



June 28, 2024  
401 E. Pratt Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Baltimore  
1:00pm – 2:30pm  
**Minutes**

**Members in Attendance:**

Meryam Bouadjemi, Chair	Office of the Governor
Jimmie Briggs	Skoll Foundation
Andy Forssell	HBO Max, Hulu
Renard Jenkins	Warner Bros. Discovery
David O’Ferrall	IASTE Local 487
Sumi Parekh	Group Effort Initiative
Secretary Kevin Anderson	Department of Commerce
Chuck Cook for Secretary Jake Day	Department of Housing & Community Development
Ashley Sharp for Secretary Portia Wu	Department of Labor

**Guests:**

Julie Woepke	Department of Commerce
Jack Gerbes	Department of Commerce
Catherine Batavick	Department of Commerce
Jerel Registre	Department of Commerce
Steven Skeritt-Davis	Department of Commerce
Leslie Gillard	Department of Commerce

**I. Meeting called to Order**

Chair Meryam Bouadjemi called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.

**II. Minutes of the May 2, 2024 Meeting**

Upon a motion made and duly seconded, the minutes of the May 2, 2024 meeting were approved.

**III. Chair’s Report**

Chair Bouadjemi began her remarks by reminding members of the shared calendar and encouraged members to add cultural events that could help elevate the media and entertainment industry in the state and Maryland’s visibility globally. She added that in addition to the Council’s role in advising, the Administration seeks the Council’s partnership in bringing opportunities in the form of introductions, projects, and investors. She noted that partnerships will be extremely valuable during the AI Lab discussion to bring institutes and labs to fruition. She thanked Andy Forssell for his support with the

request for information (RFI) response to the Sundance Institute for the International Film Festival pitch and letter.

Chair Bouadjemi then introduced the Council's newest member, Jimmie Briggs, Principle of the Skoll Foundation and welcomed him to give his background and interests.

#### **IV. Governor's Office Update**

Chair Bouadjemi reported on behalf of Manny Welsh, Deputy Chief of Staff. She recently met with Mr. Welsh and was reminded of the severity of the State's budget for FY2025 and beyond. This budget will impact the funding of both existing and future projects, highlighting the need to support top-line priorities. She added that the Council prioritizes business development and seeks to assist with attraction and scaling the State's economy. She stated the Administration is seeking actionable plans that can be implemented and added the importance of building capacity within the Department to avail new opportunities.

#### **V. Maryland State Arts Council**

Chair Bouadjemi stated that she recently had the honor of attending the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) meeting where she updated the Council on the MEIC's purpose and initiatives. MSAC expressed interest in coordination with the Council. At the meeting, she also learned of the grant program that has supported independent filmmakers in the State. She then turned the presentation to Steven Skerritt-Davis, MSAC Executive Director, to provide an overview of the Council and the array of programs and grants available for the creative industry. Presentation on file.

#### **VI. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Lab Concept**

Councilmember Renard Jenkins, was introduced and presented the AI Lab Prospect Report which outlined the elements of an incubator, suggested partnerships, commercial impact probability, and the fastest areas of growth within the integration of AI in media and entertainment. He then described several models to consider and research for applicability in Maryland.

Mr. Jenkins took questions from the Council.

#### **VII. Good of the Order**

Chair Bouadjemi inquired whether any of the members had additional information to share. Discussion occurred on the date for the next meeting. It was the consensus to hold the next meet in September.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.