grants for Artists: $30,000
- Grants for Organizations: $252,993
- PD Opportunity: $9,800

**Total:** $1,606,875

**Kent**
- A&E District Operating Support: $17,089
- ARGOS: $393,181
- County Arts Development: $179,611
- Creativity: $4,000
- Emergency: $2,000
- Grants for Artists: $12,000
- Grants for Organizations: $86,771
- Presenting and Touring: $12,000
- PD Opportunity: $2,000
- Public Art Across Maryland: $10,000

**Total:** $718,653

**Montgomery**
- A&E District Operating Support: $51,268
- Arts in Education: $459,803
- ARGOS: $8,542,234
- County Arts Development: $259,395
- Creativity: $363,072
- Emergency: $62,000
- Folklife Apprenticeship: $70,000
- Folklife Network: $85,000
- Grants for Artists: $258,000
- Grants for Organizations: $4,248,045
- Heritage Award: $10,000
- NOD: $9,732
- Presenting and Touring: $33,400
- PD Opportunity: $59,817
- Public Art Across Maryland: $328,576
- Special Request: $137,514

**Total:** $14,977,856

**Prince George’s**
- Arts in Education: $208,855
- ARGOS: $2,212,618
- County Arts Development: $251,728
- Creativity: $206,756
- Emergency: $118,000
- Folklife Apprenticeship: $45,000
- Grants for Artists: $312,000
- Grants for Organizations: $1,202,372
- Heritage Award: $10,000
- NOD: $10,000
- Presenting and Touring: $25,000
- PD Opportunity: $21,237
- Public Art Across Maryland: $160,000
- Special Request: $100,000

**Total:** $4,883,566

**Queen Anne’s**
- A&E District Operating Support: $17,089
- ARGOS: $188,050
- County Arts Development: $182,039
- Creativity: $34,600
- Emergency: $2,000
- Grants for Artists: $2,000
- Grants for Organizations: $3,775
- Heritage Award: $10,000
- Public Art Across Maryland: $10,000

**Total:** $447,553

**Somerset**
- A&E District Operating Support: $17,089
- ARGOS: $152,076
- County Arts Development: $180,020

**Total:** $349,185
St. Mary’s
A&E District Operating Support: $17,089
Arts in Education: $10,696
ARGOS: $346,772
County Arts Development: $186,944
Creativity: $45,756
Emergency: $4,000
Folklife Apprenticeship: $5,000
Folklife Network: $85,000
Grants for Artists: $30,000
Grants for Organizations: $33,921
Public Art Across Maryland: $120,000
Total: $885,178

Talbot
A&E District Operating Support: $17,089
Arts in Education: $10,344
ARGOS: $1,011,661
County Arts Development: $181,024
Creativity: $30,495
Emergency: $2,000
Folklife Network: $85,000
Grants for Artists: $30,000
Grants for Organizations: $452,975
NOD: $10,000
Presenting and Touring: $9,450
PD Opportunity: $2,000
Public Art Across Maryland: $29,975
Total: $1,854,014

Washington
Arts in Education: $10,007
ARGOS: $836,130
County Arts Development: $190,062
Creativity: $30,341
Emergency: $6,000
Grants for Artists: $42,000
Grants for Organizations: $373,231
Presenting and Touring: $5,000
PD Opportunity: $2,000
Public Art Across Maryland: $50,000
Total: $1,544,771

Worcester
A&E District Operating Support: $34,179
ARGOS: $226,369
County Arts Development: $182,219
Emergency: $2,000
Grants for Artists: $24,000
Grants for Organizations: $42,340
Presenting and Touring: $2,000
Public Art Across Maryland: $48,037
Total: $561,144

Wicomico
A&E District Operating Support: $17,089
Arts in Education: $53,183
ARGOS: $519,494
County Arts Development: $186,136
Creativity: $16,000
Emergency: $6,000
Folklife Network: $85,000
Grants for Artists: $30,000
Grants for Organizations: $144,940
PD Opportunity: $944
Public Art Across Maryland: $54,000
Total: $1,112,786

Figures reflect grants awarded in FY23 only.
INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

Income
General funds: $26,592,924
Special funds: $41,300,000
Federal funds: $766,290
**Total income: $68,659,214**

Expenditures
Grants For Organizations: $15,974,891
County Arts Development: $4,750,000
Creativity: $957,385
Public Art Across Maryland: $730,547
Folklife Network: $680,000
Arts in Education: $611,021
A&E District Operating Support: $444,321
Grants for Artists: $330,000
Emergency: $290,000
Special Request: $234,264
Presenting and Touring: $180,368
Maryland Traditions: $155,000
Professional Development Opportunity: $127,338
Network Organizational Development: $89,182
Arts Relief: $40,000,000
General administration: $3,104,897
**Total expenditures: $68,659,214***

*Amounts listed on this page reflect FY 2023 actual expenditures. Amounts on previous pages reflect FY 2023 grants awarded.*
COUNCIL AND STAFF

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Lizzie Morales
Tammy Oppel
C. Ryan Patterson
Keyonna Penick
Derrick Quevedo
Shaunte Roper
Emily Sollenberger Dobbins
Cathy Teixeira
Laura Weiss
Sidewalk artists at work in the Downtown Frederick Arts & Entertainment District.

Front cover: Quilters place their hands on a Baltimore album quilt, an applique tradition that won a FY23 Heritage Award.