



Maryland State Arts Council Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2023
Google Meet

The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Council, make recommendations to the Council, and shall perform other duties as specified...

Present: John Schratwieser, Julie Madden, Shelley Morhaim, Lily Bengfort Carole Alexander, Zoe Charlton, Steven Skerritt-Davis

The meeting was called to order at approximately 11:01 a.m. after guiding documents.

Zoe made a motion to approve the minutes. Carole seconded the motion. All in favor, the minutes are approved.

Executive Director's Report

Staffing Update

- final stages of the Deputy Director and Arts Capital Program Manager at that fully staffed
- looking forward to announcements very soon
- Secretary Gill in transition made it clear to Secretary Anderson that MSAC staff is a priority

Arts Relief Update

- Awarded to date: \$23,749,769.33; paid to date: \$3,766,636.00
- Arts relief tracker shared - breaks down allocations
- Over 700 grants awarded to date
- Delay between awarded and pay has been discussed
- ARGOS Round 2 allocations are to be reviewed at the end of March once all of round 1 is awarded and all of the monthly programs will take the remainder and adjust round 2 allocations and notify councilors.
- Do not anticipate over 250k



Councilors inquired if MSAC anticipates artist relief funds to continue over the next couple of years. Steven informed the council that there is no confirmation for additional funds for next year. The session is ongoing and while MCA is interested in asking for additional funds the reality is unlikely. Zoe wanted it to be noted that she has heard from individuals that have received funds and it's positively impacting folks and being met with very real appreciation. Steven added that MSAC is seeing arts relief having the intended effects. Stabilizing arts organizations and helping to support arts projects and public art across the state.

Strategic Planning Update

- Awaiting RFP solicitation to be sent out.

New Panelist Payment Implemented

- New Compensation Model:
 - Tiered, dependent on # of apps for review
 - Better align with the actual time commitment of each program
 - Increase accessibility for potential panelists
 - Folks are happy to be paid more
 - Increasing access and equity across the board

Transition Updates

- Secretary Anderson is technically still "acting" but very much engaged
 - Attended and spoke at Maryland Arts Day
 - Have offered Executive Committee and Council meeting dates to his scheduler
- Tom Riford
 - 3 budget hearings went well for the arts council. Capital budget hearing, House appropriations, Senate budget taxation.
 - Thanks, John for coming across the bridge and being there on behalf of the arts.
 - The Secretary has been so busy without an office. Offices are currently being renovated. Temporary office in WTC and Annapolis
 - Sworn in on March 2, no longer acting. Secretary made sure it was heard that he is pursuing getting more staff for the arts council.
 - Started media for Tourism spring and summer campaign
 - A big part of the campaign includes how great the arts are in Maryland



- Maryland marketing partnership - marketing for commerce to help attract business and workforce - started spring and summer campaigns.
- More than 17 pieces of new and unique legislation that has to do somewhat with parts of Commerce. Some items include tax credits for film production, grant money for films

Appointments

- Working on council appointments for withdrawal and recess, councilors coming to the end of their terms
- One of the administration's priorities is diversity and representation on boards and commissions.
- Geographic representation, racial diversity, Latina representation
- The appointment office is open to having a line of communication to hear what MSAC's needs are.
- A councilor who could inform on disability and access issues.
- Councilors advised sending names and contact details to ED if anyone has ideas of folks that could add diversity to MSAC

Steven advised sharing that information within the next week via email. The appointments office is working to fill spots within the next few weeks. Councilors mentioned that the council could see more representation of literary arts.

Odds & Ends

Grants Volume - Grants for Artists and monthly programs

- Grants For Artist program received 1,197 applications from artists from all jurisdictions across the state by Feb. 1 deadline
- Reviews split between staff.
- Incredible to see the amount of work going on in the state
- The entrepreneurial spirit of artist shining through applications
- There may be a direct correlation between the success of the grants for artist applications and the rise in other monthly programs applications
- Planning and strategizing on the back end with payments and processing to make sure we're able to spend down normal appropriation but also all of the arts relief fund

Grantee Updates

- Grantees are hurting, and closures and pullbacks in programming
- Specifically, organizations that rely on ticket sales, not seeing audiences returning



- Mid-size organizations - those with paid staff and few if any major donors - are particularly hurting
- The arts relief is important in being able to support organizations in these areas
- BOPA - the City is continuing to work with BOPA on the events side and arts council side. A meeting has been requested with BOPA leadership and will make a determination about funding after hearing directly from BOPA

Budget Hearings

- Tom mentioned hearings - links to all of the hearings will be sent out
- Testimonies organized by MCA
- SB167 - funding formula bill - solidify funding formula based on appropriation without \$1M Preservation of Cultural Arts funding.

Poetry Out Loud - annual poetry recitation competition in collaboration with Poetry Foundation and National Endowment of the Arts - students recite poetry and compete

- Regionals Completed (Centreville and Ellicott City)
- State Finals March 18, 1 p.m. Reginald F. Lewis Museum
- Steven will attend and invited council members to attend

Poet Laureate

- Grace Cavalieri has served for four years and the administration is looking for a new poet laureate
- To develop a selection process that the appointments office is open to revising to make the process more inclusive, create a broader definition of poet laureate, and think about ways the position can evolve with the times.
- The selection committee and nominations details will be shared soon in communications

Zoe asked to hear more about the meaning of being more inclusive. She wondered if it meant ethnic diversity, geographical, or regional. Steven explained in the past the process has focused heavily on awards, signifiers of accomplishments which limits who's eligible. MSAC is thinking of opening up eligibility and criteria that the selection committee reviews for more opportunities for people to become Poet Laureate.

June Meeting

- Submit any ideas for June meeting locations via emails
- Art experience, for council members and staff to experience, have an artist come to lead an event, add art into the arts councils meetings



- Open to different ideas; submit in-person meeting arts experience ideas via email

Councilors offered Maryland Hall, Chesapeake Arts Center, Sandy Spring Museum, or somewhere in Frederick. John mentioned that although Kent County is a trek, it would be nice for a council meeting.

Governance Committee Report

- Governance Toolkit - a framework for councilors to use to be more present and raise the visibility of MSAC
 - More clarity of roles and expectations
 - Revised talking points will be shared out before the next meeting. Talking points aligned with Secretary's talking points
 - Imagining this as a working document as goals, priorities, and alignments with administration shift we'll be able to edit and distribute.
 - For councilors when they are out at events to advocate for the arts
 - Can be custom tailored to each council member's legislative district.
 - More specific data depending on what's needed is available
- Council Member Feedback Survey is a very simple form for events councilors attend. Surveys are to be sent by EA monthly.
- Mentoring program - councilors utilize mentorship program tools to foster significant relationships among fellow council members which contribute to councilor impact
 - Julie and Bonnie
 - David and Shelley
 - John and Molly after John's big opening

Julie questioned who would replace Timothy and Sumita on the Governance Committee. Steven explained that the Chair makes committee assignments and deferred to John to oversee these duties as vice chair in Jackie's absence. John shared that he has reached out to Julie and Lily and based on those conversations has determined that Timothy will stay on until he's replaced and hopefully his replacement can slide into his vacancy. Current members are currently serving on two committees so other vacancies will be on hold until new council members are appointed. Julie asked if legislative appointees can serve on committees. Councilors agreed that it may have been done once or twice in the past but generally, legislative appointees do not serve on committees.



March 9, 2023, Council Meeting Agenda Review

- Executive Director's Report; Executive Committee Report
- Governance Committee Report
- Program Policy and Evaluation Committee Report
- Nominating Committee election
- Fiscal Report
- Staff Reports
- MCA Update -Nicholas can answer questions about what's going on on his front.
- Creative assignment - 5 minutes to ground the meeting - Choose: 1) share a piece of artwork or art experience 2) lead a creative exercise 3) share about an MSAC-funded project or organization, or 4) share a positive story about a constituent interaction
- Zoe will take March and Lily will take June; John thanked Steven for presenting the idea

New Business

- Thanks from Jackie to Carole and the Sunshine fund for the comfort and care basket.
- The sunshine fund was created for the councilors to contribute money for cards, flowers, gifts, and/or end-of-term artwork for the benefit of the board
- Carole shared that funds would remain in a bank account; none of the money comes from MSAC; no specified amount and not required but encouraged
- Carole will explain the history and gauge interest during the next council meeting

Lily made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John thanked Tom for the introduction to the Secretary and thanked everyone for joining.

Meeting adjourned.