



Council Meeting

MEETING AGENDA

September 14, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Google Meet

In attendance: Albita Rivera, Ashley Minner Jones, Delegate Cheryl Pasteur, Chris Sloan, David Fakunle, Greg Tucker, Jack Sobel (representative for Senator Kagan), Joel Snyder, John Schratweiser, Lily Bengfort, Ruby Lopez Harper, Shelley Morhaim, Cathy Teixeira, Chad Buterbaugh, David Mitchell, Derrick Quevedo, Lizzie Morales, Emily Sollenberger, Keyonna Penick, Kirk Amaral Snow, Laura Weiss, Liesel Fenner, Rosa Chang, Ryan Koons, Ryan Patterson, Shaunte Roper, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Tammy Oppel, Michele Walter, Rebekah Boggs

John Schratweiser called the meeting to order at approximately 10 a.m., councilors read through MSAC's Guiding Documents, and John encouraged attendees to keep Jackie Copeland in our prayers.

Creative Assignment

Lily Bengfort led attendees through a writing exercise.

Vice Chair Remarks

John asked councilors to continue to raise up staff for the amazing work and support staff, particularly as we go into strategic planning - as we head into a somewhat normal year.

Approval of June 8, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Lily moved to approve the minutes. Shelley and David F seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed

Executive Director's Report (Skerritt-Davis)

Steven expressed pride in the team, coming off a banner year with once-in-a-lifetime funding, for developing a plan and distributing additional funds in an equitable, consistent manner within a 12-month period. He's encouraging



staff to take the time now to recharge and to take lessons learned about working collaboratively and smarter with us as we return to our normal budget. He acknowledged that with the new administration, we are seeing shifting priorities, new councilors, and new energy, and he expressed excitement about engaging with new councilors on how we provide access to the arts for all Marylanders. He added that the strategic plan implementation has been very successful, particularly in reaching new constituencies. We are continuing that work, and this feels like a great time to go into strategic planning. Steven reviewed the organizational chart including a new reporting structure (directly to the Deputy Secretary) and Chad's promotion to Deputy Director. Steven acknowledged Grace Cavellieri's tireless work as Poet Laureate and the process is underway for selecting the State's 11th poet laureate. He also reported that Chad is finalizing the FY23 annual report; Commerce's most recent Office of Legislative Affairs audit revealed a few findings that will have minor impacts on programs and processes; the FY25 capital and agency request budgets have been submitted.

Staff Reports

Ryan Patterson gave updates on the Arts Capital grant program development; Steven led a review of the demand for MSAC's programs and staffing capacity challenges.

Executive Committee Report

John led the councilors in a discussion about legislative earmarks and various options to align with other state arts agencies and create policies that take line items into account when making grants through MSAC programs. Albita made a motion to move forward making line items unallowable income for the purposes of calculating Grants for Organizations grant amounts and to address concerns with the Preservation of Cultural Arts Fund with Maryland Citizens for the Art. John seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed. Delegate Pasteur abstained.

Strategic Planning Committee Update

Steven introduced Michele Walter and Rebekah Boggs from AMS Planning & Research who introduced themselves and reviewed the strategic planning process timeline.



Program Policy and Evaluation Committee Report

For the recommendation to pause the Independent Artist Award program, John made a motion to approve. Greg Seconded.

All in favor, the motion passed.

For the recommendation to remove the matching requirement for Folklife Network grants, Chris made a motion to approve. Ruby seconded.

All in favor, the motion passed.

Fiscal Report/Finance Committee Report

For the recommendation to move the budgeted allocation for the Independent Artist Award program to the Grants for Artists program, John moved to approve, Chris seconded

All in favor, the motion passed.

Councilor Roles and Responsibilities

Steven led councilors through a review of councilor roles and responsibilities.

New Councilor Mentorship

Keyonna reminded councilors of the opportunity for mentorship pairings.

Equity & Justice Sharing

Staff and councilors attended accessibility Training “Watch Your Mouth” with Lavant Consulting about

New Business

None

Adjourn

Lily moved to adjourn, Joel seconded.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:20 p.m.