



# Maryland State Arts Council Council Meeting

MEETING MINUTES  
November 10, 2022  
Google Meet

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In attendance: Amelia Evans, Bonnie Fogel, Carole Alexander, Chad Buterbaugh, Chris Sloan, David Mitchell, Jack Rasmussen, David Fakunle, Derrick Quevedo, Elizabeth Morales, Emily Sollenberger, Jackie Copeland, John Schratwieser, Julie Madden, Sumita Kim, Kirk Snow, Laura Weiss, Liesel Fenner, Rosa Chang, Ryan Koons, Ryan Patterson Shaunte Roper, Shelley Morhaim, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Tammy Oppel, Timothy App, Tom Riford, Zoe Charlton. Not in attendance: Senator Ronald Young, Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Benny Russell, Lily Bengfort

Chair Jackie Copeland called the meeting to order at approximately 10:06 am.

## Chair Remarks

Jackie attended listening sessions on November 1 and the Baltimore Maryland Art exhibition - A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration featuring the council's own Zoe Charlton. She expressed her support for regional office hours and thanked the staff for all they do. Lastly, she acknowledged the death of Baltimore-based theater performer, writer, and director, Harriet Lynn, at the age of 77.

Shelley Morhaim made a motion to approve the September 8 council minutes, and John Schwratwieser seconded. The minutes were approved.

## Executive Director's Report (Skerritt-Davis)

Assistant Secretary Tom Riford:

- shared his appreciation for the dedication and diligence of the council members.
- Expressed that after a positive meeting with council members, Secretary Mike Gill is working to ensure MSAC is a top priority with the new administration during the transition phase.
- The transition committee worked in every effort to make the transition as smooth as possible. The new administration is very interested in the arts and hopefully, that interest persists.
- Maryland Arts Day in February moving forward with intentional enthusiasm for support from the new administration.



- Two months to go until the inauguration, various levels of leadership in commerce will be replaced, secretary, assistant, deputy, etc.
- Highlighted MSAC being the first to respond with emergency relief, during the dark times. Thanks, everyone, and all that's been done.

Steven has highlighted staffing concerns and arts relief efforts, equity in transition documents preparation

#### Strategic Planning Update

- Very successful/helpful first committee meeting
- Revising RFP
- Timeline
  - Sept-Oct 2022 - RFP Development
  - Nov 2022 - RFP Solicitation
  - Dec-Jan 2022 - Proposal Review and Selection.

#### Staffing Update

Welcome Kirk Snow, new Grants Management Associate. Kirk is a New England-born, Baltimore resident that joins the council from MICA where he assisted with seed granting and development granting for faculty.

#### Regional Office Hours (ROH)

- Past regional arts summits focused on various topics, but this year shifted to regional office hours
- Hosted in four regions as of November (Ellicott City, Cumberland, Centreville, and Leonardtown) to visit Cambridge, Upper Marlboro, and Baltimore to close the year out
- All were very successful, adapting the model and building on it, and more and more people attended.
- Hopeful to continue on an ongoing basis and be accessible throughout the state.
- Councilors were encouraged to attend to be representatives in their respective regions; Southern Maryland turned out and tethered ROH to a ribbon-cutting ceremony

Chris Sloan thanked the staff for coming out to Cumberland and mentioned how powerful the sessions are for local artists. John mentioned that the regional office hours in Centreville were extraordinary and very helpful to constituents.

#### Arts Relief Update

- Awarded to Date:\$910,821.12
- Arts Relief General Operating Support Deadline - October 31
- Public Art Deadlines - October 24 and March 24



- Grants for Artists to be awarded in mid-February and mid-April

Staff working through all of the art relief grants and getting funds out where needed.

## Staff Reports

### Grants Office (Skerritt-Davis)

#### Snapshot - Grant Awards/Payments Timeline

- ~670 Grants Awarded to-date (11/9)
- Anticipating ~2,500 grant payments total in FY23
- additional grants throughout all programs mean additional payments
- With Kirk and Cathy in place and more organization, the grants team hopes to see a smooth process while staying on top of payments as they make their way through the system.
- Thanks to Tammy Oppel for stepping up while the Grants Director position was vacant.

### Arts in Education (Morales)

#### Poetry Out Loud

- DewMore Baltimore contracted to implement a program for the 2022-23 school year
- Registration to participate in POL is open until November 15
- Virtual Regional Competitions
  - Currently surveying registrants to gauge interest for in-person competition
- In-person State Competition

#### Arts in Education Teaching Artist Roster

- 5 teaching artists have been added to the Roster in October
- 15 teaching artists are currently moving through the process of joining the Roster
- The Q2 review deadline is December 1
- Examining current policy and procedure to make sure it aligns with MSAC's strategic plan and goals

#### Arts in Education Grant

- Significant increase in applications
  - 86 grants have been awarded in FY23 between August - October

### Fiscal Report (Roper, Bengfort)

Shaunte presented a new layout to make the budget more comprehensive, the budget update report and budget surplus spending plan was also shared with councilors. FY23 Revenue Budget: Total State General Funds: \$26,777,358; Total Special Funds: \$41,300,000 (includes arts relief funding;



Total federal funds: \$879,7000; Total of all funds: \$68,957,058. Councilors thanked Shaunte for the new layout and all of her hard work.

#### Maryland Citizens for the Arts Update (Nicholas Cohen)

- Continuing to champion and advocate incredible work for MSAC.
- making sure funding priority and budget keeps growing
- Acknowledge the incredible work of staff, we also need to find out how to get increased funding for staff.
- Always champion dollars for staff as well, human capital
- Continue working closely with MSAC and as the session begins what that may look like with the new administration
- Maryland Arts day, February 16, to be held virtually, with some tactically/strategically significant in-person meetings around counties
- Transition: close eye on delegates and senate, close calls on the senate, close contact w/governor-elect, ensuring there are conversations around the arts and making sure they are aware of our collective need.
- Lastly, monitor the new program, Grants for Artists, as it gets off the ground. Many lawmakers were interested in it; more interested in the plight of individuals, especially artists. As a pilot program that's something we can hope to take back to lawmakers to get more money going forward.

#### Executive Committee Report (Copeland)

##### National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Debrief

- Council and staff attended, Maryland well represented; Council peer sessions productive; Focus on pandemic recovery
- Md is held in high esteem, especially in the public service we support.

##### Secretary Meeting Debrief

- Lily and John attended in person, and Jackie attended via phone
- Purpose: discuss the arts council and staffing of the arts council, introduced a package of proposals
- Secretary Mike Gill is very amenable to it; he has embraced the arts.
- Secured a pin for Capital Grants administrator as well as the ability to have a contractual position

#### Program Policy Evaluation Committee Report (Morhaim)

##### Special Request Program Revision - Policy Recommendations

- Revise purpose
- Revise types of support and detailed descriptions
  - Innovative projects addressing stated constituent needs
  - Pilot or one-time projects
  - Capacity-building efforts



- Institute min and max grant amounts of \$2,000 and \$50,000
- Implement required consultation with staff before application
- Reformulate application questions and rubric criteria
- Institute a panel review process

Committee recommends approval with stipulations: (1) staff lists of awarded grants at council meetings; (2) the program is reconsidered during the next strategic plan.

Councilors discussed whether the program is the best use of state dollars and considered the purpose and effectiveness as it relates to the mission of MSAC. Councilors expressed appreciation to the staff for creating structure and transparency around distributing discretionary funds.

Bonnie Fogel made a motion to approve with stipulations, Jackie seconded, and Sumita Kim opposed. Motion approved.

#### Arts in Education Policy Revision

- Proposal: One organization or individual may receive up to 35% of the total Arts in Education grant budget in FY 2023.
- Justification: The proposed policy change aligns with MSAC's vision and equity and justice goals. It will ensure that no one organization or individual receives a majority percentage of the overall AiE budget in FY 2023. It will allow funding to continue to be available for other organizations and independent artists for additional months while staff works to determine a more permanent solution.

Carole Alexander made a motion to approve the Arts in Education policy revision. Jackie seconded, all in favor. Motion approved.

#### Governance Report (Madden, Skerritt-Davis)

##### Roles and Responsibilities Metrics

- Review of roles and responsibilities of councilors according to MSAC bylaws
- Next steps: Keyonna creating a poll to send to councilors monthly as well as a tracking sheet
- Steven developing talking points and
- Council Chair and Executive Director to review annually and follow up with individual councilors and Governance Committee

#### Equity & Justice Sharing

Shelley shared about the book, "Not in my Neighborhood", about how zoning, banking, and land use have shaped American Cities, specifically Baltimore. Shelley described the book as a real eye-opener. Jack is participating in required programs hosted by American University for staff.



Bonnie mentioned she recently read "The Other Wes Moore " which helps get to know the encumbered Governor's values for equity and justice. Zoe attends 'Braiding Sweetgrass' an amazing transformative, anti-racism, inclusive conference. Jackie worked with American Alliance Museums on reporting core concepts and creating transformative museums. Chad has been reading Robert E. Lee and Me and reflects on the phrase "those that control the truth control history".

David Fakinle gave a shout-out to the National Organization for Arts in Health (NOAH) and thanked MSAC staff and fellow council members for attending the conference held in Baltimore. He also shared his eagerness to connect these two entities; the last frontier for arts in culture is health.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30 pm.