

## **Maryland Public Art Commission Meeting Minutes**

**March 10, 2022**

By Conference Call 9:00-10:30 AM

### **Attendees:**

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

The meeting was held virtually through Google Meeting and phone.

The Commissioners did introductions and welcomed incoming Commissioner, Rebecca Massie Lane.

Chair, Rand Griffin called the meeting to order at 9:10.

The December 9, 2021, meeting minutes were approved.

### **MSAC Updates:**

Steven Skerritt-Davis welcomed Rebecca and gave updates.

Staffing: there are four vacant positions: Deputy Director, Grants Director, Program Director for County Arts Council and Arts and Entertainment Districts, and Grants Associate for Arts in Education. Steven is in conversation with Liesel and Ryan about increased staffing for public art.

Rand added that we need staffing as the volume of projects and complexity of implementation given increased costs and project management challenges.

Staff has been discussing how we meet. Telework will continue but we will have in person staff meetings once a month. We will schedule in-person meetings around the state at locations that can accommodate meeting safely.

A Strategic Plan will be proposed to the Council Executive Committee and will take place in FY23, Winter-Spring. We will make sure public art is incorporated into the plan.

The recent Land Acknowledgement Project was led by Ryan Koons MSAC's Folklife Specialist. The collaborative process worked with all tribal groups in MD and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The project overview and resource guide was created in consultation with tribal elders and leaders and was approved by the Governor and we incorporate the statement in all public meetings. We are receiving positive feedback from across the state and other State Arts Agencies that are also seeking to create Acknowledgement statements. <https://www.msac.org/resources/land-acknowledgements>

### **Public Art Administration/Policy:**

Liesel introduced a proposed plaque template for Artwork Commission projects. Plaque material will be flexible to complement the materials of the project itself and installed adjacent to the artwork. Elaine recommended adding the state seal to identify the project with the State. Judy proposed that the plaque perhaps come in 2-3 sizes that brand Artwork Commissions and become recognizable across the state and perhaps only 1-2 types of materials for consistency. Rebecca inquired how additional project information could be added. Liesel noted that perhaps a QR code is added that goes back to the website to connect people to more information.

MSAC will be contracting with Forecast Public Art to present Making it Public professional development series for artists and administrators. These 5-week series will launch in FY23, the Artist series in July-Aug and Administrators series September-October. It will be accessible to artists of all levels and guest presenters from other states will bring a broad context discussing the field. Each workshop is 90 minutes and held on zoom.

Artwork Commission Program Guideline revision will be conducted in FY23 the 10-year anniversary of the legislation in tandem with the MSAC Strategic Plan. Rand suggested that we have a separate working group for revisions.

### **Artwork Commission Project Updates:**

Ryan presented Thomas Sterner's project for the Salsbury Animal Health Lab that will comprise two works: an outdoor stainless steel sculpture of an avian feather and an interior wall relief work of horses. The project is rapidly being completed.

The Catonsville Courthouse projects will be contracting Wesley Clark for the second floor hallway and Martha Jackson Jarvis Studios was selected for the lobby. We are facing contracting delays and their contracts will go before the Board of Public Works (BPW) for approval on April 6.

Two RFQs that recently closed include St. Mary's College of Maryland and Bowie State University. We received just over 200 applications for each project. Ryan reviewed all applications for eligibility and forwarded the eligible applications to each Artist Selection Panel. Stats: St. Mary's budget is \$250,000 and 158 applications are currently under review; Bowie's budget is \$515,000 and 126 applications are being reviewed.

Liesel gave an update on the Coppin State project. The bronze sculpture will likely be cast in a Chinese foundry due to escalating domestic costs. This has caused delays and additional coordination with the domestic sculpture engineer responding to the Chinese foundry's structural drawings. Leslie recommended adding time and funds for shipping and storage which are adding additional costs. Rand also recommended looking at Canada for materials sourcing and fabrication on other future projects.

The UMES projects are progressing, however the two proposed exterior stainless steel sculptures by Ayokunle Odeleye have been cut back to one, due to escalating stainless steel costs. The interior atrium sculpture by Ebon Heath is proceeding on schedule and budget.

Frostburg State and Towson University RFQs will be finalized and released shortly.

The MD State Police Barracks in Cumberland is in the planning process. Rand suggested that Rebecca serve on this Artist Selection Committee.

We have a backlog of projects that will need to be evaluated for when they can proceed.

### **Equity and Justice Sharing**

Liesel noted the public art articles listed in the agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

The next meeting is June 2, 2022.