



Maryland State Arts Council Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES

February 26, 2026

1:00 - 2:30pm

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: Albita Rivera, Kathy Beachler, Marva Jo Camp, Shelley Morhaim

Staff: Chad Buterbaugh, Emily Sollenberger, Laura Weiss, Ryan Koons, Elizabeth Morales, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Leslie Gillard

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:03 p.m., following the guiding documents.

Chair Remarks (Rivera)

- Albita acknowledged the success of Maryland Arts Day and noted the positive feedback received regarding the event.

Marva Jo made a motion to approve the November 17, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting minutes. Kathy seconded. All in favor, and the motion passed.

Executive Director's Report (Skerritt-Davis)

- Steven provided the following updates:
 - Department of Commerce
 - MSAC staffing
 - Grant Programs
 - Professional Development
 - Arts Incubator Working Group
 - Arts & Health
 - Council
 - National Endowment for the Arts (NEA):



- Procedural Audit
- State Arts Partnership
- Poetry Out Loud
- Legislative Session

MSAC Priorities Discussion

- Steven discussed future grantmaking priorities and policy considerations in response to:
 - Inflation and rising operational costs
 - Stabilizing but insufficient funding growth
 - Increased demand for grants
 - Reduced pandemic-related funding
 - Growing applicant frustration regarding reapplications and funding variability
- Staff presented several potential policy considerations for future discussion.

Discussion

- Council emphasized:
 - Trust in staff expertise and strategic planning
 - The importance of equity and transparency
 - The value of providing clearer examples and data points to Council
 - Continued prioritization of general operating support
 - The need for thoughtful communication with stakeholders and grantees

Agenda Review

- March 12, 2026, Council Meeting Agenda Review
 - Welcome to Prince George's County
 - Creative Assignment
 - Executive Director's Report
 - Executive Committee Report
 - Governance Committee Report
 - Fiscal Report/Finance Committee Report
 - New Business
 - Public Comment
 - Adjourn, Tour?



New Business

No new business.

Public Comment

No public comment.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:07 p.m.