



MSAC Council Meeting

June 24, 2020
Maryland State Arts Council
Google Meet

9:00 Call to Order, Agenda Review, Guiding Documents Review, Jack Rasmussen

Tom Riford gave opening remarks and thanked the council and staff for all of their hard work.

Shelley Morhaim moved to approve the agenda and Julia Spangler-Madden seconded the motion.

The Executive Director (ED), Ken Skrzysz discussed the strategic planning implementation report and shared accomplishments that occurred between December 2019 and June 2020. As a result of COVID-19 some actions have been adjusted accordingly to meet the council's goals.

Maryland Arts Summit totaled session had an attendance of 3,257 participants (from MD, the US and abroad) across 56 sessions with 70 presenters. Maryland Citizens for the Arts received 275 playbacks of recorded sessions, a number that continues to rise. The Summit hired 35 independent artists as either creative co-host or brand ambassadors. MCA, ED Nicholas Cohen reported that although the Summit faced many challenges including going virtual for the first time, his team was able to facilitate a successful Summit.

ED Skrzysz shared that as a result of the Maryland Arts Task Force efforts documents such as "The Future of Maryland's Arts Sector: Strategies for Stability and Sustainability" were created and sent to the Secretary as recommendations towards a reopening collaboration amongst other Commerce agencies.

The Program Performance and Evaluation (PP&E) committee presented the following recommendations:

Grants For Organizations (GFO) Educational Policy which will increase access to general operating funding for the important work of arts education-based



organizations or a discipline-specific organization. **Spangler-Madden made a motion to approve the GFO Educational Policy, Joan Lyon seconded. All in favor, none opposed.**

Maryland Public Art Initiative Policy Revision which includes changes to artist selection committee members applicant review as well as changes to scoring criteria for projects under \$100K restricted to Maryland Artists. **Morhaim moved to approve the Maryland Public Art Initiative Policy Revision; Jacqueline Copeland second; all in favor, none opposed.**

Public Art Across Maryland (PAAM) Grant Revision: Planning Grant awards up to \$5K to support visioning process including the identification of a site for the artwork, articulation of artwork goals and themes, administration of a Call-to-Artist solicitation, artist selection process, and artist honorariums for the development of artwork proposal(s). Implementation Grant awards of up to \$20K with no mat required. Supports fabrication and installation of a public artwork. Grant Revision. **John Schratweiser moved to approve the Public Art Across Maryland Grant Revision. Morhaim seconded. All in favor, none opposed.**

PAAM Proposed Conservation Grant Policy: Planning grant awards of up to \$5K to support artwork conservation efforts. Implementation Grant awards of up to \$50K support the conservation of permanent public artwork.

Spangler-Madden questioned the extent of involvement from agencies such as; the Department of Planning, Maryland Historic Trust and Maryland State Archives. Program Director, Liesel Fennel explained that conservation is a new program which offers support for the conservation and preservation of existing public artworks in Maryland. The program supports collection inventory, conservation assessment and planning processes as well as funds to support specialized service providers to conduct conservation treatment and Maryland Historic Trust is supportive of the program.

Spangler-Madden also questioned if this would include controversial monuments. Project Manager, Ryan Patterson explained that while this program could address the changes in memorials and monuments currently being affected around the country, this will also help communities with the restoration of works that have not been given the same amount of time and preservation. **Schratweiser made a motion to approve the PAAM Proposed Conservation Grant Policy. Madden**



seconded; all in favor, none opposed.

ED Skrzysz informed the council of a guidelines inconsistency identified: for fiscal sponsorships supporting an individual, the artist(s) must be Maryland residents (living in Maryland six months prior to the application's submission and throughout the funded project or program) and must be 18 years of age or older. Collaborative groups must be composed of artists who are 1 years or older. 50% of artists in a collaborative group must meet the residency requirement above.

Recommendation to the Secretary for FY21 Grant Disbursements are to replace 75%/25% with 90%/10% disbursement to distribute a larger amount of funding earlier in the grant cycle. Sumita Kim questioned the justification. ED Skrzysz explained that currently 75% is sent out after the grant agreement has been signed. The staff wants to send 90% out with the first payment because of struggling organizations as a result of COVID-19. Schratweiser expressed the importance of this recommendation because so many organizations are getting hammered and getting as much out as soon as possible makes the best sense right now. **Schrattwieser made a motion to approve FY21 grant disbursement to the Secretary. Carla Du Pree seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.**

The recommendation will be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for review and then to the Secretary's office for approval.

Program Director, Dana Parsons informed the council of upcoming changes to the service grants category which include; GFO applications being edited for service organizations; listening session with affected organizations in July; PPE review in early August and there will be a digital council vote in August as well.

ED Skrzysz informed the council that the final FY 21 budget has not yet been released, but advised the council to be prepared for a vote. He also advised that the budget would be created using the information from the last Finance Committee meeting, FY20 actuals, and the final appropriation amount.

The Finance Committee will review FY21 budget staff recommendations and the FY21 budget will be digitally shared with the Council. The Grants Committee will meet to discuss the County Arts Development, Grants for Organizations and Folklife Apprenticeships. All grant recommendations will be digitally shared with Council. The next full council meeting will consist of a review and vote on FY21



budget as presented by the Finance Committee; a review and vote on folklife grants; and review of all GFO funding to make recommendations to the Secretary. All grant recommendations will be digitally shared with the Council.

Fiscal Officer, Shaunte Roper provided the council with a fiscal update. She presented FY20 revenue budget with breakdowns from total state general funds (\$22,308,457) total special funds (\$1,300,000), and total federal funds with the National Endowment of the Arts CARES fund (\$1,137,900). The FY20 budget summary broken down by programs (\$24,746,357) with council approved budget (\$22,582,273), actual expenses (\$22,582,273) as well as projected surplus (\$145,433)/deficit by FY end was also presented. Lastly, presented was the FY20 budget surplus (\$358,661) and year to date expenditures (\$333,929).

Deputy Director Report, Steven Skerritt-Davis reported on the recent County Arts Agency meeting and strengthening the council's partnership with new leadership as the council continues to work with Somerset County Arts Council to strengthen their service to their constituents in line with County Arts Development panelist comments. MSAC Artist Registry Content Guidelines postponed until next PPE committee meeting.

New Business

ED Skrzysz acknowledged the staff for all of their contributions and hardwork on the emergency grants, Maryland Arts Summit, Maryland Arts Recovery Task Force reopening collaboration.

The Nominating Committee's Recommended Slate of Officers:

Julia Spangler-Madden, Chair

John Schratwieser, Vice-Chair

Benny Russell, Secretary-Treasurer

Joan Lyon made a motion to approve the slate. Jacqueline Copeland seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

All in favor

10:36 adjourn