



MSAC Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES December 28, 2021

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: Jackie Copeland, Shelley Morhaim, Julie Madden, Anne West, Benny Russell, Carole Alexander, Tom Riford, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Emily Sollenberger, Keyonna Penick

Jackie Copleand called the meeting to order at 11:03am.

Shelley Morhaim made a motion to approve the October 26, 2021 Executive Committee minutes. Anne West seconded the motion.

Steven thanked the committee for the balloons sent from the council for his new position.

Assistant Secretary Tom Riford mentioned that he's looking forward to great years of leadership from Steven as the new Executive Director. As COVID cases began to climb, he reassured the committee that the council always overcomes and always perseveres. He's glad to report that Steven is busy hiring new employees and keeping the train on the tracks.

Executive Director Report (Skerritt-Davis)

Staffing Update and Discussion

- Grants and Professional Development Director, Dana Parsons has left the council. Steven thanked Dana for her work building up the Professional Development program. As a result of her great work there is a need to create two positions where the Grants director will focus exclusively on grants. Details for how the Professional Development director will operate is currently being reviewed. The new position will be managed by the Deputy Director.
- The Deputy Director position is being reconfigured to support what MSAC needs and will provide more oversight over grant programs.
- The County Arts/Arts & Entertainment Director, Abdul Ali has also left the council. The ED thanked Abdul for his service and mentioned that the job description is ready to go and will be posted after the new year. Councilors shared that several county arts councils (CAC) were agitated and concerned about funding delays. The ED explained that there have been payment delays across the state due to vacancies in many state agencies. MSAC has been in conversation with multiple CAC executive directors, encouraging them to organize themselves. There has been an offer of 30k to coordinate these efforts that has not been accepted. The ED is hopeful that finding the right program director will help. He explained that it's a particular position that requires both administrative acumen and relationship building. The next CAAM meeting will be in March where further discussion surrounding concerns will be addressed.



- The Arts in Education Program Director position has been narrowed down to six applicants and interviews have been scheduled.
- Arts Education Grants Management Associate, Catherine Frost has also left MSAC. Cat stepped up and kept the AiE program moving forward. Many thanks to all staff for absorbing additional responsibilities. The position is currently being reviewed to see how it could support other programs. A request for contractors has been submitted to move Creative Aging and Poetry Out Loud forward.
- Meeting to be scheduled with the Secretary of Commerce and Council Chair to discuss long term staffing.
- MSAC furniture move complete. MSAC will share the 14th of the World Trade Center with Tourism. Staff working teleworking exclusively for the time being. Files will move at a later date.
- Americans for the Arts Update- ED shared the "Strategic Realignment" process webpage and Task force for racial and cultural equity documents.

Review January Council Meeting Agenda, include:

- Advocacy Presentation from NASAA
 - Kelly Barsdate leading a session on NASAA's new advocacy messaging guide, with an emphasis on:
 - Bolstering the foundational/consensus rationale for arts support with Maryland legislators (rural, urban, across the political spectrum)
 - Tying advocacy messaging to themes of community and economic resilience and rebuilding
- PPE Committee Report - Special Request Grant Updates
- Special Requests Grant Review and Vote

New Business

- John Schratweiser has stepped down as Governance Committee chair and Julie Madden has agreed to step up and accept the chair position.
- COVID Response - the ED shared that although no requests for extending deadlines have been received he would like the council to be on alert for any such requests.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.