



Maryland State Arts Council Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES
November 14, 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...

In attendance:

Councilors: John Schratwieser, Chris Sloan, Lily Bengfort, Shelley Morhaim, Carole Alexander, David Fakunle, Albita Rivera

Staff: Steven Skerritt-Davis, Chad Buterbaugh, Laura Weiss, Ryan Patterson, Emily Sollenberger, Cathy Teixeira,

The meeting was called to order at approximately 11 a.m. by John following guiding documents.

Land acknowledgment, equity and justice statement, vision and mission statements, strategic plan goals, creative meeting actions read aloud.

Recommendation to approve 8/22/23 agenda: Shelley, Chris (2nd), all in favor

Executive Director's Report (Skerritt-Davis)

- Staffing update
 - Keyonna, Shaunte moved on from Council
 - Mar/comm manager in final stages
 - Exec. Assistant in HR queue; reach out to Council when posted
 - Sr. Prog. Dir. hung up in bureaucracy
 - Comm. with departments - Steven to discuss later in report

Arts Relief Wrap-Up

- Review of funding, congrats to all

Strategic Planning Update

- AMS Planning/research leadership interviews



- AMS conducting stakeholder roundtables
- 12/7 definition of success workshop
- 3/13/24 staff and council workshop
- John asked if AMS is getting good numbers of responses. Steven replied that the initial roundtable attendance report was good, have not heard about other dates.

PPE Preview

- Line items policy
 - Steven has been in conversation with the Secretary about the policy change. He is on board, and it is being communicated up to the Governor's office.
 - The effect of the policy is that revenue from line items will not included in formula calculations for GFO grant amounts, potentially reducing an expected grant.
 - Separated out policy from implementation timelines for vote.
- Arts Capital Program Policies Vote
 - Ryan Patterson has put in a lot of work - kudos to Ryan, Chad for advising - The initial round coming very soon, after Dec. council meeting to move process for first round within fiscal year.
 - Chris asked what determines the money in the capital fund?
 - Steven responded, MCA advocacy and that the bill predates his tenure.
 - John added that \$3M was included in the initial bill. The idea was to pilot the program, show demand, and advocate for more funds later.
- Grants for Artists vote
 - The budget allocation is for less money this year so we are proposing adjustments to grant amounts to award a similar number of grants.

Working on:

- Folklife Network Update
- Creativity Grant update
- Fiscal Sponsorship Policy

Other Updates

- Commerce reporting: with the Assistant Secretary. post vacant, Steven is reporting directly to the Deputy Secretary, which is giving the



opportunity for direct communication about how MSAC activities are addressing administration's aims.

Poet Laureate

- Selection committee met, 3 options forwarded to the Governor via the appointments office, awaiting word

March meetings

- Reminders to be sent.
- Shelley stressed the importance of in-person attendance at the strategic planning meeting. Steven added that we also want to be inclusive.

Funding Realities

- Steven mentioned that staff have had conversations about the realities of funding. We've seen success with inclusive and creative programs, so now we are seeing applications from many high quality programs that we cannot fund; good projects come back monthly and scores are still just below the funding line. We are hearing applicants' frustration and looking for strategies to address the issue.

Memorial for Jackie at Walters Art Museum

- recording available; Steven will share with council

Interim Election

- MSAC bylaws only allow for annual elections. In consultation with the Department's AAGs, we're looking to an interim officer election process that will nominate officers for vote at the 12/7 meeting and then holding the regular nominating committee elections in March and the Officer elections in June for FY25.
 - John to step back and allow smoother transition of responsibilities, this will necessitate a interim vice chair election as well
 - Chris asked about the composition of the nominating committee. Steven responded 3 people were named, Julie was term limited and now there are two.
 - Lily confirmed continuing as stay as secretary/treasurer for remainder of term
- Shelley recommended bylaws revision. Steven will bring a proposal for how to move forward with council by-laws about contingency when chair is unable to serve.



December 7, 2023, Council Meeting Agenda Review

- Creative Assignment: Albita
- ED Report
- Staff Report
- PPE Report
- Legislative Outlook
- Interim Elections
- Fiscal Report

Lily: Who's handling financials? Steven: AP helping with tasks, budget office, Steven working with budget team, budget person in Commerce to help get Fiscal Report ready

(No new business)

John: moment of silence for Jackie

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:47a Lily, Chris (2nd), all in favor