



Council Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2026

10:00am – 2:00pm

Prince George's County Government Building (Prince George's Co)
1400 McCormick Drive Room 308 Largo, MD 20774

In attendance:

Councilors: Ruby Lopez Harper, Albita Rivera, Tonya Miller Hall, Gregory Tucker, Nicholas Brown-Cáceres, Marva Jo Camp, Kathy Beachler, Monique Walker, Gerry LaFemina, Yolanda Acree, Senator Cheryl Kagan

Staff: Steven Skeritt-Davis, Ryan Patterson, Ryan Koons, Abby Neyenhouse, Emily Sollenberger, Laura Weiss, Chad Buterbaugh, Elizabeth Morales, Alysha Suryah, Nora Howell, Elli Hernandez, Cathy Teixeira, Brad Bittner, Kirk Amaral Snow, David Mitchell, Leslie Gillard, Jess Porter

Call to Order

Ruby Lopez Harper called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and reviewed the guiding documents and agenda.

Welcome

Rhonda Dallas, CEO and Chief Curator of the Prince George's Arts & Humanities Council, welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the organization's 40-year history, its role in advancing the county's creative economy, management of the public art program, film office, Poet Laureate program, and creative hubs. She highlighted the Council's partnership in hosting the upcoming Maryland Arts Summit.

Creative Assignment

Albita led a creative exercise encouraging Councilors to identify and share upcoming MSAC-supported arts events in their communities during the second quarter of 2026.

Chair Remarks

Ruby thanked Councilors and staff for their commitment to the arts and emphasized the importance of attending arts events across Maryland to strengthen connections with communities and artists. the country.



Marva Jo moved to approve the December 4, 2025 minutes. Albita seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.

Executive Director's Report (Skerritt-Davis)

- Steven provided the following updates:
 - Department of Commerce
 - Staffing
 - Grant Programs
 - Arts Capital Program - Abby provided updates on projects awarded.
 - Public Art Across Maryland - Ryan P. provided updates on projects awarded.
 - Grants for Artists - Jess provided updates on applications received and grants that will be awarded using the newly approved county-based selections process.
 - Arts in Education - Elizabeth provided updates on grants awarded.
 - Creativity Grants - Emily provided updates on applications received, and grants awarded.
 - Professional Development Opportunity Grants - Laura provided updates applications received.
 - Touring Grants - Laura provided updates on grants awarded.
 - Funding Reallocations
 - Professional Development
 - Chad provided updates on the increase in offerings compared to the previous year, and the subject on sessions offered.
 - Arts Incubator Report
 - Arts and Health Initiative
 - Legislative Updates
 - Federal Updates
 - Poetry Out Loud - Elizabeth provided updates on the 2026 State competition.

Executive Committee Report

- Albita provided updates from the February 26, 2026 committee meeting regarding future grantmaking priorities and budget considerations.
- Steven discussed the following:
 - Balancing support for organizations and independent artists.
 - Breadth versus depth of funding.



- General operating support versus project support.
- Potential policy options including partial funding, funding caps, lotteries for highly rated applications, eligibility limitations, risk assessments, and grant program restructuring.

Discussion

- Continued support for independent artists.
- Geographic equity.
- Data-informed decision making.
- Exploring additional funding resources and partnerships for arts organizations.
- No action was taken; staff will continue developing recommendations for future consideration.

Governance Committee Report

- Monique provided updates from the February 5, 2026 committee meeting to include proposed bylaw revisions and proposed amendments.

Midge moved to approve the proposed By-Laws as presented. Greg seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.

- Monique also announced that a Councilor engagement survey will be distributed later in the year.

Fiscal Report

- Marva Jo provided updates from the Fiscal Report as of February 28, 2026, including:
 - Overview of FY26 revenues and expenditures
 - General administration expenses are trending higher, primarily due to salary-related costs.
 - Staff are seeking clarification from the Commerce budget office regarding budget reporting and allocations.
 - Grant program expenditures and payment activity remain on track.

Equity and Justice Statement Review

- Steven presented a proposed recommendation to revise the Equity and Justice Statement.

Discussion

- Councilors discussed alignment with federal requirements and MSAC's continued compliance with applicable laws.



Albita moved to update MSAC's Equity and Justice statement as proposed. Tonya seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed.

New Business

- No New Business

Public Comment

- No Public Comments

Final Thoughts, Adjourn

Ruby thanked staff and Councilors for being informed and engaged, and reminded Councilors of the upcoming June 4 Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Councilors and staff participated in a discussion with representatives from the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council.