



MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

January 11-12, 2019

Academy Art Museum | 106 South Street | Easton, MD

The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC), held its meeting and strategic planning retreat on January 11-12, 2019, at the Academy Museum in Easton, Maryland. Council Chair, Jack Rasmussen called the meeting to order.

Present: Timothy App, Carole Alexander, Lily Bengfort, Barbara Bershon, Zoe Charlton, Carla Du Pree, Joan Lyon, Julie Madden, Shelley Morhaim, Jack Rasmussen, Gary Vikan, Anne West

Absent: Jackie Copeland, Anthony Cornwell, Senator Jack Madaleno, BG Muhn, Alonzo Washington

The Council and staff participated in strategic planning exercises facilitated by Lynette Turner and Michele Walter of AMS Consultants.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes

The November 2018 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Welcome from the Chair

- ✚ Thank you to the Academy Museum for hosting us today
- ✚ We are excited about all the new activity and initiatives
- ✚ Special thanks to the staff for their continued hard work and dedication

Event Outreach Report

- ✚ The Council shared their event attendance and experiences
 - Council “Kisses” were given to the Councilors for their outreach efforts
 - MSAC was acknowledged and recognized at various attended events throughout the State
 - Arthur will add the Poetry Out Loud and Poet Laureate dates to the Council Event Log
- ✚ Jack thanked everyone for the great amount of attendance and participation

Financial Report

- ✚ Due to internal personnel issues, MSAC is currently working with Commerce to complete an updated budget report
 - All expenditures are encumbered, with a few exceptions
 - Once completed, an updated budget report will be sent out to the Council, electronically
 - Special thanks to Arthur Brown for offering the additional fiscal assistance

Marketing & Communications Update

- ✚ The MSAC website is currently undergoing a full reconstruction
 - Please let Kayla Morgan know if you would like your photo and bio updated for the new website
 - MSAC is also working on improving and increasing our social media presence
 - Thanks to Kayla and Steven for their assistance in the website redesign process
 - Special thanks to Kayla for handling MSAC's marketing and communications responsibilities

Grants & Professional Development Update

- ✚ It is a busy time at MSAC
- ✚ The Creativity Grant preparation has begun
 - Dana will share the guidelines with the Council to ensure that there is a clear understanding of the Creativity Grant application and process
 - There has been a lot of conversation and activity surrounding these grants
 - The grant request amounts are between \$1000-\$3500
 - There is not a deadline for these grants
 - Funds will be dispersed until the money "runs out"
 - Dana will put together something that Councilors can have on hand for providing information, while out in the field
- ✚ Grants for Organizations (GFO) Action, Timeline & Update:
 - Panelist Review (Full) and Staff Review (RFF)
 - Dana provided an example of a mission statement change and narrative from Single Carrot Theatre, as a result of the new application process
 - There has been such positive feedback on the new GFO process and applications
 - The public is feeling like the new applications are simpler and less intimidating
 - Dana also shared an example of how MSAC serves as a connector to the arts community
 - Councilors expressed a greater interest of being more involved with grants and other administrative processes
 - The Council requested a future conversation, to address concerns and other ideas moving forward
- ✚ The June Arts Summit is on the way
 - MSAC and MCA are working in partnership for the Summit
 - There have been 25 proposals submitted (to date) for facilitated sessions/groups
 - The committee and staff will meet regularly to discuss logistics and planning
 - We encourage everyone to attend
 - This will be an amazing professional development opportunity
 - More details coming soon

Program Director Updates

- ✚ The MSAC Program staff provided a brief review of each program
 - Chris Stewart AiE, Poetry Out Loud, Poet Laureate Update
 - Chad Buterbaugh MD Folklife Network Update
 - Liesel Fenner MD Public Art Projects, Public Art Legislation Update
 - Steven Skerritt-Davis A&E, CAC Leadership Transitions, Program Revision, CAAM Update

Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA) Update

- ✚ Nicholas Cohen provided an update to the Council
- ✚ The 2019 Legislative Session has begun

- We are expecting a great Session this year
- The Maryland arts sector has achieved record funding for three consecutive years
- MSAC received \$22.7 million in state appropriated funds, during the 2018 Legislative Session
- The “forecast” for this year is around \$23 million
- MCA is requesting the following funding guidelines for MSAC:
 - ✓ Net General Fund Expenditure: \$22,382,603
 - ✓ POCA: \$1,000,000
 - ✓ Special Fund (Maryland Education): \$300,000
 - ✓ Federal Appropriation: \$620,000
 - ✓ TOTAL EXPENDITURE: \$24,302,600
- ✚ Budget Hearings are scheduled in Annapolis, as follows:
 - ✓ The House Budget hearing is February 27
 - ✓ The Senate Budget hearing is February 28
- ✚ Registration is still open for MD Arts Day
 - The event will be held on February 14, in Annapolis
 - We hope to see you there
- ✚ Thanks for your continued support

Executive Director Report

- ✚ NASAA
 - Ken shared a presentation from NASAA reflecting diversity, funding and demographic breakdowns
 - The presentation provided significant background information on racial equity and accessibility
 - It has been stated that in 2020, “Minority will be the Majority” in Maryland
 - Updated and State specific information will be provided at the March Council meeting
- ✚ Program Revision Overview
 - Independent Artists, Public Art, Arts in Education, Presenting and Touring
 - All Documents Uploaded and Prepared
 - Planning Meetings Complete
 - Call for Editors Sent, Received and Being Screened by Program Directors
 - Upcoming Programs:
 - ✓ Community Arts Development - January – June 2019
 - ✓ Maryland Traditions - July - November 2019
- ✚ Facility Update
 - MD Art Place is now interested in being considered for our new office space
 - The current list for consideration is as follows:
 - ✓ 10 N. Howard
 - ✓ Saratoga Street Firehouse (Next to MAP)
 - ✓ MAP
 - ✓ BOPA/MSAC Co-Occupants
 - ✓ Architecture Institute of America
 - Ken will keep everyone updated as we move along in the process
- ✚ Staffing Update
 - We currently have two Program Director positions vacant
 - The Executive Committee has agreed to meet with the Secretary of Commerce to discuss MSAC’s current staffing issues
 - We hope to have our new Marketing & Communications Manager in place by the end of the month

- Arthur Brown (Office Secretary) has applied for the Administrative Associate position, that will assist Steven Skerritt-Davis
- As of November 1, Steven is Acting Deputy Director
- The Grants Administrator position remains vacant
- A brief discussion was held regarding productivity, capacity, staff retention, etc.
- Special thanks to the UALP Fellows (Kayla and Teara), Dana and Arthur for stepping up and filling in all the “gaps” during these hectic times

Independent Artist Network

- ✚ The Independent Artist Network (IAN) is a virtual and live community for Maryland artists who, without affiliation to a larger organization, are working within the creative economy of the state
 - The objective of the IAN is to encourage sustainable employment for artists through a supportive structure that values the impact of creative work on communities throughout the State
 - Benefits of the network include:
 - ✓ Offering a public page on the MSAC website
 - ✓ Using the MSAC website as a one-stop for calls for artists
 - ✓ Continuing regional and centralized convenings for professional development
 - ✓ Creating a statewide event calendar (all activities - presentations, classes, etc.)
 - ✓ Offering professional development that leads to endorsements for expanded employment opportunities
 - ✓ Centralizing access to grants and other funding sources
 - ✓ Developing opportunities to clarify relationships between funders and grantees
 - ✓ Proactively expanding the of circle of artists

Individual Artist Awards Recommendations

- ✚ There were 669 eligible applications this year
- ✚ Applications were submitted from 24 counties
- ✚ We are still lacking the desired amount of geographical and demographic diversity and representation

The recommendations were approved as presented.

Bylaws Updates

- ✚ The last bylaws revision was in September 2010
- ✚ The Executive Committee met in October 2018, and made suggested revisions to the current standing bylaws
- ✚ There were not any further suggestions made from the remaining Council members
- ✚ These suggestions have been submitted to the Full Council for approval

The bylaws revisions were approved as presented.

New Business

- ✚ Strategic Planning Reflections
 - A brief discussion was held around possibly “wordsmithing” the Mission
 - Council and staff felt that there was very open, honest and engaging conversation
 - The exercises were inclusive, interactive and sparked broader thoughts and meaningful communication

Business Adjourned

- ✚ The next meeting will be held on March 13, 2019