

**Maryland Public Art Commission**  
**December 14, 2023, 9:00-10:30 am**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attending:**

Chris Sloan, Elaine Bachmann, Elizabeth Hughes, Jamie Heater, Jerome Gray, Judy Kwon, Kathy O'Dell, Leslie Kahn, Rebecca Massie Lane, Liesel Fenner, Ryan Patterson, Nora Howell, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Rosa Chang

**Public Meeting Opens - Welcome: Kathy O'Dell, Chair**

- Liesel Fenner presented MSAC Grounding Documents
- Meeting called to order, 9:07 am
- Meeting Minutes from 9-21-23:
  - Motion for Approval: Chris Sloan
    - Edit: in the list of attendees, the end was left off Ryan's name
  - Second: Jamie Heater
  - In Favor: all

**MSAC Updates: Steven Skerritt-Davis**

Review of Organization Chart

- Alysha Suryah is our new Communications Manager and will develop a strategic communications plan
- Fiscal Officer - applications have been submitted
- Other vacant positions are in progress with HR: Executive Assistant, Senior Program Director

Other Updates:

- Arts Capital Grant Program
  - Close to posting Program Guidelines
  - Hosted a well-attended "How to apply" webinar
  - Program will provide access to capital for smaller organizations (budgets under \$3m). Ryan has gone through all requirements to make it accessible to smaller organizations in the state.
    - Support from MHT and Department of Housing and Community Development - thank you! Huge lift on all fronts. Thank you's from Ryan and Steven: for the support to ensure it was consistent with the MHT Act of 1985
  - Line Items Policy: The Council approved. We are seeing increased line items in the state budget going directly to arts organizations. We're encouraging organizations to do advocacy together rather than submitting line items to serve themselves. Advocacy-wide support 'lifts' all boats.
- Commerce Reporting
  - Shifted how we report to the department to align with department and Governor priorities. To ensure we are highlighting the work of the MSAC and Public Art and how it is feeding into the overall administration.

**MPAC Administration: Kathy O'Dell**

Thank you to Leslie Kahn and Jerome Gray for joining and serving on the Executive Committee.

### **Maryland Public Artist Roster:** Ryan Patterson

- The Roster is live on our website and the public is able to access and use it.
- We presented the Roster idea in September 2022 then approved it in the December meeting. It's been a year, between planning, developing the Call, receiving over 500 applications, and accepting 430 artists.
- Ryan demonstrated the online Roster portal on Submittable.
  - Scroll down and see various artists
  - You can search by name, medium, materials, working styles
  - Artists chose labels i.e. 2D, 3D, glass, wood... that represents what they currently make and the types of work they would like to be considered for in an Artwork Commission project.
- A special tag: 'Maryland Based Artist' allows users to search directly for Maryland artists.

#### Discussion:

- Elizabeth: How does it stay updated? Ryan: Roster is set for 2 years, we will repeat the process in 2 years.
- Kathy: It's amazing, I like that it isn't organized alphabetically, it encourages browsing! How many other states have this kind of website? Ryan: I don't know the exact number. We based it on examples - Seattle and Oregon, we exchange with them a lot.

### **Active & Future Projects:** Liesel Fenner/Ryan Patterson

- Liesel described two new projects, UMBC and USMSM that are in the planning stage.
- Ryan referenced the project list:

#### Catonsville Courthouse

- Martha Jackson Jarvis creating large tableau of mosaics of the flora and fauna of MD.
- Wesley Clark is creating a large map of the Patapsco River valley.

#### Frostburg State University:

- Stacia Goodman (interior) is creating a tile mosaic of above and below the landscape and is collecting stone samples from the region that will be included in the mosaic.
- David Hess (exterior) is creating a large metal sculpture adjacent to the building's front plaza that is a cross section of geology of the region and also represents the building's biology research work.

#### St. Mary's College of Maryland, Dodge Performing Arts Center:

- Aurora Robson will be suspended sculpture of 3D printed oyster shells, printing them at large scale
- In reflection many of our new works pieces are about nature and connecting people to the environment

#### Towson University, College of Health Professions:

- Ball-Nogues Studios is working on the final artwork's exterior location given underground utilities. The artwork creates a knot, 5 points representing the 5 principles of the building.
- Dixie Friend Gay is creating a glass painting for the interior and the final artwork design is in discussion.

#### Coppin State University, College of Business:

- The installation took place on 12/13/23 with a crew of 6 people to attach the sculpture to the pedestal base. This has been over a 3 year process and the dedication will happen this winter.

#### Bowie State University, Communication Arts & Humanities Building:

- Artist, Victor Ekpu held a community engagement day at the University and surveyed the students
- The artist is in the concept design phase and will likely create a glass tile mosaic at Franz Mayer Studios in Munich. (The Studio fabricates the NYC subway public art mosaics). This will be an exciting opportunity for an Artwork Commissioned artist to go to Munich and work with the glass tile artisans.

University of System of Maryland, Southern Maryland, SMART Building:

- We are developing the Invitational Call to Artists that will be provided to the semi-finalist artists competing for Artwork Commission.

UMBC Sherman Hall:

- Community engagement will be conducted to finalize the artwork themes and goals. Nora demonstrated the Menti poll app MSAC be utilizing to engage the campus students, faculty and staff. Feedback from MPAC on the community engagement Menti poll:
  - Judy Kwon: I like that it is standardized, can be used across platforms. Same method applied through all projects.
  - Kathy O'Dell: Will the survey results be saved? Nora responded yes.
  - Rebecca: Love the immediate results
  - Kathy: UMBC - this is their 3rd public art project, the responsiveness will grow over time in all sites that are getting public art
  - Liesel: UMBC - is committed to community engagement. The more detail we can provide to the artist finalist, the better it will respond to the campus. the artist can do more engagement

**New Business:** American Revolutionary War Monument Update: Elaine Bachmann, State Archivist

- State House Trust has approved to honor Black American Revolutionary War soldiers.
- Thank you to Ryan and Liesel for advising on a feasible budget for the project in keeping with the figurative size and location.
- We have presented to the State House Trust Leadership a timeline to see the project completed and unveiled July 2026 (we will move quickly once funding is established)
- Will be a figural, or multi-figural sculpture
- This will be our first collaboration between MPAC, MSAC and Commission on Artistic Property - secured through the Archives, under the leadership of the State House Trust. Funded and project managed as a DGS capital project.
- Our MPAC Revolutionary War Memorial ad hoc committee includes: Kathy, Molline and Jermone to guide the process on behalf of MPAC.
- We plan to meet on site and develop the RFQ for the development of this project

Discussion:

- Rebecca: Will you be using the registry?
- Elaine: It's not solely the project of MPAC, so we have proposed, there will be a call to artists (RFQ) with letters of interest submitted, from the open call finalist chosen they will receive a stipend to develop a concept. There will be a monument advisory committee to review proposals and the finalist project would be selected. Important to have a diverse call to artists so we have a response. Selection will come from the State House Trust, via recommendations by the Monument Advisory Committee.
- Rebecca: Is it a given to be figurative?
- Elaine: State House Trust approved a figural monument - predominantly figural. It is approved to be in front of the State House, in the landscape. Landscape design to accompany this project.
- Kathy: To whom does the RFQ get sent out?

- Ryan: We can advertise the RFQ to the Roster artists and beyond. We would circulate it to anyone who applied to projects before, especially our HBCU projects. Also reaching out to agencies/partners in other cities who have done similar monument projects.
- Liesel referenced the MD250 plans and that with this project it would be a contribution of the state's MD250 celebrations.
- Rebecca: This will have to be a fast track project aggressive timeline. If funding drops, we will need to move forward quickly.

**Open Sharing: Equity & Justice, Kathy O'Dell**

Liesel referenced the agenda link to the NPR story about the confederate monument that was taken down at the University of Virginia and was melted down at a foundry. They are saving the bronze for a future artwork that will be created for the campus. Metaphor of melting the swords into plowshares.

Elizabeth gave an update on the confederate monuments exhibition - delayed to Fall 2025. at LAXart. There will also be contemporary artwork in response to the confederate monuments.

Kathy shared info about NEA ArtsHere Program in collaboration with SouthArts. For organizations demonstrating commitment to equity in programming. Specifically for capacity building and sustaining ongoing projects around equity and want to build out in specific ways. Grants: \$65-130,000

Leslie Kahn shared her visit to the Hagerstown, Museum of Fine Arts, exhibition, 100 years of children's book illustrations.

Ryan discussed internal and external collection management.

Rebecca: What protections do we have for public works for art into the future. What are our strategies for protecting the State collection

Liesel: The agency that built or renovated a building officially owns the artwork (as part of the law). With our planning around tracking and conservation we will be staying in touch with the staff overseeing the maintenance. As of now the buildings must have a 25 year life span.

Kathy: Perhaps we should create best practices on maintaining the work in our collection. A subcommittee.

**10:31 Adjourned**

**MPAC FY24 Quarterly Meeting Dates**

- March 21, 2024
- June 13, 2024 (in-person, tbd)