



Maryland State Arts Council Council Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2022
Google Meet

In attendance: MSAC staff, MSAC council members, Assistant Secretary, Tom Riford. Not in attendance: Chair, Jacqueline Copeland, Sumita Kim, Ron Young, Alonzo T. Washington

Lily called the meeting to order approximately 10:00 a.m.

Minutes from the June 7, 2022 council meeting were approved. Minutes from the June 24, 2022 meeting were approved.

Executive Director's Report (Skerritt-Davis)

Annual Reporting Takeaways

- 1,124 grants totalling almost \$25 million awarded and processed
- Adoption of GFO Equitable Funding Formula
- Land Acknowledgement Project
- 82 Professional Development sessions serving 2,500
- Three Public Art Commission projects totaling \$295,000
- Development of Grants for Artists program
- Virtual Regional Exhibitions highlighting 127 Maryland artists

Arts Relief Update

General Operating Support

- Guidelines approved, application building; Expect applications to mid-September; Info sessions will be offered by program

Project Support & Emergency Grants

- Program-specific info sessions; Sessions well attended, high application numbers

Grants for Artists

- Vote on Grant Amount; Info sessions offered

Other

- Vote on Folk Festival Support today
- No movement on Arts Capital position

Getting the word out

- Coffee with the Council on 7/19, 360 attendees
- Dedicated web page with FAQ and 7/19 slides



- Social media, meetings, etc.

FY23 Surplus

\$1,040,389.23 total in FY22 funds available in FY23 through grant prepayment

Ideas from staff for using these funds:

- Allocate to grant programs
- Hire additional contractors
- Increase marketing

Staffing Update

- Deputy Director - Posting closed September 7, 2022
- Grants Management Associate - applications under review
- Increases in grant applications, public art commissions
- Projecting a minimum 700 additional arts relief general operating support applications to process this FY, likely double number of grants processed
- Over the target request for FY24 submitted to Assistant Secretary

Staff Reports

Arts Services (Weiss, Sollenberger)

Creativity

- Creativity has been VERY popular this summer!
- Of the 44 grants awarded in July and August, 22 went to Independent Artists (50%) and 22 (50%) went to Organizations
- During the months of July and August, Creativity Grants were awarded to Artists and Organizations in 10 different counties across the state (Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Dorchester, Frederick, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, PG, Washington)
- In just the month of August, Program Directors received and processed about 50 requests for application feedback in this program alone

Presenting & Touring

Touring Roster

- Added 5 Roster Artists during the July and August review periods
- 90 total active Roster Artists

Touring Grant

- Increase in Touring Grant applications received this summer!
- Total awarded in July & August: \$24,302 (13 grants)
- September apps: 6 eligible Touring Grants, 1 eligible Roster Application for review

Looking Ahead

- Planning on hosting Presenters Roundtable discussion this fall. The



virtual event would feature 3-4 Touring Grant recipients (presenters) to discuss how they plan presentations, what they look for on the Roster, helpful hints for Roster members, etc.; Improved search functionality through the Arts Directory on the MSAC website

Professional Development Opportunity Grant

- July: review included 11 eligible applications, and awarded 7 for a total of \$12,312.94; August: review included 13 eligible applications, and awarded 6 for a total of \$11,989; September: approx. 20 eligible applications will move forward for review by staff.

*Majority of applicants and awardees are Independent Artists.

Professional Development Offerings

- MSAC offered a wide range of offerings to the public via Zoom throughout the summer, including Information Sessions around program offerings, topic-specific sessions, along with funding opportunities through the Arts Relief funding.

Emergency Grants for Independent Artists

- July: Review included 32 eligible applications, and awarded 20 for a total of \$40,000; August: Review included 42 eligible applications, and awarded 17 for a total of \$34,000; September: approx 40 eligible applications for review - group of PDs to help review this month.

Public Art Across Maryland (Fenner, Patterson, Chang)

PAAM Grants

- With an FY23 budget of \$2M the New Artworks Project Grant amounts doubled from \$20k to \$50k. Planning Grants doubled from \$5k to \$10k.
- With larger-scale projects to be funded, we have responsibility to ensure project applications are complete including site permissions for 'shovel-ready' implementation; Staff schedules one-on-one technical assistance meetings with potential applicants.
- We are also focused on additional promotion for the Conservation Grants to let communities know about the program, especially this year with our \$2m budget
- Staff are also managing two professional development 'Making it Public' workshop series. The summer Artist series was a huge success and the Administrator series starts Sept. 15

Artwork Commissions

Staff are currently at capacity managing 11 artwork projects across 7 state



buildings totaling \$2.9 million. There are 20 additional projects totaling \$8.5M that staff have not started due to capacity.

Marketing (Evans)

The Marketing Director shared two promotional videos for MSAC produced by Wide Angle Youth Media

Fiscal Report/Finance Committee Report (Bengfort, Roper)

The council reviewed the FY23 budget and the state budgeting process. FY23 Revenue budget: \$68,957,058. FY23 surplus (as of 8/31/22) \$1,040,389.23.

FY23 - Maryland Folk Festival support

Proposal: To support the emerging emerging Maryland Folk Festival with a one-time grant of \$1 million in Arts Relief funding to be spent on festival operating costs, debt servicing, allocations to cash reserves, or contributions to endowments

Councilors discussed the recommendation and questioned the allocation's transparency, size, and alignment with the council's equitable grantmaking approach. The recommendation was declined with seven councilors voting against and six for.

Executive Committee Report (Copeland)

Strategic Planning Discussion (Skerritt-Davis)

Proposed Timeline

- Sept-Oct 2022 - RFP Development; Nov 2022 - RFP Solicitation
- Dec 2022 - Proposal Review and Selection; Jan-July 2023 - Plan Development
- Aug-Oct 2023 - Drafting; Jan 2024 - Plan Launch

Looking for committee volunteers to work with staff on RFP development and with the selected consultant throughout the process

Program Policy Evaluation Committee Recommendations (Morhaim)

Cherry Adler Award

Cherry (Charlotte) Adler was an esteemed member of the Maryland State Arts Council and its chairperson for two years. She was also the founder and Executive Director of Library Theatre. Cherry passed away in 1998 while a MSAC board member. Following her passing in 1998, donations were used to create the Cherry Adler Award, which would be presented to a children's theater organization (privately funded); currently \$3,000 awarded every 3 years. Staff will use the GFO process and scoring to determine who will be awarded the additional funding



Grants for Artists Award Amount

Proposed policy: Grants for artists \$6,000 each

Justification: amount accounts for public editor recommendations and departmental review

Councilors questioned the rationale for the recommendation and staff explained discussions with Department leadership and editor recommendations. After brief discussion the council approved the recommendation unanimously.

Review of Councilors Roles & Responsibilities (Madden, Skerritt-Davis)

Governance committee meeting to be scheduled to create ways to measure councilor engagement.

EDI Sharing

Councilors and staff share personal equity and justice work.

Adjourned.