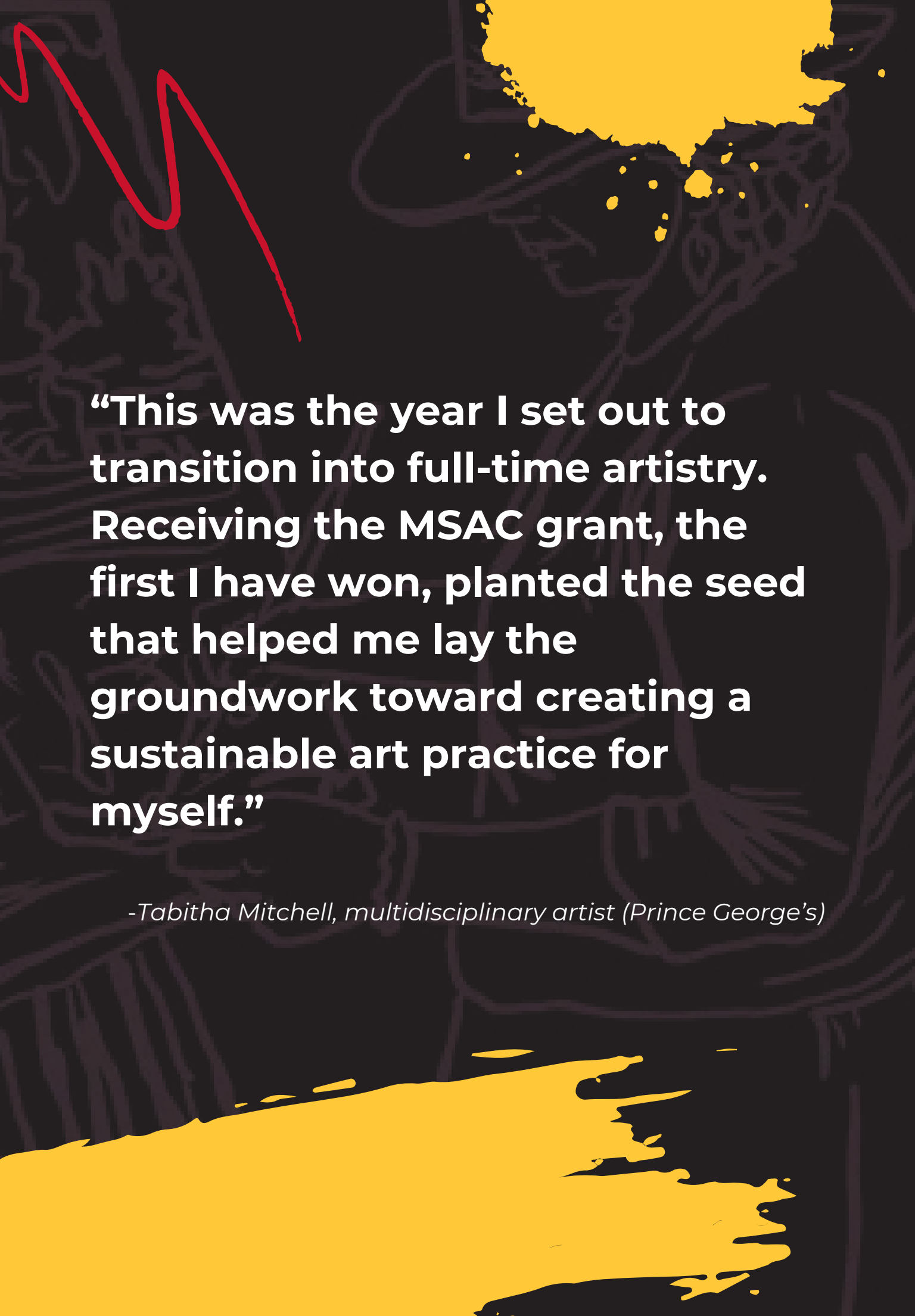




DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE maryland state arts council

Annual Report

FY 2025



“This was the year I set out to transition into full-time artistry. Receiving the MSAC grant, the first I have won, planted the seed that helped me lay the groundwork toward creating a sustainable art practice for myself.”

-Tabitha Mitchell, multidisciplinary artist (Prince George's)

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Fellow Marylanders:

As I travel across the state to meet the executives, elected officials, and entrepreneurs that power our economy, I am excited to see the contributions of the arts sector and the impact of the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) at every stop. A traveler never has to go far before encountering the next mural, gallery, or theatre, many of which received support from MSAC.

During my first six months of service, I have had the pleasure of visiting the Arts & Entertainment Districts in Baltimore City, Dorchester, Frederick, Prince George's, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties. Each of these sites exhibited great art that reflected the history and spirit of their communities.

In Maryland, we recognize the importance of investing in the arts. In addition to generating a statewide economic impact of almost \$1 billion, a strong arts sector provides important community services, fosters inbound tourism, spurs positive health outcomes, and contributes to a high quality of life that's attractive to those considering relocation.

I hope you'll join me in celebrating Maryland's rich and diverse arts landscape, and in taking a moment to browse the following pages for stories about how MSAC has helped make your community a more inviting place to call home.

Sincerely,

Harry Coker, Jr.
Secretary
Department of Commerce



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Access, awareness, connection, equity, and leadership: those are the five pillars of the strategic plan MSAC released last year.

Some might label strategic planning as just another administrative step. However, we're proud of our new plan, because it truly encompasses the kind of public service that we provide.

We strive to create policies that make arts resources accessible to all Marylanders. We craft communications that raise awareness about the incredible stories coming from the arts sector. In the field, our team fosters collaboration by connecting artists and organizations from all backgrounds. We practice equity by meeting people where they are, whether they're first-time grantseekers or experienced administrators. And we maintain a commitment to leadership, both as a model to our constituents, and as learners who are always seeking opportunities to improve.

Through it all, we value a spirit of cooperation—among the dedicated MSAC staff who carry our work forward, outstanding councilors who represent every corner of the state, engaged grantees who provide experiences in their communities, participants who bring the arts to life, and peers who share in our vision and invest in the transformative power of the arts.

Together, we set the course for a future in which the vibrancy of the arts in Maryland remains bright.

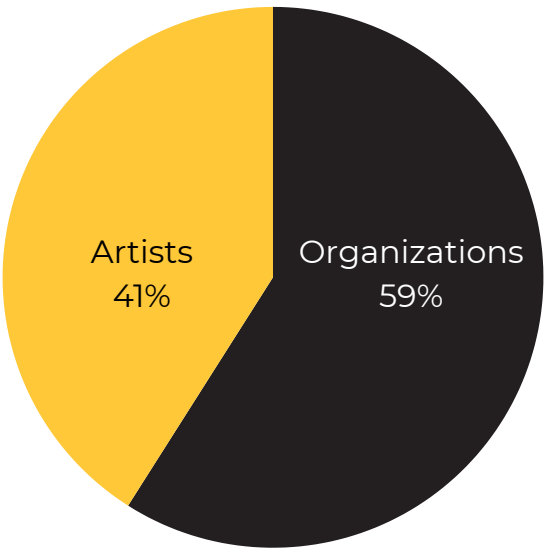
Ruby Lopez Harper
Chair

Steven Skerritt-Davis
Executive Director

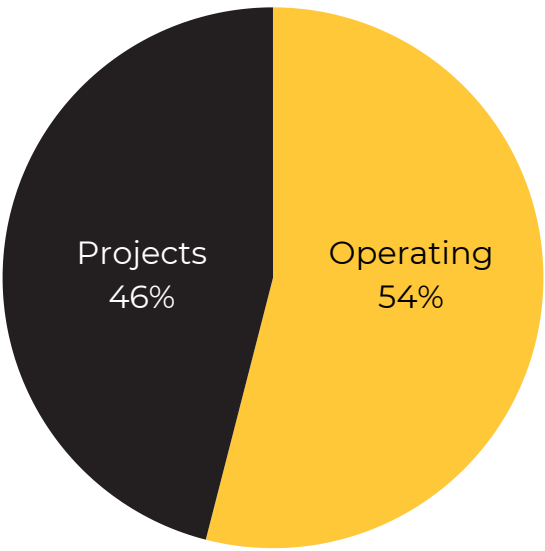


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The data below illustrates MSAC’s grantmaking activity in FY 2025.



Grantee Type



Grant Type

Applications received: **3,761**
Applications funded: **1,119**
Award rate: **29.8%**

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS



Outdoor dance in the Black Arts District, serving the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor in Baltimore City.

***Spurring arts entrepreneurship
and economic development
through tax-related incentives***

\$471,250
27 grants

Grants support staffing and basic resources for A&E District management organizations, from community partnerships to local arts collectives.



"The MSAC grant has allowed us to elevate our programming, strengthen community connections, and build sustained momentum for downtown revitalization through the arts." - Elkton A&E District (Cecil)

ARTS CAPITAL

*Helping arts organizations
increase their impact through
capital projects*

\$3 million

13 grants

Grants fund expansion, renovation, or repairs for community-serving organizations in all regions of the state.



The St. Mary's County Arts Council is the site of a makerspace renovation supporting ceramic, glass, and fiber artists.

ARTS IN EDUCATION



Maryland Poetry Out Loud champion Penny Tofigh, of Howard County, recites a poem at the state finals in Prince George's County.

***Sparking arts education
experiences for learners of all ages***

\$753,329

159 grants

Grants connect teaching artists with learners in venues across the state, and the statewide poetry competition Poetry Out Loud engages students.

.....

*"The Arts in Education program provided a space for youth to express themselves, take creative risks, and celebrate their unique perspectives with their peers and adult mentors with encouragement. Youth worked together in teams, and there was noticeable improvement in their communication, social, and problem-solving skills." - **Nicole Green, teaching artist (Calvert)***

COUNTY ARTS DEVELOPMENT

*Ensuring a stable arts
infrastructure at the county level*

\$5.1 million
24 grants

The program provides funding and tailored assistance for the arts agencies serving as creative hubs in all 24 state jurisdictions.



*"We love knowing that MSAC is always there to help. With any question that comes up, we know MSAC is only a call away! That, to me, is such a comforting feeling." - **Somerset County Arts Council***



An artist presentation at the
Caroline County Council of Arts.

CREATIVITY



Making barn quilts at an event in Garrett County.

***Providing a foundation for
smaller arts organizations and
artists to thrive***

\$1.1 million
271 grants

Grants provide operating and project support for growing organizations and creative entrepreneurs as they add their talents to Maryland's vibrant arts sector.



"These Creativity Grants have been a lifeline for small organizations, and as always, the MSAC staff has been incredible to work with—responsive, friendly, professional, and supportive."

- Savage Mountain Punk Arts (Allegany)

GRANTS FOR ARTISTS

Maintaining a strong artistic workforce and a vibrant creative economy

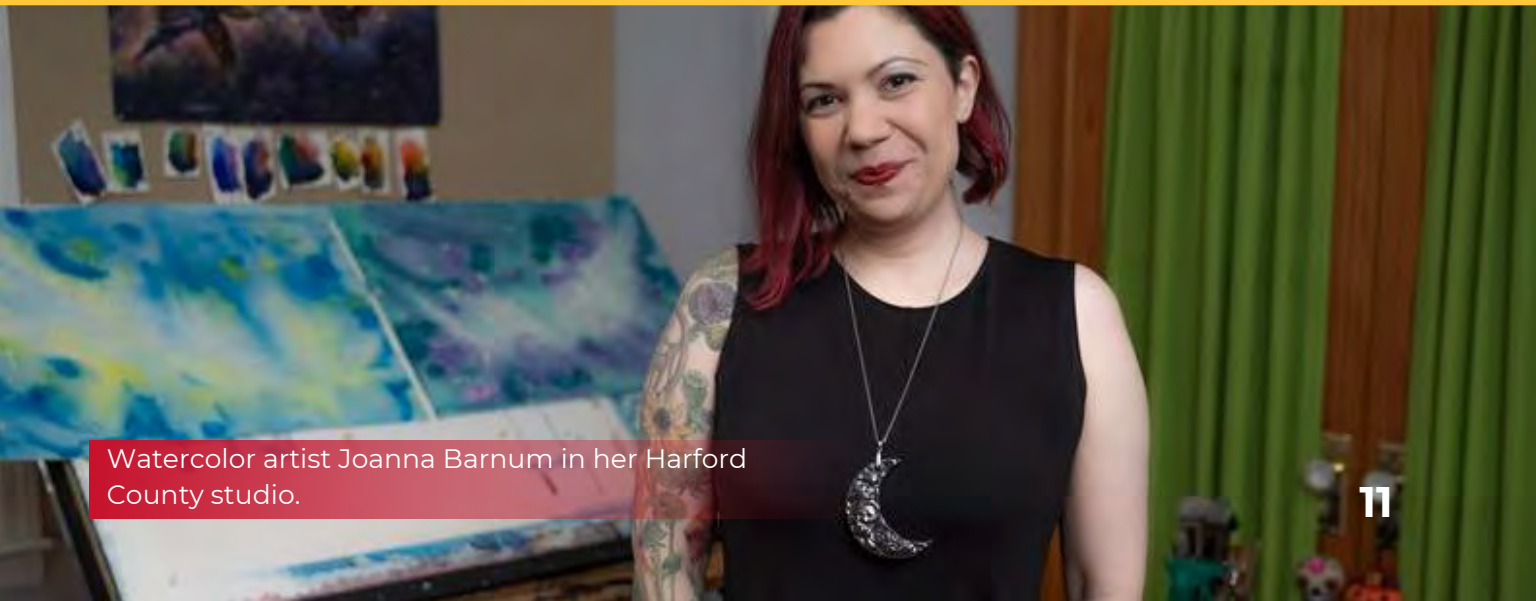
\$385,000

154 grants

Grants boost the careers of independent artists with broad support for working and living expenses.



"This financial support provided stability during a crucial creative period, allowing me to sustain my interdisciplinary practice and maintain momentum." - Selin Balci (Anne Arundel)



Watercolor artist Joanna Barnum in her Harford County studio.

GRANTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS



Deer Creek Fiddlers' Convention, a program of Common Ground on the Hill in Carroll County.

Ensuring the stability of Maryland's arts sector

\$18.1 million

306 grants

Grants bring sustaining operating funding to arts organizations making an impact in communities across the state.



"We are proud to say that, thanks in no small part to your support, the Parkway is now open, active, and moving into a bold new chapter with strong programs, new leadership, and a renewed commitment to serving the state of Maryland." - Parkway Theatre (Baltimore City)

MARYLAND TRADITIONS

*Creating opportunities for
Maryland's diverse cultures*

\$795,000

8	Folklife Network grants
15	Folklife Apprenticeship grants
6	Heritage Award grants

Grants provide operating support for regional folklife centers, project funding for traditional arts education, and recognition of long-term achievement in traditional arts.

Mentor artist Luis Figueroa of Howard County taught *panderos de plena*, or Puerto Rican drum-making skills as part of a Folklife Apprenticeship.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY



Attendees at the Maryland Arts Summit in Prince George's County.

Building skills within Maryland's arts sector

\$129,156



66 grants

Grants help artists and arts professionals further their knowledge as they build their careers in Maryland.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Virtual and in-person sessions increase access to grants and help artists and organizations grow their creative businesses.

Offerings in FY 2025

	Virtual sessions	60
	Live sessions	10
	People served	1,961



Public Art Program Director C. Ryan Patterson meeting a constituent at a professional development event.

PUBLIC ART

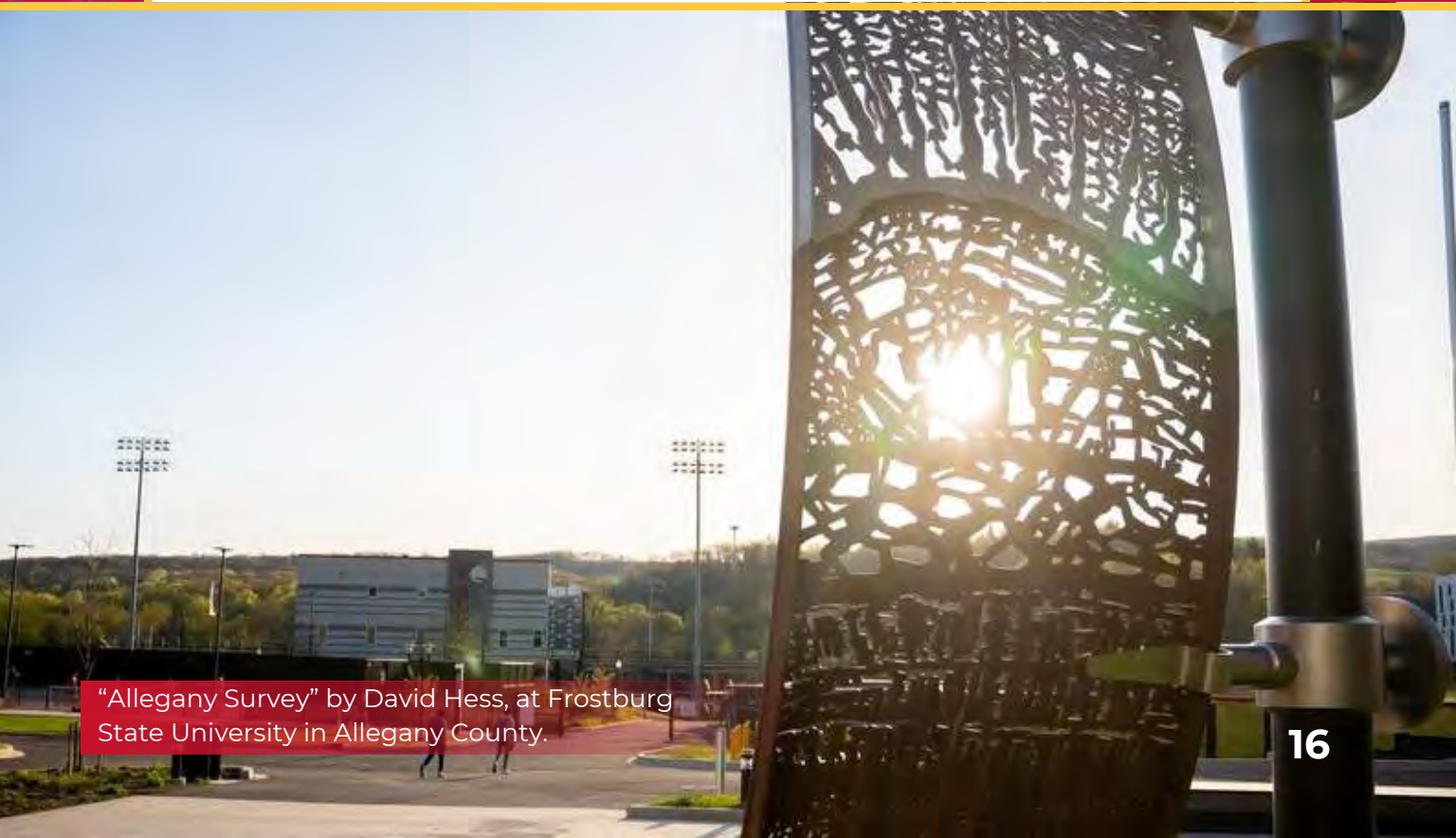
*Integrating the arts into
Marylanders' everyday
experiences*

\$684,448

38 grants

16 commissions

Funding supports public art planning, creation, and conservation, as well as commissions in state-owned properties.



"Allegany Survey" by David Hess, at Frostburg State University in Allegany County.

FINANCIALS BY JURISDICTION

ALLEGANY

A&E District Operating Support: \$34,907
County Arts Development: \$194,872
Creativity: \$15,000
Folklife Network: \$82,500
Grants for Artists: \$15,000
Grants for Organizations: \$77,029
Total: \$419,308

ANNE ARUNDEL

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454
Arts in Education: \$16,284
County Arts Development: \$237,959
Creativity: \$53,000
Grants for Artists: \$42,500
Grants for Organizations: \$1,223,726
Presenting and Touring: \$21,410
Public Art Across Maryland: \$20,000
Total: \$1,632,333

BALTIMORE CITY

A&E District Operating Support: \$69,815
Arts Capital: \$1,055,000
Arts in Education: \$57,450
County Arts Development: \$235,562
Creativity: \$353,460
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$10,000
Folklife Network: \$82,500
Grants for Artists: \$132,500
Grants for Organizations: \$7,585,955
Heritage Award: \$10,000
Presenting and Touring: \$20,475
Professional Dev. Opportunity: \$52,704
Public Art Across Maryland: \$321,361
Total: \$9,986,782

BALTIMORE COUNTY

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454
Arts in Education: \$56,711
County Arts Development: \$258,397
Creativity: \$110,545
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$15,000
Folklife Network: \$82,500
Grants for Artists: \$37,500

BALTIMORE COUNTY (cont.)

Grants for Organizations: \$533,011
Heritage Award: \$10,000
Presenting and Touring: \$31,315
Professional Dev. Opportunity: \$10,000
Public Art Across Maryland: \$60,000
Total: \$1,222,033

CALVERT

Arts in Education: \$17,831
County Arts Development: \$197,115
Creativity: \$5,000
Grants for Artists: \$2,500
Grants for Organizations: \$160,457
Public Art Across Maryland: \$30,000
Total: \$412,903

CAROLINE

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454
Arts in Education: \$6,000
County Arts Development: \$192,120
Grants for Organizations: \$9,113
Public Art Across Maryland: \$9,815
Total: \$234,502

CARROLL

County Arts Development: \$203,809
Creativity: \$13,000
Folklife Network: \$82,500
Grants for Artists: \$2,500
Grants for Organizations: \$42,980
Total: \$344,789

CECIL

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454
Arts in Education: \$5,345
County Arts Development: \$198,010
Creativity: \$4,000
Grants for Organizations: \$20,147
Presenting and Touring: \$3,200
Total: \$248,156

FINANCIALS BY JURISDICTION

CHARLES

County Arts Development: \$203,427
Creativity: \$25,000
Grants for Organizations: \$42,203
Total: \$270,630

DORCHESTER

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454
Arts Capital: \$315,000
Arts in Education: \$6,000
County Arts Development: \$192,062
Grants for Organizations: \$15,364
Presenting and Touring: \$5,000
Public Art Across Maryland: \$30,000
Total: \$580,880

FREDERICK

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454
Arts Capital: \$95,000
Arts in Education: \$35,536
County Arts Development: \$213,349
Creativity: \$43,000
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$5,000
Grants for Artists: \$22,500
Grants for Organizations: \$453,482
Presenting and Touring: \$12,260
Professional Dev. Opportunity: \$5,592
Total: \$903,173

GARRETT

A&E District Operating Support: \$34,907
Arts Capital: \$136,000
Arts in Education: \$4,818
County Arts Development: \$191,697
Creativity: \$7,013
Grants for Organizations: \$12,633
Presenting and Touring: \$4,400
Professional Dev. Opportunity: \$7,980
Public Art Across Maryland: \$30,000
Total: \$429,448

HARFORD

A&E District Operating Support: \$34,907
County Arts Development: \$211,000
Creativity: \$22,000
Grants for Artists: \$2,500
Grants for Organizations: \$177,302
Total: \$447,709

HOWARD

Arts in Education: \$51,162
County Arts Development: \$216,830
Creativity: \$74,236
Grants for Artists: \$12,500
Grants for Organizations: \$409,881
Presenting and Touring: \$5,000
Public Art Across Maryland: \$10,000
Total: \$779,609

KENT

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454
Arts in Education: \$6,000
County Arts Development: \$190,952
Grants for Artists: \$7,500
Grants for Organizations: \$104,904
Public Art Across Maryland: \$10,000
Total: \$336,810

MONTGOMERY

A&E District Operating Support: \$52,361
Arts Capital: \$288,000
Arts in Education: \$286,696
County Arts Development: \$275,865
Creativity: \$194,442
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$35,000
Folklife Network: \$82,500
Grants for Artists: \$47,500
Grants for Organizations: \$4,772,688
Heritage Award: \$30,000
Presenting and Touring: \$27,800
Professional Dev. Opportunity: \$27,318
Public Art Across Maryland: \$80,813
Total: \$6,200,983

FINANCIALS BY JURISDICTION

PRINCE GEORGE'S

Arts Capital: \$360,000
Arts in Education: \$145,681
County Arts Development: \$266,791
Creativity: \$122,001
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$10,000
Grants for Artists: \$47,500
Grants for Organizations: \$1,331,057
Heritage Award: \$10,000
Presenting and Touring: \$5,000
Professional Dev. Opportunity: \$21,562
Total: \$2,319,592

QUEEN ANNE'S

Arts in Education: \$17,573
County Arts Development: \$193,666
Creativity: \$4,000
Grants for Artists: \$2,500
Grants for Organizations: \$15,795
Public Art Across Maryland: \$19,634
Total: \$253,168

SOMERSET

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454
Arts Capital: \$218,000
County Arts Development: \$191,410
Total: \$426,864

ST. MARY'S

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454
Arts Capital: \$450,000
Arts in Education: \$6,000
County Arts Development: \$198,795
Creativity: \$10,000
Folklife Network: \$82,500
Grants for Organizations: \$33,293
Total: \$798,042

TALBOT

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454
Arts in Education: \$4,547
County Arts Development: \$192,466
Creativity: \$7,000

TALBOT (cont.)

Folklife Network: \$82,500
Grants for Artists: \$2,500
Grants for Organizations: \$451,587
Professional Dev. Opportunity: \$4,000
Public Art Across Maryland: \$38,325
Total: \$800,379

WASHINGTON

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454
County Arts Development: \$202,107
Creativity: \$16,000
Grants for Artists: \$5,000
Grants for Organizations: \$409,993
Total: \$650,554

WICOMICO

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454
Arts in Education: \$14,624
County Arts Development: \$197,938
Creativity: \$8,000
Folklife Network: \$82,500
Grants for Organizations: \$198,991
Presenting and Touring: \$5,000
Public Art Across Maryland: \$20,000
Total: \$544,507

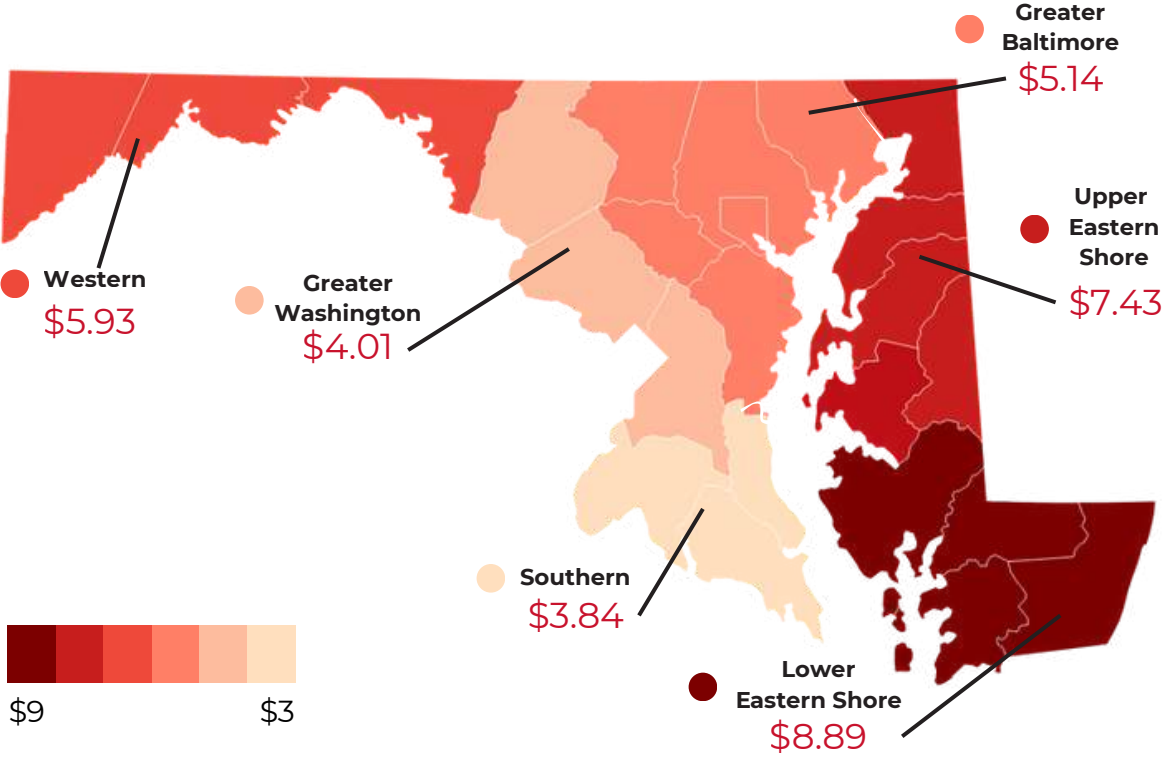
WORCESTER

A&E District Operating Support: \$34,907
Arts Capital: \$83,000
Arts in Education: \$15,071
County Arts Development: \$193,801
Grants for Artists: \$2,500
Grants for Organizations: \$61,469
Public Art Across Maryland: \$4,500
Total: \$395,248

Figures reflect grants awarded in FY 2025 only.

FY 2025 GRANTS AWARDED

The map below illustrates MSAC’s FY 2025 per capita funding, by region.



\$4.89 for every Marylander!

Music on the streets of the Arts & Entertainment District in downtown Frederick.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

INCOME

General funds: \$29,411,574

Special funds: \$1,603,988

Federal funds: \$995,800

Capital funds: \$3,000,000

Total income: \$35,011,362

EXPENDITURES

Grants For Organizations: \$18,140,841

County Arts Development: \$5,050,000

Arts Capital: \$3,000,000

Creativity: \$1,090,039

Arts in Education: \$753,191

Public Art Across Maryland: \$684,448

Folklife Network: \$660,000

A&E District Operating Support: \$471,250

Grants for Artists: \$385,000

Presenting and Touring: \$136,967

Professional Development Opportunity: \$125,256

Folklife Apprenticeship: \$75,000

Heritage Awards: \$60,000

Legislative Line Items: \$925,000

General administration: \$3,454,370

Total expenditures: \$35,011,362

*Amounts listed in this page reflect FY 2025 actual expenditures.
Amounts on previous pages reflect FY 2025 grants awarded.*

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COUNCIL

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“Per the norm for MSAC, the agency has fostered a grantmaking environment that is welcoming, transparent, and supportive. It’s clear that MSAC is committed to empowering organizations of all sizes to engage in the arts and bring meaningful projects to life across Maryland.”

- Hagerstown Arts & Entertainment District (Washington)



MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL

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*For more information on MSAC and programs,
please visit msac.org.*

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STATE OF MARYLAND

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lieutenant Governor



Front cover: Traditional kuchipudi dance from India at Kalanidhi Dance in Montgomery County.

Back cover: Artist Jimmy Reynolds inspecting his mural in Queen Anne's County.