As we venture into a new year, I invite you to join me in a space of gratitude... for living and working in a state of extraordinary arts support (third in the nation!) from Governor Hogan and the General Assembly; for the vision and leadership of Secretary Kelly M. Schulz, Assistant Secretary Tom Riford, and the councilors of the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) as we walk boldly into 21st century grant making, programming, and professional development best practices; for the work of artists and arts organizations across Maryland who are committed to positively changing lives through their work; and for the dedicated staff of the Maryland State Arts Council and their commitment to elevating the way we think about, and engage in, all aspects of the creative process. Bring on 2020!

Ken Skrzesz, Executive Director, Maryland State Arts Council

Opportunities

- Artist Applications for the Frederick Festival of the Arts 2020 Now Open
- HCAC General Exhibit Applications 1/1
- HoCo Open 2020 1/3
- Call for Entry International Photo Contest 1/6
- Call for Entry: Sony World Photography: 1/7
- Call for Entry: She an expression of womanhood 1/8
- Call for Photographers 2019 Historic Houses of Worship Tour Photo Contest 1/10
- 15th Annual Baltimore Screenwriters Competition 1/13
- Janet & Walter Sondheim Artscape Prize 1/13
- Call for Entry: Lens 1/13
- Call for Entries: National Print & Drawing Exhibition 1/15
- Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation Fellowship 1/15
- Seussical Kids Auditions 1/16
- Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Call for Artists 1/17
- Call for Submission: The Book illustration Competition 1/17

News

MSAC 2020 WINTER WEBINAR SERIES

MSAC presents its first ever professional webinar series! Our Winter 2020 series, which begins on January 13, will host multiple webinars each week until the end of February. All webinars are one hour long and free to the public. There will be a Q&A session after each webinar.

Registration links will be posted soon.

If you would like to submit questions in advance of attending a webinar, please submit [here](#).

The first webinar will be led by MSAC Executive Director, Ken Skrzesz. "Welcome to MSAC!" will provide an overview of MSAC, including what we do, ways to get involved, and where to find information.
Call to Artists: Art Auction 2020 1/20
Call for Artist NYSCA/NYFA Fellowship: 1/22
Call for Entry: Frederick Festival of the Arts: 1/31
Call for Artists: Women in Art 1/31
Call for 6th Annual Allegany National Photography Competition and Exhibition (ANPCE) 2/10
Mountain Maryland Plein Air Call for Entries 2/28
World Alliance for Arts Education International Conference Proposals 3/20
2020-2021 Performing Arts Global Exchange Touring Roster Presenter Funding Available Now 3/25

The MSAC Online Resource Bulletin, maintained by Maryland Art Place, includes regional, national, and international exhibition opportunities, grants, fellowships, residencies, and information on available studio spaces in the area. The Resource Bulletin is updated on a weekly basis and maintains hundreds of listings of arts opportunities, organized by subject and deadline date. Check out the MSAC Resource Bulletin today! To post your call for entry, email Caitlin, the Registry Coordinator, at caitlin@mdartplace.org.

Save the Date

APAP|NYC 2020 Conference Registration 1/10-14
Maryland Photography Alliance: Fine Art Imagery Opening Reception 1/16
20th Anniversary of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade 1/20
MLK Dare to Dream Day at AVAM 1/20
Mountain Maryland Theatre Festival 1/25-26
2020 Youth Arts Advocacy Exchange 3/29
The National Arts Action Summit 3/30-31
6th Annual Allegany National Photography Competition and Exhibition (ANPCE) 4/4-5/2
Best of Maryland Arts Education Festival 4/17
DelFest 5/21-24
2020 Frederick Festival of the Arts 6/6-7
11th Annual Mountain Maryland Plein Air Competition & Exhibition 6/15-20
Dance Educators Training Institute 8/10-14

Please consider inviting MSAC Staff and Board Members to any public event that may include donor recognition as part of the programming. Public acknowledgement of MSAC funding, particularly when a staff, board member, or local legislator is present, allows arts audiences to understand the connection between the vote they cast for local officials, the local official’s support of MSAC funding, and how that funding returns to the communities of arts-connected constituents. Please send all invitations to msac.commerce@maryland.gov.

GOVERNOR HOGAN PROCLAIMS 2020 "YEAR OF THE WOMAN" IN MARYLAND

Governor Larry Hogan recently proclaimed 2020 as “The Year of the Woman” in Maryland, as the state prepares to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote. “Our state’s history has been shaped by extraordinary women leaders, and our administration remains committed to empowering and advocating for women in Maryland,” said Governor Hogan at the announcement, held at The Lightbox Studio in Annapolis. “I look forward to the many events taking place statewide to commemorate the Year of the Woman.” Learn more.
QUARTER 2 ARTS IN EDUCATION GRANTS AWARDED

The Maryland State Arts Council is pleased to fund an additional 72 Maryland based residencies taking place throughout our Artist in Residence program. In total, MSAC has supported 150 residencies so far in FY2020! We look forward to supporting more arts education engagements. We accept applications on a rolling basis and review applications quarterly. Find more information about the program on MSAC’s website. See the awarded residencies here.

THREE NEW REGIONAL FOLKLIFE CENTERS TO BE ADDED TO THE FOLKLIFE NETWORK IN 2020

In the coming year, MSAC will fund three new regional folklife centers through its Folklife Network program: one in Baltimore City, one in mid-Maryland (Carroll, Frederick, and Howard counties), and one on the Upper Eastern Shore (Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot counties). Organizations interested in learning how to become a regional folklife center should review Folklife Network grant guidelines or contact State Folklorist Chad Buterbaugh.

MSAC WINTER OPEN-CALL DEAR, MOM

This year, MSAC will present four seasonal open-call exhibits in our gallery space! We are kicking off the year with “Dear Mom” – a non-juried show that features visual art and written messages between children and mother-figures in the form of greeting/postcard art. The exhibit celebrates and embraces the relationships between artists and their mothers and/or mother-figures through a compilation of visual art and written communication.

Submission deadline: January 6, 2020
Exhibition period: January 9 - March 19, 2020

Please follow the instructions here to submit.

MARYLAND’S FIRST LITERARY LANDMARK IS BALTIMORE’S EDGAR ALLAN POE HOUSE

Pictured: Governor Hogan with Major General Linda Singh and seven of Maryland’s female department secretaries.

CALL FOR EDITORS - ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS

MSAC is revising its grant program for Arts & Entertainment Districts and is looking for editors to contribute ideas and revise policies. Editors will receive modest compensation for the entire process, including two in-person meetings and two at-home, electronic editing assignments. A Gmail account is necessary to participate. Editors must be residents of the State of Maryland.

Submit your name and information at this link by January 6, 2019 to be considered as an editor.

Frederick Festival of the Arts courtesy of Downtown Frederick Partnership

Citizens for Maryland Libraries, Maryland Humanities, Maryland Library Association, and Poe Baltimore have announced that The Edgar Allan Poe House & Museum in Baltimore, Maryland, has been accepted into the United for Libraries national registry of Literary Landmarks, making it the first Literary Landmark in the State of Maryland.

A dedication ceremony will take place at Poe House, 203 N. Amity Street, in Baltimore, on Sunday, January 19, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Photograph courtesy of Poe Baltimore

MARYLAND MICRO-CREDENTIALS

Register for free professional development!
Read more here

Artist Highlight: Valerie Smalkin

Ventriloquist, musician, composer, and
performer Valerie Leonhart Smalkin was one of the writers, performers, and co-producers as well as the head puppeteer of the Emmy award winning television program It's Kindertime on Baltimore's ABC affiliate WMAR-TV 2. Val’s CD, A Gentle Halloween, received a Parents’ Choice Fun Stuff award in 2015, and in 2016 her follow-up CD, Sing! Sing! Sing!...and Dance!, garnered a Parents’ Choice Approved award. Her latest CD, Love Bug! received a Parents’ Choice Recommended award.

Val's book Springtime Dance took gold in the Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards in 2014. As a recipient of a Maryland State Arts Council grant for solo non-classical performance in 2015, and for solo theatre performance in 2016, Val continues to perform and compose music designed for the 2 to 10-year-old set. As a ventriloquist, Val performs for all ages at family and educational events in Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York City, California, and Brussels, Belgium. As a jazz chanteuse Val performs with the occasional puppet and the Silverback Jazz Quintet in Baltimore, Maryland.

Photograph courtesy of Valerie Smalkin

MSAC Staff Highlights

Rosa Chang is a visual artist working at MSAC as Special Projects and Grants Assistant. To date, her projects have included assisting with administration of MSAC’s Public Art program, organizing exhibitions at MSAC’s offices, and facilitating the Baltimore Natural Dye Initiative. Rosa believes strongly that art is the most powerful tool for healing people and building healthy communities.

Precious Blake is a visual journalist and non-profit administrator living in Baltimore, MD and joined the MSAC staff as Arts in Education Program Director and Accessibility Coordinator in August 2019. Precious makes pathways for equitable access to the arts by working with arts education advocates, leading workshops, curating conversations, and creating collaborations that combine her passion for journalism, illustration and highlighting historically marginalized voices.

MSAC Funding Deadlines

Presenting and Touring Program: The Maryland Touring Grant assists eligible nonprofit organizations by subsidizing the presentation of any performer on the Maryland Performing Artist Touring Roster. Guidelines for the FY20 Program can be found here and applications can be accessed in Smart Simple. Touring grant applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are reviewed on a quarterly.

Creativity Grant Program: The purpose of the Creativity Grant Program is to strengthen the vitality and sustainability of artists and small organizations, in order to maintain a strong arts infrastructure in the State. The Creativity Grant also provides opportunities to serve the growing needs of relevant arts projects and collaborations within Maryland communities. Guidelines for the FY20 Program can be found here. Applications can be accessed in Smart Simple. Creativity Grant applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are reviewed monthly.

Artist in Residence Program: The MSAC's Artist in Residence (AiR) Program provides grants to Maryland schools that cover half the cost of a teaching artist residency. Guidelines for the FY20 Program can be found here and applications can be accessed in eGrant. Questions about Artists in Residence Program?
Contact Arts in Education Program Director Precious Blake for more information.

Public Art Across Maryland (PAAM): The program offers two types of funding: Planning Grants of $2500 support administrative time for the planning and community visioning process, including support for artist proposal honorariums. Implementation Grants of up to $10,000 support projects that are designed and ready for fabrication. Maryland 501c3 non-profit organizations or local government agencies may apply. FY20 deadlines: February 12, 2020 and May 12, 2020. Guidelines are now available, and the application is on Smart Simple.

Arts & Entertainment Districts: Arts & Entertainment Districts Technical Assistance Grants support organizational development and marketing efforts for designated management entities of Maryland's 28 Arts & Entertainment Districts. Guidelines for the FY20 Program can be found here, and applications can be accessed in Smart Simple. All applicants will need to register for a new account. These grant applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are reviewed as they are submitted.