



July 11, 2025

401 E. Pratt Street, 17th Floor Conference Room, Baltimore Maryland 21202

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Meryam Bouadjemi, Chair

Jane Brown

Jimmie Briggs

Harry Coker, Secretary

Renard Jenkins

David O’Ferrall

Office of the Governor

Robert W. Deutsch Foundation

Skoll Foundation

Department of Commerce

Formerly Warner Bros. Discovery

IASTE Local 487

Commerce:

Catherine Batavick

Cori Duggins

Jerel Registre

Marci Ross

Steven Skerritt-Davis

Judy L. Smith

Guests:

Len Applefeld

Beth Bell

Maeion Bryant

Kevin Crawley

Michael Davis

Ronald Dixon

Caprina Erinn

Sarah Fales

Jack Gerbes

Ryan Hastings

Lauran Howard

Cameron Lawson

Elena Moscatt

Tori Pans

Steve Saadee

Michaela Sulka

Amanda Wayman

Roger Wood

Christy Wyskiel

I. Meeting called to Order

Chair Meryam Bouadjemi called the meeting to order at 1:31PM.

II. Meeting Minutes – March 7, 2025

The March 7, 2025 meeting minutes will be updated to reflect comments made during the “Good of the Order” portion of the meeting.

III. Chair’s Report

Chair Bouadjemi welcomed everyone, especially our visitors, which included IATSE Local 487 and SAG-AFTRA. She thanked Commerce for the work that is being done and stated that we have more to do to market the industry inside and outside of Maryland. She also introduced the concept of Listening Sessions with the goal of gathering diverse opinions, gaining a deeper understanding of perspectives, and identifying areas for improvement. The inaugural listening session will be “Physical Production”.

IV. Commerce Update

Secretary Coker began by saying that the State is functioning in an economically challenging environment. In general, there are fewer resources to address priorities and there is currently a hiring freeze within the State of Maryland. Secretary Coker asked for suggestions on how Commerce can be supportive of the industry and ended with the four priorities of Commerce in support of this industry:

1. Fill Vacancies
2. Update and Modernize the Film Website
3. Compile a List of State Owned Resources
4. Proactively Market Maryland

V. Maryland Arts Council (MSAC) Update

Director Skerritt-Davis summarized the Maryland State Arts Council's (MSAC) activities, highlighting its role in supporting the state's arts community. These activities include providing grants to arts non-profits and artists, along with offering technical assistance and professional development opportunities.

MSAC is currently concluding Fiscal Year 2025, processing final grant payments totaling approximately \$32 million. Looking ahead to Fiscal Year 2026, the Council is preparing to open new grant programs and award general operating grants. With the inclusion of federal funds, the total budget for the fiscal year will remain flat, allowing for the allocation of around \$32 million in general operating support, project, and capital grants. MSAC also aims to expand its professional development offerings in FY26.

A new initiative in FY26, supported by federal funding for Arts & Health activities, involves a pilot arts prescribing program in Maryland. The Chair asked a follow-up question about arts prescribing, and Director Davis explained generally that a contractor will work with insurance companies, health providers, and arts providers to set up a system where arts experiences can be prescribed to individuals with conditions such as mental health.

VI. Good of the Order

David O'Ferrall discussed fundamental challenges hindering attraction and support for productions in Maryland's film industry. A key focus involved identifying and addressing the root causes behind this

inability, while simultaneously strategizing the most effective ways to market Maryland, leveraging its brand, showcasing its talent and diverse spaces, and maximizing marketing dollars.

VII. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.