



# MSAC Executive Committee

## MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2020

175 W Ostend Street, Suite E | Baltimore, MD 21230

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OPEN

### **11:05 Called to Order**

#### **Executive Director Annual Review**

The committee agrees that they need to create a process by first reviewing the form used for the executive director annual review two years ago. The last was two years ago and it was not successful. Joan Lyon put together evaluation forms from other organizations. Now that MSAC has a sustainable staff, Carole Alexander suggested that this would be a great time and there is a different mindset. Carla Dupree thinks the committee should create a timeline of what should happen. Evaluation forms will be sent to the entire committee.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

11:30

Julie Spangler-Madden made a motion to close the meeting under the following exceptions set forth in the Open Meetings Act, General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(1). The purpose of the exception is to discuss program funding that affects a staff member's position. The motion was seconded by Anne West and unanimously approved.

This session of the meeting took place at the Maryland State Arts Council with Ken Skrzysz, Steven Skerrit-Davis, Keyonna Penick and all Committee Members present. Contractual position discussed. The ED explained the importance of the position and its duties being fulfilled efficiently. The council proposed that perhaps a council member and the ED can arrange a meeting with leadership to further discuss a compromise that would benefit all parties involved. The ED agreed and will report back to the council.

OPEN



11:50      **New Business**

The ED informed the council that several organizations want equity and justice help. Organizations want to be added to the monthly reading lists surrounding the topic. Facilitators Quance Floyd and Alysia Lee have visited other organizations for training. The ED posed the question should MSAC consider funding an agency that would provide this work to art constituents across the state?

Carole: we're setting ourselves up as the leaders. Do programs have to be as many sessions? Another kind of curriculum? Shorter? 6 in person sessions per year / 4 sessions in different parts of the state was the recommendation.

There is a possibility to expand, but the council questions capacity and the idea of collaboration possibly with Arts Education in Maryland School (AEMS) or Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA). The council can continue to provide ongoing reading assignments, leadership coaching, topic specific sessions at MSAC and the work will always show up at Regional Arts Institutes. Carla asked about feedback regarding facilitators, we want someone impactful. The council agreed it could be a grant run program and that Maryland Art Place could also be considered as a partner.

Guidelines to consider include every proposal for every session should include equity and justice language. In regards to the curriculum for the Maryland Arts Summit it depends on the facilitator. Ultimately, the fiscal agent for Commerce will determine who facilitates what and curriculum. In that regard MSAC will ensure evaluation is built into the grant. Maryland will be at the forefront of this move nationally.

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation (MAAF) - If MAAF can help MSAC promote Maryland work- what does the relationship look like? Council suggested ED move forward and work with ED of MAAF to rebuild the relationship.

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra update is on MSAC's website, but overall they are asking for an additional 5.5 million over the next five years.

**Accessibility Committee**

The council has never taken this on and it may be something for the council to revisit. Original conversation was a panel or commission. The vision is that it will have a specific focus but eventually will become part of the fabric of our work. The council will find out what exists and combine efforts.



15k Independent Artist Award additional funds. Council budgeted 275k for grants. In total, the panel recommended awards that would take the amount 15k over the original budget. The panel presented an alternate recommendation amount to match the 275k allocation. Since the additional request is only 15k, we thought to bring it to council. This is the first time panels are in house instead of at MAAF. Anne West stated after observing them, they're really struggling and it would help. Steven needs approval by April. Executive assistant will send out a digital vote to the entire board.

#### Uniform Grant Application Bill

All granting applications across the state would use the same application. It would remove our agency in the granting process. Undo all of our equity and justice work because of the way we hold people accountable through the application process. This is being done in an attempt to streamline and put into compliance. Nicholas from MCA is moving forward with making a connection. Carla asks if we can remove ourselves? ED mentioned there is an exemption but includes a long application process. There would have to be enough organizations in the state that would apply to be exempt. What's the rationale Shelly questions? Ease of application.

Staff has now revised every program at MSAC. Entire council will celebrate in March. The Assistant Attorney General and the Secretary have the revisions. The Maryland Art Summit would be a great place to talk about all the changes the council has made.

12:18      Adjourn

Jack Rasmussen made a motion to adjourn the meeting  
Julia Spangler-Madden seconded.