



Maryland State Arts Council Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES
November 22, 2024
11:30 - 1:00pm
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: Ruby Lopez Harper, Albita Rivera, Shelley Morhaim, Marva Jo Camp, Kathy Beachler, Joel Snyder
Steven Skerritt-Davis, Chad Buterbaugh, Leslie Gillard, Catherine Texeira, Laura Weiss, Tammy Oppel, Kirk Amaral Snow, Elizabeth Morales

The meeting was called to order at approximately 11:31 p.m. following guiding documents.

A land acknowledgment pronunciation guide will be distributed to councilors.

Chair Remarks (Lopez Harper)

- Suggested councilors monitor possible funding changes to Federal arts programs due to the incoming administration, to include the National Endowment for the Arts.
 - Shifts in Federal policies to include Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives, to change the vocabulary in order to continue the work.
- There's a lot of opportunity to keep unified as we roll out the MSAC Strategic Plan.
- Acknowledged a link provided by Steven, to an [NPR article](#) on what arts funding might look like with the new administration.

Discussion

- Joel stated there's significant support of the NEA in the House of Representatives and the Senate.
 - Ruby acknowledges the difference in today's Republican party vs. the party of the past. There's also concern that we're at a deficit when it comes to national organizing efforts for the local



infrastructure of the past, that doesn't really exist and has limited strength.

Shelley made a motion to approve the August 19, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting minutes. Marva Jo seconded. All in favor and the motion passed.

Executive Director's Report (Skerritt-Davis)

- Steven acknowledged the Open Meetings Act for any public attendees, to remain as observers until the public comments portion at the end of the meeting.

Staffing Updates

- Steven reviewed the updated organizational chart.
 - Acknowledged Jess Porter as the new Senior Program Director.
 - We're moving forward with filling 2 positions:
 - Special Projects and Grants Associate (contractual). Arts Capital Program Director (PIN) 86 applications
 - These positions will make us fully staffed at FY24 level, but there are additional positions that were approved in our FY25 budget. The next step is to add those positions to our staffing chart.
- The Department of Commerce has undergone restructuring, which resulted in the Tourism, Film and the Arts division reporting to the Secretary's Chief of Staff.
 - Steven will meet with one of the new Deputy Secretaries to understand how to establish a better connection to the business side of Commerce, to amplify artists as small businesses and benefit from the resources.

Strategic Planning Updates

- The staff are working on completing program area implementation brainstorming by 11/27.
 - Taking the pillars and goals, objectives and strategies to create actions towards those goals.
 - Hope to have an update at the December Council meeting with draft examples of things we'll be working towards under the Strategic Plan.

Arts Incubator Updates

- We've completed 2 meetings with the 13 member group.
 - 1 full meeting, and 1 hybrid meeting with 2 sub-working groups to provide examples and recommendations to include in the report due to the Legislature on 1/1/25.



- We've engaged a writer to help us meet the report deadline.
- The preliminary report will spell out issues that artists face and barriers arts organizations face.
- The final report is due 10/25 that will provide recommendations of how the State can better support artists.
- Steven invited Councilors to attend the meetings.
- Acknowledged Monique Walker as Council representation on the workgroup.

Other Updates

- Arts Capital FY25 funding has received 51 applications; granted 13 awards to 9 counties.
 - The full list will be provided at the December Council meeting.
- The Department of Budget and Management is preparing the FY26 budget.
 - The budget outlook is tight as the State is facing deficits, and Steven has responded to questions from DBM.

Discussion

- Joel wants to know if there's a sense of where Maryland measures up with other state arts agencies.
 - NASAA compiled data to show MD is 4th in the nation, and parallel to some states in our region and nationally, while other states are out-funding Maryland.

Line Items Discussion

- The PPE Committee met on 8/20/24 and discussed the following:
 - Albita suggested reaching out to the staff in other states.
 - The committee reviewed the policy to make line items non-allowable for GFO for MSAC purposes.
 - This was spurred by the inclusion of line items in the FY24 budget from the legislature.
 - The committee agreed to hold for now to assess the implications, while talking with MSAC staff, and to discuss with other states at the NASAA Assembly to discuss their models.

Discussion

- Ruby asked if the PPE Committee should continue the discussion or should there be other steps they should take.
 - Albita reiterated that there will be more discussion in this meeting, but can also report back at a later date.
- Marva Jo suggested adding MCA to the agenda so that MSAC and MCA are aware of what each other are doing.



- Ruby asked for a meeting with Nick Cohen and the Executive Committee. Nick will be added to the agenda for the December Council meeting.
- Marva Jo would like to have a discussion with Ruby, April, Nicholas and others as well.
- Steven suggested working on scheduling a series of meetings with MCA and the Council before the start of the legislative session.

Governance Committee Updates

- Reviewed the committee's history, By-Laws, Equity and Justice Statement.
- Set 2 meeting dates with deadlines and milestones to update MSAC's By-Laws with the goal of the full council to adopt new By-Laws at the March Council meeting.
- Marva Jo lauded the committee for their enthusiasm and commitment.
- Ruby thanked Marva Jo for chairing the Governance Committee and joining the Executive Committee, and also acknowledged the committee's enthusiasm and commitment.

Grants for Organizations FY24 Final Report Match Waivers

- Laura provided slides on non-vote recommendations for informational purposes.
- Recommended to Steven to waive cash matches for certain higher education institutions with significant parent support, and eliminate parent support for the FY26 cycle.
- Some of these organizations are transitioning out of the GFO program due to this change.
 - Emily and Laura are having discussions to talk about what their future looks like.
 - Many will move to Creativity Grants.
- There are 2 organizations that have not been approved for the GFO FY24 final report - The Water's Edge Museum and Prince George's Community College Performing Arts Center.
 - Emily has reached out to The Water's Edge Museum for more clarification in order to send the FY25 payment.
 - PGCC PAC is out of compliance, as they have not sent their final report.
- Ruby thanked Laura (and Emily) for the attention, service and support to the grantees.

Discussion

- Joel suggests giving a heads up to the colleges and universities on



changes in match waivers.

- Notices have been sent and there have been several conversations.

Agenda Review

December 5, 2024, Council Meeting Agenda Review

- Call to Order, Welcomes
 - Saint Mary's College/Folklife Center (Gabriel)
 - Saint Mary's County Arts Council (Glauner)
- Guiding Documents, Agenda Review (Lopez Harper)
- Creative Assignment (Need Volunteer)
- Remarks, Approval of September 12, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes (Lopez Harper)
- Executive Director's Report (Skerritt-Davis)
- Staff Reports
 - Public Art Installation - Ryan Patterson
- Executive Committee Report (Lopez Harper)
 - Grants for Organizations FY24 Final Report Match Waivers (vote)
- Governance Committee Report (Camp)
- Fiscal Report/Finance Committee Report (Snyder, Bittner)
- Program Policy and Evaluation Committee Report (Rivera)
- Strategic Plan Update (Skerritt-Davis, Lopez Harper)
- Maryland Citizens for the Arts, Legislative Outlook (Cohen)
- Boyden Gallery Updates (Gabriel)
- New Business
- Adjourn/Lunch

Discussion

- Ruby asked the Executive Committee to reach out to other Council members to spark excitement about attending Council meetings in-person.
- Marvo Jo asked for the number of Council members who are attending.
 - Leslie provided meeting attendance - 7 in-person, 4 virtually.
- Joel would like time to report on the October NASAA Assembly on Assessability.
 - Ruby will hold a space during her remarks.

New Business

- Joel expressed interest in MSAC becoming a leader and being recognized with arts and accessibility, and suggested establishing a subcommittee/ad hoc committee/workgroup on accessibility with arts audience involvement with people with disabilities, council members, and MSAC staff.



- Ruby suggested querying staff on the current focus of work is for accessibility, and how the council can support and amplify the work. Also, discuss it in New Business at the December Council meeting.
- Steven reiterated inviting Council members to staff accessibility meetings.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:39 p.m.