



Annual Report 2021

About MSAC

The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) advances the arts in our state by providing leadership that champions creative expression, diverse programming, equitable access, lifelong learning, and the arts as a celebrated contributor to the quality of life for all the people of Maryland. The Council - composed of 17 citizens appointed by the Governor and Assembly leadership - oversees MSAC staff who administer programs that award grants to non-profit organizations, local government entities, schools, and artists to support ongoing arts programming and projects. MSAC receives its funds from an annual appropriation from the State of Maryland, grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, and, on occasion, contributions from private, non-governmental sources.

Economic Impact of the Arts

In FY2020, despite the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic, MSAC grantees supported:

- **\$828.7 million in total economic activity**
- **10,624 full-time equivalent jobs**
- **\$328.2 million in salaries**
- **\$423.6 million in state GDP**
- **\$20.6 million in state and local tax revenue**
- **5.9 million people attended in-person events**
- **6.5 million people attended virtual events**
- **Every \$1 spent by MSAC grantee organizations supported an additional \$2.20 in economic activity statewide***

**Economic Impact of the Arts in Maryland: FY2020 Maryland Department of Commerce*

A Letter from Secretary Kelly M. Schulz

As we continue to navigate challenging times, the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) has remained steadfast in its support of the artists and arts organizations that are so integral to our state's quality of life. Thanks to both federal and state funding, MSAC has distributed 1,645 emergency grants totaling more than \$12 million to artists and arts organizations since the beginning of the pandemic. This unprecedented investment, along with the 238 free professional development sessions offered by MSAC in FY2021, is helping to ensure that the arts sector will recover and remain a strong economic engine for the state.

While the focus this year was to get emergency grant funding in the hands of artists and arts organizations as quickly and efficiently as possible, MSAC also distributed more than \$21 million in FY2021 through its ongoing programs, helping to support general operations, art projects, educational experiences, and professional development opportunities. We are proud of our state's dedication to the arts, which has placed us third nationally in per capita for public investment. MSAC remains a vigilant steward of this investment and is working harder than ever to ensure equitable distribution of funding through accessible programs and transparent processes administered by a dedicated staff and overseen by a citizen Council. This proactive investment will broaden the reach and transformative power of the arts to more Marylanders, ultimately boosting our economy, improving our well-being, and inspiring creativity and innovation throughout our state.

*Kelly M. Schulz, Secretary
Maryland Department of Commerce*

Grants for Organizations

Operating support grants awarded through MSAC's Grants for Organizations (GFO) program provide a stable base of support for non-profit organizations and units of government that produce or present arts programming that is open to the public.

GFO grantees provide access to the arts in their areas, create audiences for the future, uplift communities, and stimulate economic impact throughout the state.

\$15,165,887 in grants supporting 229 organizations

"In this unusual and challenging season, we are now more than ever deeply grateful for MSAC's continued support. Whether through Emergency Grants, accelerated GFO grant disbursements, or sharing support and information about other emergency relief opportunities, MSAC has been a vital ally throughout this most difficult year." - Round House Theatre (Montgomery County)

Creativity Grants

MSAC Creativity Grants offer funding to support the new work of independent artists and maintain stable operations at small organizations.

Since FY2020, Creativity Grants have supported the growing need for arts projects and collaborations that are relevant to communities statewide.

- **84 grants totaling \$279,787 awarded to individuals and organizations from 14 counties**
- **44 grants to independent artists totaling \$145,137**
- **40 grants to organizations totaling \$124,650**

"We are feeling energized about making meaningful art in this challenging time, and very much appreciate the support we have received [through the Creativity Grant]."

- Full Circle Dance Company (Baltimore City)

County Arts Agencies of Maryland

County arts agencies in each of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions further MSAC's goals by encouraging and supporting local arts activity while championing creative expression, diverse programming, and lifelong learning locally. The County Arts Development program that funds county arts agencies encourages long-term planning at the local level and supports collaboration with MSAC.

\$4 million in grants distributed to 24 agencies to support grantmaking and arts activities in local communities and schools

"Couldn't do what we do without MSAC!" - Coleen West, Executive Director, Howard County Arts Council

Arts in Education

MSAC's Arts in Education Program promotes, strengthens, and enhances the arts and arts education in Maryland's schools and community settings.

\$295,536 in grants supported primarily virtual educational engagements in 80 schools and community settings

Poetry Out Loud

Through MSAC support, students across Maryland participate in this national arts education program that encourages the mastery of great poetry through memorization, performance, and competition. Kate Maerten, a 12th grader at Gerstell Academy in Carroll County, is the 2021 Maryland State Champion. Kate was among eight finalists who participated in a virtual state final in March.

Independent Artist Awards

Independent Artist Awards recognize achievement by Maryland artists making work independent of an institution or organization. The awards are accompanied by grants that encourage artistic growth and sustained practice. Disciplines rotate on a three-year cycle between Performing, Visual/Media, and Literary arts. Awards are given at the regional and state levels.

66 Maryland visual/media awardees, a total of \$260,000 in grants

53 artists received a regional grant of \$2,000 to recognize promise, and 13 artists received an award of \$10,000 to recognize notable artistic achievement. Two state awardees, Mia Rollow (Prince George's County) and Stephen Towns (Baltimore City) received an additional award of \$15,000 to recognize outstanding artistic achievement.

"...I'm proud to be a small reflection of the important work you do at the MSAC toward making Maryland a great (and supportive) place to be a Regional Independent Artist." - Michael Buckley (Kent County)

Maryland Traditions

Maryland Traditions supports community-based living cultural traditions with three grant programs: the Folklife Network, Folklife Apprenticeship, and Heritage Award.

- **\$334,687 in Folklife Network grants supporting 8 regional folklife centers**
- **\$36,000 in Folklife Apprenticeship grants supporting traditional arts education for 9 teams of 2 artists each**
- **\$15,000 in Heritage Awards recognizing long-term achievement in the traditional arts for 3 winners**

"I am so proud to be a recipient of the Folklife Apprenticeship Grant, this will allow me to pass down the heritage of Bmore Club production to the newer generation by having a direct apprentice that I can teach." - Marquis "Mighty Mark" Gasque (Baltimore City)

Presenting & Touring

Presenting and Touring at MSAC supports a rich and artistically diverse network of Maryland-based artists and performing arts organizations. Even though many venues closed or operated under capacity restrictions in FY2021, this funding supported artist employment in virtual and in-person events.

- **9 Touring Grants totaling \$28,110 supported performances in 4 counties**
- **30 new artists joined the Maryland Touring Roster, increasing to 71 active members**

"These are difficult times, but it has given us new opportunities that are very exciting. Sincerely, thank you so much for working above and beyond to enable us to do great things in our communities." - Garrett Lakes Arts Festival (Garrett County)

Arts & Entertainment Districts

Maryland's 29 Arts & Entertainment (A&E) Districts help develop and promote community involvement, tourism, and revitalization through tax-related incentives.

In FY2021, A&E District in Bel Air (Harford County) and Gateway (Prince George's County) redesignated, extending the benefits for an additional 10 years.

Operating support grants totaling \$381,975 supported activities in districts statewide

"Without the operational assistance funding provided through MSAC, our organization would not have been able to hold events, help promote local artists and small businesses, keep all staff members on the payroll, and accomplish our goals for the year despite the pandemic."

- Frostburg A&E District (Allegany County)

Public Art

MSAC's Public Art Programs promote and support the inclusion of art in the everyday experiences of Marylanders through direct commissions, grants, technical assistance, and professional development that support planning, creating, and caring for art in public spaces across the state.

- **18 grants totaling \$208,387 supported public art projects in 9 counties**
- **3 Maryland Public Art Initiative projects totaling \$450,000**

"Thurmont's Murals on Main is an amazing example of public art culminated with history and placemaking which was completed in August of 2020! Murals on Main is the gem of Main Street and many thanks to MSAC for assisting us with not only funding, but technical and moral support as well throughout the entire project even through a pandemic!" - Vickie Grinder, Thurmont East Main Street (Frederick County)

Professional Development

MSAC deepened its commitment to professional development in FY2021 offering the arts community across the state multiple avenues for connecting with MSAC and with one another.

238 virtual professional development sessions with 8,434 participants

"[MSAC staff] are real people who maintain contact with us, and have provided gentle, effective steering of us to keep on track. This included an effective workshop that helped us set up a Strategic Plan Committee." - Port Tobacco Players (Charles County)

Professional Development Opportunity grants encourage and support Maryland artists and arts organizations with funding to participate in training and other professional development opportunities relevant to their work.

29 grants totaling \$47,978

Special Request Grants

Special Request Grants give arts organizations the opportunity to apply for funding to support projects that fall outside of the scope of MSAC's other grant programs.

14 Special Request Grants totaling \$384,630 supported a variety of projects, including a statewide equity and justice training program offered through Maryland Citizens for the Arts as well as ClancyWorks Dance Company's Building Racial Equity in the Arts through Dance workshop.

"I loved having access to artists and opinions outside of prison...I think this program helped me build confidence to not be so critical in my art and to just do it. I would also hope that if viewed it will inspire positive feelings." - Participant in CorrespondARTS, a first-of-its-kind remote arts engagement program serving incarcerated women in Maryland

Exhibitions

Independent Artist Awards (IAA) Virtual Exhibition

May 10th - July 16th, 2021

MSAC's online gallery featured 32 visual art pieces by Maryland visual/media artists recognized through the 2021 Independent Artist Awards. BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport's International Art Gallery hosted a physical exhibit of selected pieces from artists to accompany the virtual exhibition.

IDENTITY

February 5th - April 5th, 2021

Via social media, MSAC highlighted the work of 50 Maryland artists who shared self-reflective visual, literary, performance, and multimedia work expressing and exploring their different identities and how they perceive themselves.

Emergency Grants

Maryland's arts sector faced a myriad of challenges during the pandemic from shuttered performance venues, businesses, and community spaces to loss of most income-generating work for independent artists. The sector responded with characteristic creativity and innovation, quickly pivoting to provide online content, virtual arts events, and safe in-person events and projects whenever possible.

Thanks to funding from the Maryland Nonprofit Recovery Initiative, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the State's RELIEF Act, MSAC distributed **1,645 grants totaling over \$12 million** between April 2020 and June 2021 through the Emergency Grant program. These grants helped arts organizations and independent artists weather devastating losses in programming and income.

"In a time when most freelance artists were left without day jobs and their contracts were cancelled from all theaters, it was fantastic that we were able to maintain our financial commitment to these workers."
- Brown Box Theatre Project (Worcester County)

"The Artesanas Mexicanas, an all-female Latinx artist collective, who live in Southeast Baltimore... lost the main source of income for their families... In the first four months of the pandemic, the Artesanas sewed and sold cotton protective masks and fiesta packs and received 100% of the proceeds... The Artesanas launched a July-September outdoor marketplace, Tianquiztli, where they sold traditional Latin American crafts and foods. With the [MSAC] support..., these programs were produced at no cost to the artists."
- Creative Alliance (Baltimore City)

Financials

Allegany

A&E Operating Support: \$26,850
County Arts Development: \$154,659
Creativity Grants: \$6,996
Emergency Grants: \$147,041
Folklife Network: \$46,000
Grants for Organizations: \$49,542
Independent Artist Awards: \$2,000
Network Technical Assistance: \$2,500
Special Requests: \$6,500

Anne Arundel

A&E Operating Support: \$13,425
Arts in Education: \$24,131
County Arts Development: \$188,324
Creativity Grants: \$3,500
Emergency Grants: \$1,039,007
Grants for Organizations: \$936,905
Independent Artist Awards: \$2,000
Maryland Traditions: \$4,000
Special Projects: \$2,000

Baltimore City

A&E Operating Support: \$53,700
Arts in Education: \$23,832
County Arts Development: \$189,267
Creativity Grants: \$98,743
Folklife Network: \$47,750
Emergency Grants: \$2,843,530
Grants for Organizations: \$7,115,002
Independent Artist Awards: \$71,000
Maryland Presenting and Touring: \$12,260
Maryland Traditions: \$8,000
Network Technical Assistance: \$6,000
Professional Development: \$8,495
Public Art: \$84,788
Special Requests: \$278,405

Baltimore County

A&E Operating Support: \$13,425
Arts in Education: \$4,042
County Arts Development: \$204,741
Creativity Grants: \$40,248
Emergency Grants: \$635,102
Folklife Network: \$45,461
Grants for Organizations: \$341,499
Independent Artist Awards: \$20,000
Maryland Presenting and Touring: \$10,600
Maryland Traditions: \$5,000

Network Technical Assistance: \$2,000
Professional Development: \$8,000
Public Art: \$20,000

Calvert

County Arts Development: \$156,122
Emergency Grants: \$94,148
Grants for Organizations: \$39,497
Independent Artist Awards: \$2,000
Professional Development: \$2,000

Caroline

A&E Operating Support: \$13,425
County Arts Development: \$152,210

Carroll

County Arts Development: \$161,144
Creativity Grants: \$2,000
Emergency Grants: \$94,056
Folklife Network: \$41,000
Grants for Organizations: \$57,507
Maryland Presenting and Touring: \$2,500
Maryland Traditions: \$5,000

Cecil

Arts in Education: \$3,647
A&E Operating Support: \$13,425
County Arts Development: \$156,805
Emergency Grants: \$84,488
Grants for Organizations: \$12,541
Independent Artist Awards: \$2,000

Charles

County Arts Development: \$160,802
Emergency Grants: \$84,105
Grants for Organizations: \$14,032
Maryland Traditions: \$4,000

Dorchester

A&E Operating Support: \$13,425
County Arts Development: \$152,113
Emergency Grants: \$54,225
Independent Artist Awards: \$2,000
Public Art: \$5,000

Frederick

A&E Operating Support: \$13,425
Arts in Education: \$8,693
County Arts Development: \$167,172
Creativity Grants: \$3,500
Emergency Grants: \$376,609
Grants for Organizations: \$284,166

Independent Artist Awards: \$2,000
Maryland Traditions: \$4,000
Professional Development: \$1,500
Public Art: \$5,000

Garrett

A&E Operating Support: \$26,850
Arts in Education: \$7,984
County Arts Development: \$151,920
Creativity Grants: \$3,500
Emergency Grants: \$111,729
Grants for Organizations: \$14,652
Independent Artist Awards: \$6,000
Maryland Presenting and Touring: \$2,750
Network Technical Assistance: \$5,000
Special Requests: \$20,000

Harford

A&E Operating Support: \$26,850
County Arts Development: \$166,901
Creativity Grants: \$7,000
Emergency Grants: \$219,672
Grants for Organizations: \$70,053
Professional Development: \$2,000

Howard

Arts in Education: \$11,320
County Arts Development: \$171,549
Creativity Grants: \$33,300
Emergency Grants: \$324,103
Grants for Organizations: \$196,043
Independent Artist Awards: \$6,000
Professional Development: \$5,100

Kent

A&E Operating Support: \$13,425
Arts in Education: \$1,250
County Arts Development: \$151,285
Creativity Grants: \$2,000
Emergency Grants: \$241,022
Grants for Organizations: \$86,021
Independent Artist Awards: \$24,000
Professional Development: \$2,000
Public Art: \$14,610

Montgomery

A&E Operating Support: \$40,275
Arts in Education: \$107,239
County Arts Development: \$249,517
Creativity Grants: \$39,500
Emergency Grants: \$2,849,218
Folklife Network: \$42,566

Grants for Organizations: \$3,926,724
Independent Artist Awards: \$32,000
Maryland Traditions: \$18,000
Network Technical Assistance: \$2,000
Professional Development: \$9,168
Public Art: \$47,930
Special Requests: \$67,425

Prince George's

A&E Operating Support: \$13,425
Arts in Education: \$68,438
County Arts Development: \$210,164
Creativity Grants: \$20,500
Emergency Grants: \$971,196
Grants for Organizations: \$1,150,090
Independent Artist Awards: \$53,000
Maryland Traditions: \$4,000
Professional Development: \$6,500
Public Art: \$5,000

Queen Anne's

County Arts Development: \$153,333
Emergency Grants: \$147,703
Grants for Organizations: \$9,901

St. Mary's

A&E Operating Support: \$13,425
Arts in Education: \$5,825
County Arts Development: \$157,510
Emergency Grants: \$28,901
Folklife Network: \$40,500
Grants for Organizations: \$24,509
Independent Artist Awards: \$22,000

Somerset

A&E Operating Support: \$13,425
County Arts Development: \$151,695
Emergency Grants: \$30,400
Maryland Traditions: \$4,000
Network Technical Assistance: \$2,000
Public Art: \$4,800
Special Requests: \$7,300

Talbot

A&E Operating Support: \$13,425
Arts in Education: \$1,150
County Arts Development: \$152,460
Creativity Grants: \$12,500
Emergency Grants: \$113,043
Folklife Network: \$28,160
Grants for Organizations: \$422,930
Independent Artist Awards: \$12,000

Washington

Arts in Education: \$1,000
County Arts Development: \$159,994
Creativity Grants: \$3,500
Emergency Grants: \$210,468
Grants for Organizations: \$246,017
Independent Artist Awards: \$2,000

Wicomico

A&E Operating Support: \$13,425
Arts in Education: \$26,336
County Arts Development: \$156,855
Creativity Grants: \$3,000
Emergency Grants: \$179,506
Folklife Network: \$43,500
Grants for Organizations: \$120,468
Professional Development: \$1,215

Worcester

A&E Operating Support: \$13,425
County Arts Development: \$153,459
Emergency Grants: \$247,852
Grants for Organizations: \$47,786

Revenues

General Funds: \$22,372,703
Federal Funds: \$4,068,940
Special Funds: \$8,619,820

Total Revenues: \$35,061,463

Expenditures

Grants for Organizations: \$15,165,887
Community Arts Development: \$4,030,001
Arts in Education: \$295,536
Independent Artist Awards: \$260,000
Maryland Traditions: \$56,000
Folklife Network: \$334,687
Public Art: \$187,128
Maryland Presenting & Touring: \$28,110
Arts & Entertainment Districts: \$381,975
Creativity Grants: \$272,787
Professional Development Grants: \$47,978
Special Project Grants: \$384,630
Emergency Grants: \$11,115,438

General Administration: \$2,494,306

Total Expenditures: \$35,054,463

Maryland State Arts Council

Julie Spangler-Madden, Chair, Howard County
Anne Winter-West, Vice Chair, Baltimore County

Carole Alexander, Anne Arundel County
Timothy L. App, Baltimore City
Lily Bengfort, Queen Anne's County
Zoë Charlton, Baltimore City
Jacqueline Copeland, Baltimore County
David Fakunle, Baltimore City
Molline Jackson, Prince George's County
Sumita Kim, Montgomery County
Joan M.G. Lyon, Garrett County
Shelley Morhaim, Baltimore County
Jack Rasmussen, Montgomery County
Benny Russell, Harford County
John Schratwieser, Kent County
Senator Ronald Young, Frederick County

Staff

Abdul Ali
Chad Buterbaugh
Rosa Chang
Amelia Evans
Liesel Fenner
Catherine Frost
Lillian Jacobson
Ryan Koons
Tammy Opper
Dana Parsons
Ryan Patterson
Keyonna Penick
Derrick Quevedo
Shaunte Roper
Steven Skerritt-Davis
Emily Sollenberger Dobbins
Laura Weiss

175 West Ostend Street, Suite E, Baltimore, Maryland 21230

For assistance using this publication, contact the MSAC at 410.767.6555 or MD Relay TTY: 7-1-1 or 800.735.2258 for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Individuals who do not use conventional print may obtain this publication in an alternate format by request.

410.767.6555 MD Relay TTY: 7-1-1 or 800.735.2258

msac.org

STATE OF MARYLAND

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lieutenant Governor