

# MSAC Full Council Meeting

## MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2021

Maryland State Arts Council

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In attendance: Jacqueline Copeland, Benny Russell, Lily Bengfort, Anne West, John Schratwieser, Joan Lyon, Timothy App, Shelley Morhaim, Carole Alexander, Jack Rasmussen, Zoe Charlton, David Fakunle, Rosa Parks, Tammy Oppel, Dana Parsons, Ken Skrzysz, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Precious Blake, Laura Weiss, Amelia Evans, Shaunte Roper, Alysia Lee, Ryan Koons, Ryan Patterson, Chad Buterbaugh, Tom Riford, Liesel Fenner, Rachel MGrain, Catherine Frost, Keyonna Penick | Not in attendance: Sumita Kim, Molline Jackson, Julie Madden, Ronald Young.

The Assistant Secretary, Tom Riford opened the meeting with thanks to the board and the staff for all of their continued efforts and commitment to Marylanders through the emergency grant process. He also noted that it was the first day of the legislative session.

Vice Chair, Anne Winter West called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. After review of the agenda, **John Schratwieser made a motion to approve the agenda and Joan Lyon seconded the motion.**

Executive Assistant/Council Liaison Keyonna Penick introduced potential “Best Practices for MSAC; New Councilor Orientation - Member Assessment, Meeting Expectations, and Professional Development with a focus on member assessment as a start to discover strengths and the role of each council member as discussed with the Governance Committee and in alignment with MSAC’s bylaws. EA to be in touch with all council members after further feedback and discussion with the Governance Committee.

Executive Director’s Report, Ken Skrzysz asked for a minute for everyone to take a moment to breathe.

### Staff Program Reports Q & A

John Schratwieser mentioned that it was clear from the staff reports that the staff is on the ground. He also noted that the reports are super informative and that the two years of listening sessions around the state have proved to be fruitful.

### Facility Update

There is currently a proactive investigation into office space, but there are concerns about funding that has been set aside for moving and the question of what new space would look like in the future.

### Staffing Updates

MSAC has been approved for internships and is working closely with Human Resources to get positions filled. MSAC also currently has an opening for a County

Arts Councils and Arts and Entertainment Districts Program Director.  
Unfortunately, due to the hiring freeze things are held up with the Department of Budget and Management.

Digital Votes, Keyonna Penick

Round 3 of Emergency Grants, Poetry Out Loud Coaches and Judges, Public Art Conservation Grant Panelists - Approved- November 20, 2020; Folklife Network Panelists - Approved - November 24, 2020; November 10, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes - Approved - December 3, 2020; Identity Exhibition Jurors - Approved - December 9, 2020; Beats for Tomorrow - 5K Request - Staff Recommendation- Do Not Fund- Council Vote - Approve Staff Recommendation - December 18, 2020.

Strategic Planning Implementation Update

The Executive Director explained that the Strategic Planning Implementation plan shows what has been accomplished in the last 6 months and projections for the upcoming 6 months. John Schratwieser asked if the plan was available to the general public and the ED noted that it would be available on the website. John mentioned that it would be helpful if the plan was available as county arts councils create their own guidelines. The ED informed the council that the staff does provide strategic planning training to smaller organizations.

Organizational Goals

Accomplish all tasks in the MSAC Implementation Plan with a deadline of June, 2021. Participate in the effective processing of any pandemic-related funding. Complete multiple types of professional development in the areas of anti-racism and accessibility to increase personal and professional knowledge.

Deputy Director's Report, Steven Skerritt-Davis

Senate Bill 256 - Changes to the definitions of "artistic work" and 'arts and entertainment enterprise' in the Arts and Entertainment districts statute were pre-filed as a departmental bill. Secretary Schulz, Lady Brion (Black Arts District), and Steven to testify at the Senate Finance Committee Hearing, January 20, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

The Deputy Director presented the council's definition of artistic work and Arts & Entertainment Enterprise. Changes to be made are to update the definitions to be consistent with how artists are making work; the result of several years of work and come from constituent requests to clarify eligibility for tax incentives; will allow more effective communication about incentive eligibility; help the 29 designated districts meet their revitalization and economic development goals.

Any fiscal impacts will be small and offset by gains from the activity the incentives generate.

Artists need support now more than ever to sustain and grow their livelihoods. This will help MSAC share one tool in the arsenal of support the state provides to artists and the arts sector.

A&E Districts Creative Conversation: Legislation Updates, Jan. 18, 2021, 11:30a.m.-12:30p.m.; A&E Districts Overview for council and staff Jan. 27, 2021, 1-1:45p.m.

Website update - there have been IT and security issues, but work is still ongoing with the website developers. New launch dates soon to come.

### Planning Collaborator Updates

Maryland State Department of Education, Fine Arts Office, Alysia Lee  
Professional Learning - 45 hours in the spring, 130 hours in the summer, 100 hours in the fall and 20 hours in the winter. MSDE provided technology training to help with virtual performances. MD Masterclass Update: Watch Party for October Dance Masterclass showing 2 archival videos! February 1, 3:30 p.m. Martha Gonzalez, collaborative composition workshop - 2 days, 2 hour workshops - March 12 and 13, registration opens February 15. Micro-Credentials Updates - Creative Aging Speed Dating event - February 10 from 3-5.

Arts Education in Maryland Schools, Rachel McGrain  
General Assembly Session 2021! Legislative Priorities: Blueprint & Companion Bill; Well Rounded Education. New initiatives [Educator Council](#) - Teacher and Teacher Artist advisory committee & [Ambassador Program](#). Issues with Arts Education in any district contact Quance Floyd, Executive Director, [afloyd@aems-edu.org](mailto:afloyd@aems-edu.org).

Maryland Citizens for the Arts, Nicholas Cohen  
Focusing on overturning veto of POCA for 1M mid February. After the release of the 2022 budget MCA will build talking points. Arts Capital Bill hearing scheduled for Jan. 14 and the goal is to get capital dollars to small to medium organizations as well as a 35M stimulus for venues. MD Arts Day Feb. 11 with Aaron Maybin as Keynote speaker.

Governance Committee Report, John Schratwieser  
Equity and Justice Training initiative - councilors may research and select professional development opportunities from any source. If a cost is associated contact the council liaison. There are 5 recommended training hours per month and a record of experiences are to be kept and prepared for sharing during council meetings. The Council is encouraged to send any recommended professional development resources to Marketing Director, Amelia Evans to be added to resource pages. Affinity groups may be organized by councilors at any time in any configuration. The council will follow the staff's model as MSAC expands its equity and justice in the arts.

Sunshine Fund is a small amount of voluntary contributions for farewells, celebrations, etc., for council members. The fund is not mandatory and completely separate from councilor responsibilities. Anyone interested can contact Carole Alexander and Shelley Morhahim.

Fiscal Report, Shaunte Roper, Benny Russell  
FY21 Revenue Budget: Total state general funds \$22,383,526; Total special funds \$1,300,000; Total federal funds \$794,600; Total of all funds \$24,478,126. FY21 Budget Summary as of December 31, 2020: Council Approved Budget \$24,341,744; Actual Expenditures \$21,382,641; Surplus/Deficit \$136,382. Budget Surplus as of December 31, 2020: \$671,890; after expenses, contracts and grants remaining surplus \$55,234. Special Request Grants as of December 31, 2020 \$300,00; after actual expenditures and encumbered remaining budget amount \$63,210. FY21 Budget Variances - General Administration \$69,400 available as certain services not being utilized due to the pandemic.

Grants and Professional Development, Dana Parsons  
Councilors participated in a mock panel training which included implicit bias training to stress equity and justice in the panel process.

American Visionary Arts Museum requested \$7,198. Staff recommendation to fully fund \$7,198. **John Schratwieser made a motion to approve the staff recommendation. Joan Lyon seconded the motion.**

Baltimore Choral Arts Society requested \$9,000. Staff recommendation to fully fund \$9,000. John questioned how this fits a special request. The ED explained that it fits in terms of scale, scope and impact. Some councilors agreed that what the BCAS is doing could be a model, but others felt it wasn't a model and fell under regular operations. After discussion councilors agreed to revisit the special request guidelines. **Lily Bengfort made a motion to approve the staff recommendation. Joan Lyon seconded the motion. All in favor. John Schratwieser opposed.**

Emergency Grant for Artists on the Maryland Performing Artist Touring Roster and the Arts in Education Teaching Artists Roster

MSAC has recognized the extremely limited opportunities for Maryland Performing Artist Touring Artists and the Arts in Education Teaching Artist as a result of the Governor's declared state of emergency in relationship to COVID-19 on public venues, schools and community spaces, the purpose of the emergency grant is to support the needs of the Maryland Performing Artist Touring Artists and Arts in Education Teaching Artists as they adjust to income losses. Staff recommendation: Move \$75,000 from Arts in Education; \$25,000 from Presenting and Touring; \$25,000 from General Administration Surplus (\$69,400) to fund. **John Schratwieser made a motion to approve the Emergency Grant for Touring Roster and Teaching Artists and identified funding as a recommendation to the Secretary. Benny Russell seconded. All in favor.**

**John Schratwieser made a motion to move \$44,000 from General Administration Surplus (\$69,000) to Creativity Grant allocation. Benny Russell seconded the motion. All in favor.**

12:50 Adjourn