



Maryland State Arts Council Governance Committee

Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2023
Google Meet

The Governance Committee shall enhance the engagement and participation of Council members, and to ensure the effective operation of the lay leadership structure.

Julie Madden called the meeting to order at approximately 11:33 and then read the guiding documents.

Bonnie made a motion to approve the October 24, 2022 meeting minutes. John seconded the motion. All approved, and the minutes passed unanimously.

Administration Transition Updates

- Acting secretary Kevin Anderson is in place, he's getting around the state and getting to know the department
- The first meeting with the acting Secretary has been scheduled to discuss the legislative session and budget hearing testimony. Hopeful to schedule a meeting with the MSAC councilors, Maryland Citizens for the Arts, and the Secretary,
- A shift in the acting Secretary's tone seems to support MSAC's current practices
- No connection as of yet with the First Lady's office; Shelley Morhaim has been in touch. There is a possibility that she will attend MD Arts Day, nothing has been confirmed, but her attendance could be a good sign to establish that relationship.
- Three councilors' reappointment terms were withdrawn. Withdrawn appointments are not unusual if reappointments were made during a recess period without Senate approval. Sumita Kim has resigned effective January 31. No updates from the appointments office on new appointees.
- Assistant Secretary Tom Riford remains in his position and Deputy Signe Pringle is in place.
- Budget Director has left which could slow down budget and finance related items



Equity Training Discussion

- Reminder: Grantmakers In the Arts Trainings Available; note to remind full council

Ongoing/New Councilor training

- Steven meeting with a consultant that worked with the council on the GFO funding model as well as assisted the Rhode Island State arts council within the same framework to discuss ideas on different training models

Governance Toolkit Overview

Tracking Councilor Engagement

- The spreadsheet tracks councilor engagement through meeting attendance, event attendance, committee membership as well as many other tasks. It was inspired by Imagination Stage's Governance Board Management Grid. Thanks, Bonnie.
- Survey shared to provide monthly feedback on event attendance
- Council members agreed the spreadsheet and survey are clear and comprehensible
- Council members are eligible for organizational memberships, like National Assembly of State Arts Agencies but MSAC is not able to directly reimburse for memberships outside of that scope such as local arts organizations' memberships

Council Meeting Participation/Expectations

- Councilors want to make it clear that councilor engagement is valuable and reiterate the importance of attendance at MSAC-hosted professional development
- Provide a Governance committee report during each council meeting to keep councilor responsibilities and expectations at the forefront and highlight standout councilors
- Update onboarding materials to include Governance Toolkit to prepare and enlighten new councilors
- Julie to send out an email to council members after the March council meeting sharing the overview and expectations of the Governance Toolkit and applicable materials

Talking Points

- Councilors were happy to see Maryland ranked 3rd in the nation again behind Hawaii and Minnesota in the top spot. The way to number one is more money
- Minnesota has dedicated tax funding, intertwined w/ Clean Water and land use organizations; their collaboration with these organizations



and the agriculture industry has made their per capita funding the highest it's ever been.

- Councilors inquired if MSAC could make those same connections with Chesapeake Bay organizations or the Department of Natural Resources
- Talking points align with the Secretary's current talking points.
- Councilors agreed that the talking points are very clean and easy to use
- Talking points will be shared ahead of Maryland Arts Day
- Councilors agreed that in their advocacy MSAC's message should be clear to highlight the economic impact of the arts sector and the importance of continued arts relief

Councilor Mentorship Update

- Bonnie and Julie are currently paired
- David and Shelley have been recently paired
- Molly is currently unpaired. If no matches are found John can reach out to Molly to connect after May.

New Business

- Viewed Maryland Arts Day Economic report video - great work from wide-angle media
- Presented 2023 Economic Impact Report - tells a story of where we've been, how we've responded, and why relief is still important
- Bonnie attended a NASAA-hosted webinar on advocacy messaging. NASAA has a handbook w/ five advocacy points that Bonnie noted would be helpful during MD arts day. Wyoming Arts Council shared short videos based on messaging which Bonnie noted had impressive, eye-catching graphics. Bonnie noted that unfortunately even with these tools in place agencies had little to no luck with discernable feedback from legislators
- Steven shared that Kelly Barsdate from NASAA attended a council meeting a few years prior and presented a similar toolkit to the council. He noted that going forward it can be something included in onboarding materials and sent as reminders to current council members.
- Ideas inspired by the videos presented by the Wyoming Arts Council have been shared with MSAC's marketing director to inform next year's vision for advocacy messaging.
- Well wishes to Jackie. Council members putting together a token of comfort from staff and council members for Jackie in June.
- Sunshine Fund: Send a reminder to council members to be prepared to contribute to the fund during the annual council meeting in June.



Bonnie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30p.