



## MSAC Grants Committee

### Meeting Minutes

July 7, 2020  
Google Meet

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Lily Bengfort called the meeting to Order at 12:03 p.m.

Deputy Director, Steven Skerritt-Davis presented County Arts Development (CAD) Funding Recommendations: 90% block grant and 10% based on population. The Finance Committee recommended totals \$4M without Preservation of Cultural Arts (POCA) and \$3.5M w/out POCA.

John Schratweiser questioned if the uncertainty of the POCA grant was held up until August when the General Assembly meets. Executive Director, Ken Skrzysz explained that while proposed legislation had been vetoed and a vote must be made, the council is also unaware if the POCA grant is a part of this year's budget. John made a motion to move CAD funding recommendations to the full council. Anne West moved to second. All in favor, none opposed.

Program Director, Dana Parsons presented Grants for Organizations Funding Recommendations: Based on grant panel review on-year grant recommendations reflect: standard formula - Total Allowable Income x Panel Score x Cap Allocation (7.093% with POCA, 7% without); adjusted panel scores for on-year organizations receive funding within 5% of the prior year's funding. Significant increase/decrease, formula for organizations who experienced a growth/loss of greater than 50% and new year 1, 2, and 3 formulas for organizations in their first three years of the GFO program.

Based on staff review off-year recommendations reflect: standard formula - Total Allowable Income x Panel Score x Cap Allocation (7.093% with POCA, 7% w/out it); Panel score reflects previous year's panel score until the organization enters into an on-year. Anne questioned how the council is handling organizations that are really struggling and others that are not and may be banking grants and donations. ED explained that the council does not require organizations or artists to show that they received state or other funding. The council agreed that companies should not be punished for doing well. The Finance Committee presented totals with POCA (\$15,023,425),



w/out POCA (\$14,826,455) as well as by category with POCA only; folk (\$319,783.41), large (\$6,786,007.67), literary (\$55,194.64), multi-discipline (\$2,828,721.65), music (\$1,359,005.26), theatre (\$793,704.13), visual arts/media (\$1,723,532.66), arts services (\$138,037.63), children's events (\$750,137.78), and dance (\$269,310.03).

Dana informed the council that moving forward all organizations will be required to submit FY21 projections as a FY20 final report addendum prior to the release of FY21 funds. The following organizations will be moved to a quarterly funding schedule: Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO), Maryland Music Educators Association, Annapolis Shakespeare Company, Flying V, Baltimore Improv Group and Port Tobacco Players.

The council raised concerns regarding the BSO, their budget and projected deficit. The staff informed the council that the BSO did not receive NEA CARES Act funding. Anne raised a question about Annapolis Opera Company and Program Director, Laura Weiss explained their change is due to a decrease in funding. John thanked Laura and Program Director, Emily Sollenberger for their hard work. Lily made a motion to move GFO (Grants for Organizations) (except BSO) Funding recommendations to the full council. John Schratwieser seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

State Folklorist, Chad Buterbaugh presented Folklife Apprenticeship Funding recommendations in which funding is available for 10 master/learner teams. Chad shared that the panel process uncovered inequitable granting processes and staff recommendations are based on applications rated "excellent" and "good" by panelists. Folklife granting revisions planned in advance of FY22 cycle. Chad also shared a FY2021 Folklife Apprenticeship recommendation comparisons spreadsheet.

Sumita Kim questioned whether the council had any precedent in regards to realigning panelist procedures. Chad informed her that changes were made based on internal discussion in alignment with the strategic plan. The council discussed the panelist orientation process, clarifying the message of equity and justice expectations, as well as panelist framing needing to be extended and conducted with an experienced facilitator as solutions.

The council also discussed the application process and possibly including questions in regards to implicit bias. The ED agreed that it was time to take a deeper dive into the entire process and will report back to the council. John Schratwieser made a motion to move folklife apprenticeship funding



recommendations to full council. Lily Bengfort seconded the motion. All in favor, Sumita Kim abstained.

Lily Bengfort adjourned the meeting at 12:47 p.m.