



Council Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

December 5, 2024
10:00am – 2:00pm
St. Mary's College of Maryland
47407 Old State House Rd., St. Mary's City, MD 20686

In attendance:

Councilors: Joel Snyder, Paige Hernandez, Chris Sloan, Ruby Lopez Harper, Albita Rivera, Marva Jo Camp, Senator Cheryl Kagan, Monique Walker, Kathy Beachler, Yolanda Acree, Delegate Cheryl Pasteur

Staff: Steven Skerritt-Davis, Ryan Patterson, Ryan Koons, Kirk Amaral Snow, Jess Porter, Emily Sollenberger, Laura Weiss, Brad Bittner, Derrick Quevedo, Chad Buterbaugh, Elizabeth Morales, Alysha Suryah, Cathy Teixeira, Tammy Oppel, Nora Howell,

Welcome

Gerald Gabriel gave an update on St. Mary's College of Maryland and the Folklife Center.

Susie Glauner gave an update on St. Mary's County Art's Council.

Call to Order

Ruby Lopez Harper called the meeting to order at approximately 10:37 a.m. and reviewed the guiding documents.

Creative Assignment

Albita gave the history of Coquito, a Puerto Rican tradition.

Chair Remarks

Ruby expressed appreciation for the work the MSAC staff does to support the arts and culture community across Maryland, and the work they do to cultivate relationships.

Also reminded attendees to remember our purpose, direction, passion, and commitment to the arts.



Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

Marva Jo moved to approve the September 12, 2024 minutes. Yolanda and Joel seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.

Executive Director's Report (Skerritt-Davis)

- Steven gave an update on MSAC filled positions.
 - Interviewing for the Arts Capital Program Director.
 - In the final stages of hiring a Special Projects and Grants Associate.
- Steven is working with Commerce to add FY24 additional PIN positions in time for the March Full Council meeting.
- The Commerce department has undergone a reorganization.
 - MSAC is now under the Office of the Secretary.
 - Steven is reporting to the Commerce Secretary's Chief of Staff.
- FY26 Budget:
 - It will be a tight budget year.
 - Steven has been involved in answering questions from the Department of Budget and Management, as part of the Department of Commerce.
- Arts Incubator Workgroup:
 - Steven acknowledged Jess Porter and Leslie Gillard on their work in coordinating the workgroup.
 - Three meetings have been completed since October '24.
 - A writer has been chosen to assist in writing reports due to the Legislature.
 - Steven acknowledged Monique Walker as the Council representative, and Susie Glauner as the County Arts Agency representative.
 - Jess gave an update on the work of the Workgroup.
 - Ruby offered to send the Creatives Rebuild New York's Guaranteed Income for Artists program reports on how it affected working artists.
- Grants Updates:
 - Steven gave updates on the following:
 - General Operating Support grant payments are in process.
 - Legislative Line Items payments are in process.
 - Programs with multiple deadlines; Creativity Grant, Arts in Education (AiE), Touring, and Professional Development.
 - Upcoming items; Heritage Awards Panel Meeting, Public Art Across Maryland (PAAM) application deadline, and Grants for Artists (GFA) application deadline.



- Arts Capital FY25 grants recommendations.
- Other Updates:
 - County Arts Development/County Arts Agencies of Maryland (CAAM)
 - Steven acknowledged the work by David Mitchell on creating strong connections and relationships.
 - Steven invited attendees to complete the Poet Laureate Appearance form if they would like for Lady Brion to speak in the community.
 - Our FY26 application for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) funding was submitted, along with a \$25k request for Arts & Health.
 - Steven acknowledged Chad's work on our Procedural audit, and thanked Cathy Teixeira, Brad Bittner, and others who have contributed to gathering requested information.

Staff Reports

Public Art

- Ryan Patterson provided an update on a Public Art Installation for a new academic building and auditorium on the campus of St. Mary's College of Maryland, which will be installed January 10 - 16, 2025. He also acknowledged the team who was instrumental in completing the project.

GFO Editing

- Emily Sollenberger and Laura Weiss gave an update on Grants for Organization (GFO) Editing Process/Policies.

Discussion

- Councilors discussed the editors' recommendation of changing the name "panelist" to Organization Advocate.
- Staff will provide benchmarks and goals of organizations within work ahead.
- Staff is preparing recommendations for the Program, Policy and Evaluation (PPE) Committee for review, questions, and comments.
- Councilors requested demographic information for GFO Editors.
- Staff informed Councilors there's a public call for Editors, with representation from across the state of Maryland. Councilors were reminded they have the opportunity to re-amplify the need for more specific demographic information during emailed panelists' votes request.
- Councilors continued the discussion on review criteria, scoring, cycle expansion, and panelists' name change.



- Staff invited Councilors to attend public feedback forums, and suggested inviting other states to hear about their models to stay informed about the process and goals.

Executive Committee Report

- Ruby gave an update on the Executive Committee meeting:
 - Policies or measures the Council can take regarding line items.
 - Learning about waiving the 3 to 1 match of five university arts program grantees.

Governance Committee Report

- Marva Jo gave an update on the Governance Committee meeting:
 - Reviewed the committee's history, MSAC's By-Laws, and the Equity and Justice Statement.
 - The committee set up 2 meetings in January and March, to vote and adopt new By-Laws by the March Council meeting.
 - In the next meeting, the committee will look at the roles and responsibilities of Councilors as it relates to the Legislative Statute.

Fiscal Report/Finance Committee Report

- Joel and Brad gave a Fiscal Report update:
 - There were cuts to the General Fund from July.
 - On track for expenditures for FY25 total over \$35M.
 - Joel thanked Brad for his work.

Program Policy and Evaluation Committee Report

- Albita gave an update on the PPE Committee meeting:
 - The committee reviewed policies of 2 programs for the Secretary's approval.
 - Folklife Apprenticeship FY26 Program Update: Grantee Name Change

Senator Kagan motioned to approve. Marva Jo seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

- Arts Capital FY26 Grant Revision: Eligibility for previous Arts Capital Grantees

Marva Jo motioned to approve. Yolanda seconded. Albita abstained. All in favor, the motion passed.

Strategic Plan Update

- Steven provided Strategic Planning updates



- Steven provided Strategic Planning Implementation examples.

Maryland Citizens for the Arts, Legislative Outlook

- Nicholas Cohen of MCA gave updates on the Legislative outlook.
 - MCA has met with the Governor's administration, Department of Budget and Management, the Commerce Secretary, and Steven to discuss budget cuts.
 - Nicholas wants to know how the Council looks at line items.
 - Suggested the Council determine its position on line items - is it helpful to an agency or not, and why?
 - Councilors were invited to Maryland Arts Day on February 13 in Annapolis, specifically for legislative office visits.
 - Nicholas thanked the Councilors, MSAC staff, and Steven for their work and support.
 - Capital Arts Grant Program - will push to extend it next year.

Discussion

- Councilors discussed budgetary impacts to NEA funding.
- A suggestion was made to seek counsel on specific guidelines.

New Business

- Ruby asked for attendees to provide remarks from the National Assembly of States Arts Agencies (NASAA) meeting.
 - Joel gave kudos to the Land Acknowledgement Statement award to Ryan Koons.
 - Joel led a session at the NASAA meeting. As a result, a proposal was made to lead a session at the Leadership Exchange on the Arts & Disabilities Conference in August '25 in Cleveland, OH.
 - Ryan Patterson applauded NASAA for providing a Public Art Administrator Peer Group session.
 - Albita felt it was a special moment to go back to her home of Puerto Rico, as a Maryland representative.
 - Elizabeth Morales enjoyed the Arts Education pre-conference sessions, and Emergency Preparedness sessions.
- Senator Kagan wanted to make sure the Arts and Humanities will be included in Maryland's 250th celebration in 2026
 - Steven is named on the Commission and has been an adviser.
 - Ryan Patterson suggested Michele Johnson encourage Maryland artists to apply for PAAM grants.
 - Steven stated there's funding opportunities to support projects. Michele Johnson is talking with the administration about encouraging grantmakers throughout state government to prioritize projects that celebrate the sesquicentennial.



- Senator Kagan mentioned she has 3 bills that she's sponsoring for the non-profit sector, and feels arts organizations could benefit.
- Ruby revisited Joel's suggestion on a subcommittee that focuses on disability in the arts.
 - Ruby invited Councilors to spend time with MSAC staff to learn more about the existing accessibility efforts.
 - Ruby reminded Councilors who are committee members to attend their committee meetings.
- Lizzie informed the attendees of the Accessibility meetings bi-weekly schedule with Derrick, and invited Councilors to attend.
- Steven invited Councilors to register for the Grantmaker in the Arts Racial Equity and Arts Funding training in April '25.
- Steven mentioned the SMU DataArts released their Arts Vibrancy Index, and ranked Maryland at number 5, and 3rd in Public Support for the Arts.
- Nicholas Cohen reiterated there are no edits to the MCA Strategic Planning data from Dana Parsons. The information in the document is what was gathered from the various communities interviewed.

Boyden Gallery Update

- Katy Arnett invited attendees to tour the Boyden Gallery on their way home, and gave updates on the exhibition.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.