

Maryland Public Art Commission Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2022

9:00-10:30 am

Held Virtually

Attendees:

Tom Riford, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Ryan Patterson, Rosa Chang, Elaine Bachmann, Rand Griffin, Elizabeth Hughes, Leslie Kahn, Judy Kwon, Kathy O'Dell, Jerome Gray, Rebecca Massie Lane, Catherine Leggett.

The meeting was held virtually through Google Meet and phone.

Chair, Rand Griffin called the meeting to order at 9:05.

Commerce Update:

Tom Riford recognized the 9-11 Memorial wreaths that were placed at each of the three Memorials 9-11-22 at the Baltimore WTC plaza. Commerce is working on the transition plan between Governors to ensure a smooth transition between administrations.

MSAC Updates:

Steven Skerritt-Davis provided an update on staffing. Our new Grants Director, Cathy Teixeira has started and the Deputy Director and Grants Management Associate resumes are being reviewed now.

MSAC will receive \$40m in Arts Relief Funding, \$2m of which will be allocated to the Public Art Across Maryland grant program for FY23. We are projecting at a minimum 700 additional grants requests for general operating support

Public Art Administration/Policy:

Ryan announced that the second, 5-week workshop series Making it Public workshop will start today, 9/15 and run through 10/13/22. This will focus on public art administration. Additional professional development will take place next week at Coffee with the Council (9/20) with a special focus on Public Art Care and Conservation, highlighting the recent Conservation Grant funded 'Redwood Arch' and 'Nut & Bolt' artwork projects completing restoration work.

Ryan discussed proposed efficiencies to public art procurement including new project in-take and evaluation procedures, and streamlining the artist selection process including developing an artist roster, establishing an MOU with agencies communicating the public art process, as well as establishing who comprises the Artist Selection Committee (ASC) and their roles and responsibilities.

Leslie commented that the building projects she manages, not every committee member gets a vote. Perhaps this should be considered in the makeup of the ASC.

Elizabeth noted how we would need to educate our partner agencies in implementing the MOU and roster procurement process. This could help communication about capital project timelines which frequently are pushed and delayed.

Kathy added that USM operates by a shared governance structure that requires faculty, staff and students to serve. This could impact the number of ASC members. She noted that for developing the roster, public art may need to be defined.

Judy advocated for prioritizing the proposed procurement revisions as well as adding more public art project manager staff.

Rebecca proposed an idea by the metaphor of a funnel: a broader number of user agency staff provide input on the project, but a smaller number vote and serve on the ASC.

Jerome advised that we not re-invent the wheel but rather model another program's roster process.

Rand noted that the artist roster idea requires further development and Ryan proposed that a sub-committee be formed to advance the proposal.

Artwork Commission Project Updates:

Ryan reported updates on the dedication of new public artwork at the Salisbury Animal Health Lab by Thomas Sterner. The work comprises an exterior steel sculpture of a 30' feather and wood-carved horses wall-mounted in the main conference room.

Ebon Heath's suspended sculpture for UMES is finalizing fabrication and Ryan shared a video. We are dealing with weight issues and the structural engineering needs of the ceiling.

Frostburg State and Towson University are in artist selection. Jerome appreciated Ryan for walking him through the technicalities of the process and Catherine added, noting his outstanding work leading the Bowie State artist selection. Other upcoming projects include the Univ. of Southern MD, Morgan State, and two state courthouses for DGS.

The meeting minutes from 6-2-12 were approved at 10:20.

Open Sharing Discussion

Ryan attended the dedication of the new Harriet Tubman memorial by Wesley Wofford in Cambridge led and implemented by Alpha Genesis Community Development Corporation.

Elizabeth provided an update on MHT's involvement in loaning the confederate monuments to LAXART.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

The next meeting is Dec. 15, 2022.