



MSAC Council Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2020
1:00 p.m.

1:03 Call to Order

Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA), Executive Director (ED), Nicholas Cohen provided the following update to the Council. There will more than likely be a reduction in the FY21 budget as part of the budget is based on state growth. The Department of Public Works has a panel that will review revenue and determine if there should be a call for cuts across the board for agencies. MCA continues to advocate and ensures that there is legislative support to not cut the arts.

The MSAC Emergency Grant restrictions were created to encourage independent artists and arts organizations to apply for the limited funding at MSAC, including the \$467,900 NEA appropriation, to supplement what they may receive from state and federal loan and grant programs. Because of the overwhelming number of applications at the state level, and administrative challenges at the federal level, providing proof of approval or ineligibility is not possible at this time. As a result, the following recommendations are being made to the Council:

Emergency Grant Language A focuses on organizations aid eligibility and the justification is the timeline for notification from these state/federal programs is unknown. Shelly Morhaim made a motion to approve Emergency Grant Language A. John Stratweiser seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Emergency Grant Language B focuses on independent artists and unemployment application status and the justification is the Unemployment Insurance application is not yet available for independent contractors, even though they are eligible. Morhaim made a motion to approve Emergency Grant Language B. Carole Alexander seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.



Emergency Grant Language C includes additional application questions which will allow for a clear prioritization of funding based on need. Discussion surrounding the time frame and any kind of formula for a cap. ED informed the council that the staff has taken on a comparative model approach and in doing so a formula may present itself. John Schratweiser made a motion to approve Emergency Grant Language C. Benny Russell seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Emergency Grant Language D no vote required.

Emergency Grant Language E includes transparency of the review process which allows entities to self determine the need or not to apply for the Emergency Grant. Anne West made a motion to approve Emergency Grant Language E. Carla DuPree seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Emergency Grant Language F also includes transparency of the review process where funding is recommended through a comparison model, applicants with the greatest need can be prioritized to receive funding. Schratweiser made a motion to approve Emergency Grant Language F. West seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Funding redistribution requests to move any unspent funds to the Emergency Grant has to be approved by the Secretary of Commerce. An emergency grant digital vote is forthcoming pending approval.

Everyone thanked the staff for all of their amazing hard work under these unusual circumstances.

1:42 Adjourn