



MSAC Full Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2020

Maryland State Arts Council

In attendance: Sumita Kim, Ronald Young, Joan Lyon, Julie Madden, Dr. David Fakunle, Molline Jackson, Jacqueline Copeland, Anne West, Carole Alexander, Shelley Morhaim, Jack Rasmussen, John Schratwieser, Shaunte Roper, Derrick Quevedo, Ken Skrzysz, Dana Parsons, Keyonna Penick, Chad Buterbaugh, Precious Blake, Catherine Frost, Liesel Fenner, Rosa Chang, Emily Sollenberger, Tom Riford

Chair, Julie Madden called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Executive Assistant/Council Liaison a Google Meet overview and the chair led council through grounding documents for the meeting. The chair provided opening remarks and introductions of two new council members Dr. David Fakunle and Molline Jackson.

Joan Lyon presented the following Program Planning and Evaluation (PPE) Committee Recommendations - All recommendations were sent prior to the council meeting:

Accessibility Policy Recommendations: The proposals are a direct result of the public editing process for Accessibility at MSAC. The editing process included over 25 editors, ranging from artists with disabilities, representation from arts organizations and programs (including Maryland stakeholders), and representation from The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council and Maryland Assistive Technology Program. All recommendations have been approved by the Assistant Technology Program. All recommendations have been approved by the Assistant Attorney General.

After joining at the conclusion of the meeting, Lily Bengfort emailed concerns about the new language in the definition of accessibility in the arts. Noting overall its excellent and the proposed language for almost every section is beneficial and a needed change from the current language. Also noting the second part of the definition is unnecessary and the first paragraph is sufficient.

Shelley Morhaim made a motion to approve accessibility policy revisions. Carole Alexander seconded the motion. All in favor. Lily Bengfort does not support inclusion of this language to the definition.

Special Request Grant Eligibility: following up from the previous Council meeting, the revisions increase transparency in the application process regarding eligibility for funding in the Special Request Grant Program.

Jacqueline Copeland made a motion to approve the special request grant eligibility revisions. Anne West seconded the motion. All in favor.

Keyona Penick presented the council with an update of the Program (folklife public art, exhibition, creativity, etc.) Partners and committees (grants, governance, finance, executive, nominating and PPE). Digital votes secured for the following: County Arts Council Match Waiver Request, GFO FY22 Panelist Approval, First Lady's Student Exhibit Juror, Live Performance Venue Marketing Proposal, Maryland Heritage Award Panelists, Accessibility Editor Panel, Independent Artist Award Panelists, and September 8, 2020 council meeting minutes. Emergency Grant Recommendation vote to take place on November 20, 2020.

Executive Director Report, Ken Skrzysz

Facility Update

Two locations toured neither appropriate; search on hold until more is known about the future of in person engagement.



Staffing Updates

Organizational chart presented. Assistant to the Deputy Director position being classified to a Program Director. Human resources developing and formalizing two paid internships to assist grants, marketing and traditions for two semesters.

Equity & Justice Training Plan

Staff experienced Aesthetic Perspectives with Jess Solomon. A New Model: We will establish a public resource page, holding contributions by any staff member or collaborator, of professional development experiences (events, conferences, courses, classes, books, podcasts). This approach is tied to a staff organizational goal: Complete multiple types of professional development to increase the personal and professional knowledge necessary to ensure equitable internal and external practices. The offer of \$1K per staff member/councilor to pursue their own professional development. Please start exploring, work with Keyonna to register for events, AND come back to Council meetings to share our learning. Incorporate the equity/justice work into reading, podcast listening, and any other opportunities to gain knowledge about the role that equity plays in our world and how we apply what we discover to the work of MSAC. This approach is about you showing up in your position well-informed through the choices you are making for professional growth.

Staff Program Reports Q &A - Staff praised for good work.

Special Request Grants, Dana Parsons

Current Request Grant Balance: \$138,500; Total November recommended requests: \$83,340; Balance remaining if all requests are approved: \$55,160.

Justice Arts Coalition requested and the staff recommended funding of \$33,500.

After much discussion about being the sole provider of funding and funding requests at 50% for the purpose of providing impactful funding for all applicants to be served. All council members agreed a policy should be written into the special request guidelines: to establish community support through financial contributions and/or partnership agreements specific to the proposed activity. The requested amount from MSAC cannot exceed 50% of the total project budget.

John Schratwieser made a motion to fund at 50% of total expense- \$22,425 to the Justice Arts Coalition. Joan Lyon seconded the motion. All in favor.

Talbot County Arts Council requested and the staff recommended funding of \$10,000. John made a motion to fund \$6,300. Anne seconded. All in favor.

Clancy Works requests and the staff recommend funding of \$35,000. John made a motion to fund \$35,000. Anne seconded. All in favor.

Baltimore County Arts Guild requested \$15,000 and the staff recommended not to fund. Shelley questioned whether they were counseled and Dana explained an offer for feedback was extended, but the application was submitted without collaboration. Anne made a motion not to fund. Jackie seconded. All in favor. Molline Jackson abstained.

Young Audiences requested \$7,630 and the staff recommended \$4,990. John made a motion to fund for 50% at \$3,815. Joan seconded. All in favor. Molline Jackson and Dr. David Fakunle abstained.

Regional Arts Summit Overview and Professional Development Overview, Dana Parsons

Regional Arts Summits gathered over 350 constituents across 6 regions and paved the way for future online gatherings of intentional support. MSAC and its collaborators will meet in December to begin planning the statewide Summit for June 2021.

Since March, MSAC has held 80 virtual professional development offerings, in direct response to constituent requests and needs, with 2,202 participants. November and December includes an additional 35 offerings for arts organizations, independent artists,



teaching artists, and County Arts Councils/A&E Districts.

Statistical Data, Dana Parsons

The Grants for Organizations program received over 70 applications interested in operating funds, of which, 46 arts organizations or programs were eligible - a record in MSAC history, a large portion of which are led by and/or serving black, indigenous, and people of color in Maryland. FY19 no new GFOs; FY20, 18 new GFOs; FY21, 25 new GFOs; FY22, 46 new GFOs; FY23 next steps to retrieve an IRS list of all MD art 501c3s and contact anyone not currently funded; FY24 next steps all MD organizations are funded by MSAC. The Folklife Network Application, Network Technical Assistance Application, and Maryland Percent for Art Initiative Applications all opened in September and October. The Independent Artist Awards application process received over 750 eligible visual arts applications to be reviewed by approximately 60 panelists in 3 regions: Baltimore Region, Washington Region, East/South/West Region. 8 arts organizations received a one-on-one 1 hour grant writing workshop for the submission of their special request grant. Poetry Out Loud moved to online evaluation and submission in Smrt Simple. 5 organizations received specialized professional development in a 2-hour strategic planning session with their staff and board and on-year County Arts Agencies participated in an interactive strategic planning session. Technical assistance was given to over 600 constituents across programs in the past six weeks alone.

Fiscal Report, Shaunte Roper

The FY21 Budget summary as of October 30, 2020 was presented and discussed. FY21 Revenue Budget; Total State General Funds: \$22,383,526; Total Special Funds: \$22,383,526. Total Special Funds: \$1,300,000. Total Federal Funds: \$794,600. Total of all Funds: \$24,478,126. FY 21 Special Request Grants Budget: \$300,000; Actual expenditures: \$4,790; Encumbered: \$161,500; Requests approved (not encumbered): \$68,540; Remaining budget amount: \$65,170. FY21 Budget Surplus: \$671,890; Projected facility moving expenses: \$544,219; Wide Youth Angle Media to produce a series of short videos to raise awareness about live performance venues across Maryland. Remaining surplus amount: \$115,871.

Julie made a motion to approve \$24,751 for Edwin Remsburg additional photography and video services for FY21. Jack Rasmussen seconded the motion. All in favor.

Collaborator Update

Maryland Citizens for the Arts, Nicholas Cohen provided a legislative outlook for the state. Racial Justice legislation an uphill battle as according to civil rights law, no program can be targeted to a specific group. Legislation will have to reflect a need through a disparity study and analyzing funding structures. The Capital Program legislation has been reduced from 10 million to 5 million. Although the Preservation of Cultural Arts grant was vetoed it should be overridden. Nicholas also informed the council that the Regional Arts Summit will more than likely continue to offer a virtual component in the future.

Annual Report Distribution, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Amelia Evans

New Business, Emergency Grant Update

Thursday, 10.22; Governor's notification; Thursday, 10.29: All edits finalized, approved, and posted; Friday, 10.30: Application opened; Friday, 11.13, 5PM: Application closes. Monday, 11.16 through Wednesday, 11.18: Staff evaluation.

Emergency Grant Round 3 funding recommendations were approved by majority vote of the Council to be sent to Secretary Schulz for final approval on November 20, 2020. Secretary Schulz approved all funding recommendations, based on the procedure shared in the Emergency Grants Round 3 document.

Monday, 11.23 and Tuesday, 11.24: Grant agreements and notifications sent; Monday, 11.30 - Friday, 12.4: invoices for payment sent. As of November 10, 2020; 152 applications submitted and 200 draft applications.



Julie thanked the staff for their exceptional work.
11:45 am adjourned.