


FY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT





“MSAC is an ideal partner. They have been encouraging and informative. Working with them has refreshed my understanding of what working with a state council can be like.”

— Harold McGregor, writer & musician (Prince George’s)

MESSAGE from the SECRETARY

Fellow Marylanders:

Our state's creative economy remained strong in FY 2024, and the work of the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) is an important reason why. As the largest arts funder in the state, as well as being fourth in the nation in *per capita* public spending on the arts, MSAC plays an essential role in fulfilling this administration's promise to build a growing and thriving economy for every Marylander.

With a FY 2024 budget of \$35.5 million, MSAC's service to the state over the past year has been exceptional. Its funding has supported arts activities in every jurisdiction, from mountain to shore, and its talented staff have been at the forefront in making sure

resources are accessible in every city and town.

This annual report tells the story of an arts sector that is vibrant, ambitious, and equitable, thanks to the efforts of MSAC. I hope you'll take some time to learn about how their work contributes to our quality of life and makes Maryland an attractive place to do business in the arts, whether you're a groundbreaking artist-entrepreneur or an arts organization bringing inspiration to audiences of thousands.

Kevin Anderson
Secretary



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The past year at MSAC has been memorable in every sense.

Our team administered a record amount of regular funding through 16 grant programs, including the new Arts Capital program supporting infrastructure projects for arts organizations; wrapped up Arts Relief efforts by managing the last of a one-time allocation of state funds ensuring the health of Maryland's arts sector after the pandemic; and fielded a steadily-increasing public demand for MSAC services, thanks in part to attention attracted by last year's extra resources.

We sadly said goodbye to our former Chair, Jackie Copeland, who passed away unexpectedly at the beginning of the year, and we offered our gratitude to Chris Sloan, who stepped up to serve as Interim Chair in Jackie's absence.

Through it all, we expressed appreciation for the commitment and reliability of our staff in helping the agency fulfill its mission. Their efforts truly make it possible for MSAC to bring the transformative power of the arts to the entire state, and we thank them for their service.

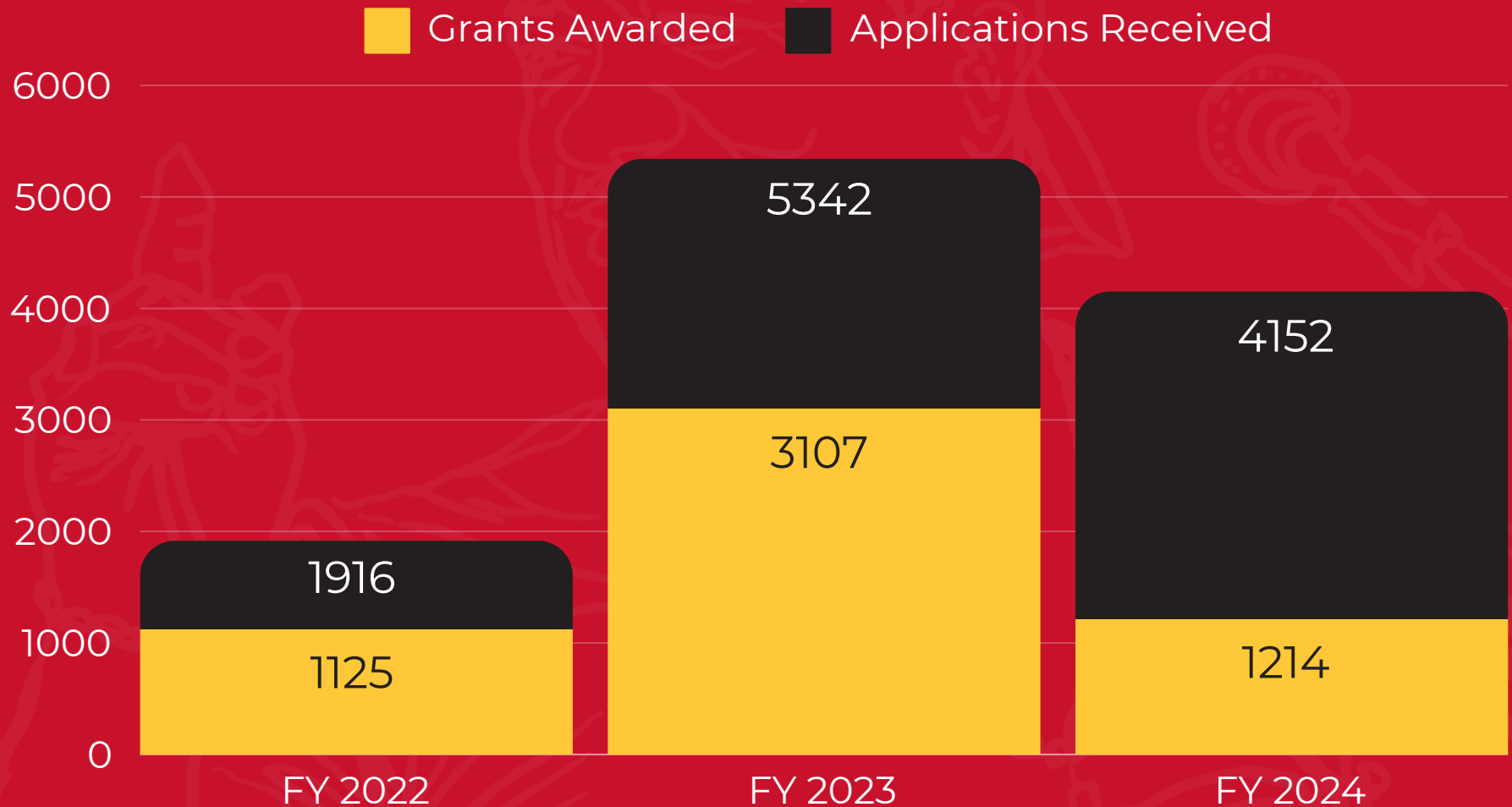
Ruby Harper Lopez, Chair

Steven Skerritt-Davis, Executive Director



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The charts below illustrate MSAC grants awarded versus applications received between FY 2022 and FY 2024.



Arts Relief funds, a one-time allocation of pandemic relief support in FY 2023, resulted in an increased demand for resources that persisted through FY 2024



An installation on display at Sandy Spring Museum in Montgomery County.

GRANTS for ORGANIZATIONS

The Grants for Organizations program, MSAC's largest in terms of funds awarded, provided operating support through an equitable funding formula to 291 organizations producing or presenting arts programming for public audiences across Maryland.

\$17,966,616

invested

.....

291

grants awarded

"Thank you so much for thinking of the impact that small organizations have in their respective fields. You all do so much with quite a small staff, and so please know that your massive amount of work is recognized and appreciated."

- Community Concerts at Second (Baltimore City)

CREATIVITY

The Creativity grant supported two kinds of arts activities: general operations for smaller organizations and projects for organizations and artists. The popular program funded activities across the state, with applications received from every jurisdiction.

\$944,317

invested

244

grants awarded

“Funding has allowed us to expand coverage across the Eastern Shore of Maryland, providing meaningful, hands-on art activities to financially disadvantaged and minority residents of remote, rural communities. Our ongoing arts education programming continues to succeed at bringing together a diverse cross-section of the local population from Talbot, Dorchester, Caroline, Queen Anne’s and Kent counties.”

- Choptank Tolomato Legacy Project (Queen Anne’s)



Trays of colorful chalk at a *plein air* event in Talbot County.

COUNTY ARTS DEVELOPMENT

The County Arts Development program bolstered Maryland's network of county arts agencies with operating funding for the designated government offices and nonprofit organizations supporting local arts activities in each jurisdiction of the state—twenty-three counties plus Baltimore City. All county arts agencies provide local arts funding opportunities, programming, and other resources.

\$5,000,000

invested

.....

24

grants awarded



Music at the Chestertown Art Walk, sponsored in part by the Kent Cultural Alliance, the county arts agency for Kent County.

ARTS CAPITAL

The Arts Capital program was new to MSAC last year, after the passage of legislation allocating \$3 million in arts capital funding annually through FY 2029. In its inaugural year, the program supported several projects that improved the infrastructure at organizations offering arts-based cultural education or experiences to the public.

\$3,000,000

invested

.....
14

grants awarded



Exterior of the New Carrollton Metro station in Prince George's County, featuring the mosaic "Dawn and Dusk Resurgent" by Heidi Lippman of Washington County.

GRANTS for ARTISTS

The Grants for Artists program remained a popular offering for its support of working and living expenses for Maryland's independent artists. This year, 220 artists received funding through the program.

\$550,000

invested

220

grants awarded

"Receiving this grant at the age of 70 has been a dream come true for me. It is a testament to the belief that creativity knows no age limits, and your dedication to fostering a vibrant arts community in our state has made this possible. Your commitment to funding programs that support artists like myself, who educate audiences on the culture of the Caribbean through dance, storytelling, and sound, is truly commendable."

- Diann Marshall (Prince George's)

Wildfowl art at the Ward World Championships in Worcester County.



PUBLIC ART

\$734,284

invested

27

New Artworks grants

9

Conservation grants

The Public Art Across Maryland program funded the planning, creation, installation, and conservation of publicly accessible art integrated into the everyday experiences of Marylanders statewide.

In addition, the program supported progress on eleven commissioned works, including the installation of four new works, at state-owned facilities. This number of active projects represents an increase in capacity made possible by MSAC's Public Artist Roster, a directory easing artists' access to work opportunities and removing barriers to the artist selection process.



Artist Bridget Cimino of Baltimore City at work on a mural in the Wheaton Arts & Entertainment District in Montgomery County.



Maryland Poetry Out Loud winners, from left: Madison Harris of Indian Creek High School in Anne Arundel County, 1st place; Madilyn Tribbitt of Oakdale High School in Frederick County, 2nd place; and Abisola Asante from River Hill High School in Howard County, 3rd place.

The Arts in Education (AiE) program promoted the work of teaching artists in school and community settings by funding members of the Teaching Artist Roster, a vetted list of Maryland artists and organizations whose efforts strengthen lifelong learning.

The AiE program also administered Poetry Out Loud, a state recitation competition helping students master public speaking skills and build self-confidence. State champion Madison Harris received the top accolade for the second year in a row. She went on to compete in the national Poetry Out Loud competition.

\$874,858

invested

.....
200

grants awarded

ARTS in EDUCATION

MARYLAND TRADITIONS

Maryland Traditions, MSAC's traditional arts program, provided support for one-on-one traditional arts education experiences, long-term achievement in the traditional arts, and a network of eight regional folklife centers raising the profile of the many cultural communities that call Maryland home.

\$775,000	invested
15	Folklife Apprenticeship grants
8	Folklife Network grants
6	Heritage Awards



Oral history recording taking place during a community archiving project supported by the Baltimore American Indian Center in Baltimore City and the Maryland Traditions Archives, housed at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, a regional folklife center.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

\$464,000

invested

.....
26

grants awarded

DISTRICTS

Maryland's twenty-nine Arts & Entertainment Districts received support from MSAC in promoting community involvement, tourism, and revitalization through the availability of tax-related incentives. This support included funding to most districts through the Arts & Entertainment District General Operating Support grant.

PRESENTING & TOURING

The Presenting and Touring program sparked collaborations between Maryland's performing artists and performance venues through the Maryland Performing Artist Touring Roster, a listing that encourages connections between the two groups. The program also provided funding to presenting organizations that engage roster artists through the Maryland Touring grant.

\$170,908

invested

.....
41

grants awarded

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Professional Development Opportunity grant supported the cost of relevant training and skill-building for artists and organizations seeking to grow their impacts in the arts sector.

\$163,959

invested

85

grants awarded

The Special Request program helped organizations seeking to fund pilot projects, build capacity, and become more responsive to constituent requests.

SPECIAL REQUEST

\$98,800

invested

4

grants awarded

EXHIBITIONS

MARYLAND MUSE: A TAPESTRY of INSPIRATION

Works by dozens of Maryland artists were celebrated this year in the exhibition “Maryland Muse: A Tapestry of Inspiration,” hosted in collaboration with Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman’s “Art in Treasured Spaces” initiative at the state treasury building in Annapolis.

The collected works were inspired by the state’s unique culture and beauty, as well as the daily lives of the Marylanders who created them. Of the 63 pieces featured, 53 were submitted by individual artists, and 10 represented grantees of the Maryland Traditions program, which supports the state’s living cultural traditions.



Works on display.



Curator Rosa Chang (left) and artist Errol McKinson of Howard County.



Attendees viewing work at the opening in Annapolis.



A one-on-one meeting at MSAC's office hours event in Baltimore County.

MSAC maintains a regular schedule of free virtual and live professional development offerings, including topic-specific workshops, grant application strategy sessions, informal meet-and-greets, and in-person conversations between staff and arts leaders in every region of the state.

Virtual sessions	65
Live sessions	14
People served	2,327

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FINANCIALS by JURISDICTION

ALLEGANY

A&E District Operating Support: \$35,692
County Arts Development: \$192,956
Creativity: \$4,000
Folklife Network: \$80,000
Grants for Artists: \$7,500
Grants for Organizations: \$64,747
Heritage Award: \$10,000
Presenting and Touring: \$3,775
Total: \$398,670

ANNE ARUNDEL

Arts in Education: \$20,129
County Arts Development: \$235,620
Creativity: \$50,934
Grants for Artists: \$42,500
Grants for Organizations: \$1,059,245
Presenting and Touring: \$8,995
Professional Development Opportunity: \$5,230
Public Art Across Maryland: \$25,000
Total: \$1,447,653

BALTIMORE CITY

A&E District Operating Support: \$71,384
Arts Capital: \$1,890,000

BALTIMORE CITY (cont.)

Arts in Education: \$116,553
County Arts Development: \$233,726
Creativity: \$302,160
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$25,000
Folklife Network: \$80,000
Grants for Artists: \$175,000
Grants for Organizations: \$8,392,750
Heritage Award: \$10,000
Presenting and Touring: \$36,490
Professional Development Opportunity: \$51,870
Public Art Across Maryland: \$223,411
Special Request: \$25,000
Total: \$11,633,344

BALTIMORE COUNTY

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,846
Arts in Education: \$71,970
County Arts Development: \$256,130
Creativity: \$84,712
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$10,000
Folklife Network: \$80,000
Grants for Artists: \$50,000
Grants for Organizations: \$460,578
Heritage Award: \$10,000
Presenting and Touring: \$29,000
Professional Development Opportunity: \$21,300

FINANCIALS by JURISDICTION

BALTIMORE COUNTY (cont.)

Public Art Across Maryland: \$60,000

Special Request: \$25,000

Total: \$1,176,536

CALVERT

Arts in Education: \$25,641

County Arts Development: \$195,171

Creativity: \$4,000

Public Art Across Maryland: \$60,000

Total: \$284,812

CAROLINE

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,846

Arts in Education: \$5,200

County Arts Development: \$190,212

Public Art Across Maryland: \$30,000

Total: \$243,258

CARROLL

County Arts Development: \$201,719

Creativity: \$16,000

Folklife Network: \$80,000

Grants for Artists: \$2,500

Grants for Organizations: \$31,671

CARROLL (cont.)

Heritage Award: \$10,000

Presenting and Touring: \$2,500

Professional Development Opportunity: \$1,250

Total: \$345,640

CECIL

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,847

Arts in Education: \$9,081

County Arts Development: \$196,012

Creativity: \$8,000

Grants for Artists: \$2,500

Grants for Organizations: \$16,741

Presenting and Touring: \$5,000

Professional Development Opportunity: \$2,000

Public Art Across Maryland: \$9,216

Total: \$266,397

CHARLES

A&E District Operating Support: \$9,980

County Arts Development: \$201,297

Creativity: \$4,000

Grants for Organizations: \$38,912

Total: \$254,189

DORCHESTER

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,846



FINANCIALS by JURISDICTION

DORCHESTER (cont.)

Arts Capital: \$300,000

County Arts Development: \$190,154

Creativity: \$4,000

Grants for Artists: \$10,000

Grants for Organizations: \$7,980

Total: \$529,980

FREDERICK

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,846

Arts Capital: \$50,000

Arts in Education: \$57,278

County Arts Development: \$210,784

Creativity: \$20,000

Grants for Artists: \$35,000

Grants for Organizations: \$384,189

Heritage Award: \$10,000

Presenting and Touring: \$5,000

Professional Development Opportunity: \$7,875

Public Art Across Maryland: \$30,000

Total: \$827,972

GARRETT

A&E District Operating Support: \$35,692

Arts in Education: \$9,478

GARRETT (cont.)

County Arts Development: \$189,818

Creativity: \$11,840

Grants for Organizations: \$12,998

Presenting and Touring: \$9,250

Public Art Across Maryland: \$19,170

Special Request: \$23,800

Total: \$312,046

HARFORD

A&E District Operating Support: \$35,693

Arts in Education: \$3,644

County Arts Development: \$208,902

Creativity: \$29,698

Grants for Artists: \$7,500

Grants for Organizations: \$145,008

Presenting and Touring: \$7,700

Professional Development Opportunity: \$2,000

Public Art Across Maryland: \$30,000

Total: \$470,145

HOWARD

Arts Capital: \$300,000

Arts in Education: \$51,038

County Arts Development: \$214,704

Creativity: \$63,725

Grants for Artists: \$15,000



FINANCIALS by JURISDICTION

HOWARD (cont.)

Grants for Organizations: \$293,419
Professional Development Opportunity: \$7,411
Total: \$945,297

KENT

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,846
Arts in Education: \$12,000
County Arts Development: \$189,067
Creativity: \$4,000
Grants for Artists: \$5,000
Grants for Organizations: \$95,597
Presenting and Touring: \$2,000
Professional Development Opportunity: \$1,770
Public Art Across Maryland: \$19,489
Total: \$346,769

MONTGOMERY

A&E District Operating Support: \$53,538
Arts Capital: \$460,000
Arts in Education: \$293,544
County Arts Development: \$272,865
Creativity: \$182,715
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$20,000
Folklife Network: \$80,000

MONTGOMERY (cont.)

Grants for Artists: \$67,500
Grants for Organizations: \$4,621,283
Presenting and Touring: \$35,298
Professional Development Opportunity: \$25,578
Public Art Across Maryland: \$129,835
Special Request: \$25,000
Total: \$6,267,156

PRINCE GEORGE'S

Arts in Education: \$152,093
County Arts Development: \$264,306
Creativity: \$115,033
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$10,000
Grants for Artists: \$102,500
Grants for Organizations: \$1,195,110
Presenting and Touring: \$8,750
Professional Development Opportunity: \$31,675
Public Art Across Maryland: \$30,000
Total: \$1,909,467

QUEEN ANNE'S

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,846
Arts in Education: \$6,000
County Arts Development: \$191,694
Creativity: \$4,000
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$5,000



FINANCIALS by JURISDICTION

QUEEN ANNE'S (cont.)

Grants for Artists: \$2,500

Grants for Organizations: \$3,422

Public Art Across Maryland: \$28,163

Total: \$258,625

SOMERSET

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,846

County Arts Development: \$189,491

Total: \$207,337

ST. MARY'S

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,846

County Arts Development: \$196,817

Creativity: \$12,000

Folklife Apprenticeship: \$5,000

Folklife Network: \$80,000

Grants for Artists: \$7,500

Grants for Organizations: \$36,383

Total: \$355,546

TALBOT

County Arts Development: \$190,577

Creativity: \$8,000

Folklife Network: \$80,000

TALBOT (cont.)

Grants for Artists: \$2,500

Grants for Organizations: \$469,229

Presenting and Touring: \$9,750

Professional Development Opportunity: \$2,000

Public Art Across Maryland: \$10,000

Total: \$772,056

WASHINGTON

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,846

Arts in Education: \$5,063

County Arts Development: \$200,120

Creativity: \$6,500

Grants for Artists: \$7,500

Grants for Organizations: \$388,011

Presenting and Touring: \$5,000

Professional Development Opportunity: \$4,000

Public Art Across Maryland: \$30,000

Total: \$664,040

WICOMICO

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,846

Arts in Education: \$20,166

County Arts Development: \$195,989

Creativity: \$9,000

Folklife Network: \$80,000

Grants for Artists: \$7,500



FINANCIALS by JURISDICTION

WICOMICO (cont.)

Grants for Organizations: \$191,868

Heritage Award: \$10,000

Total: \$532,369

WORCESTER

A&E District Operating Support: \$35,694

Arts in Education: \$6,000

County Arts Development: \$191,869

Grants for Organizations: \$57,473

Presenting and Touring: \$2,400

Total: \$293,436

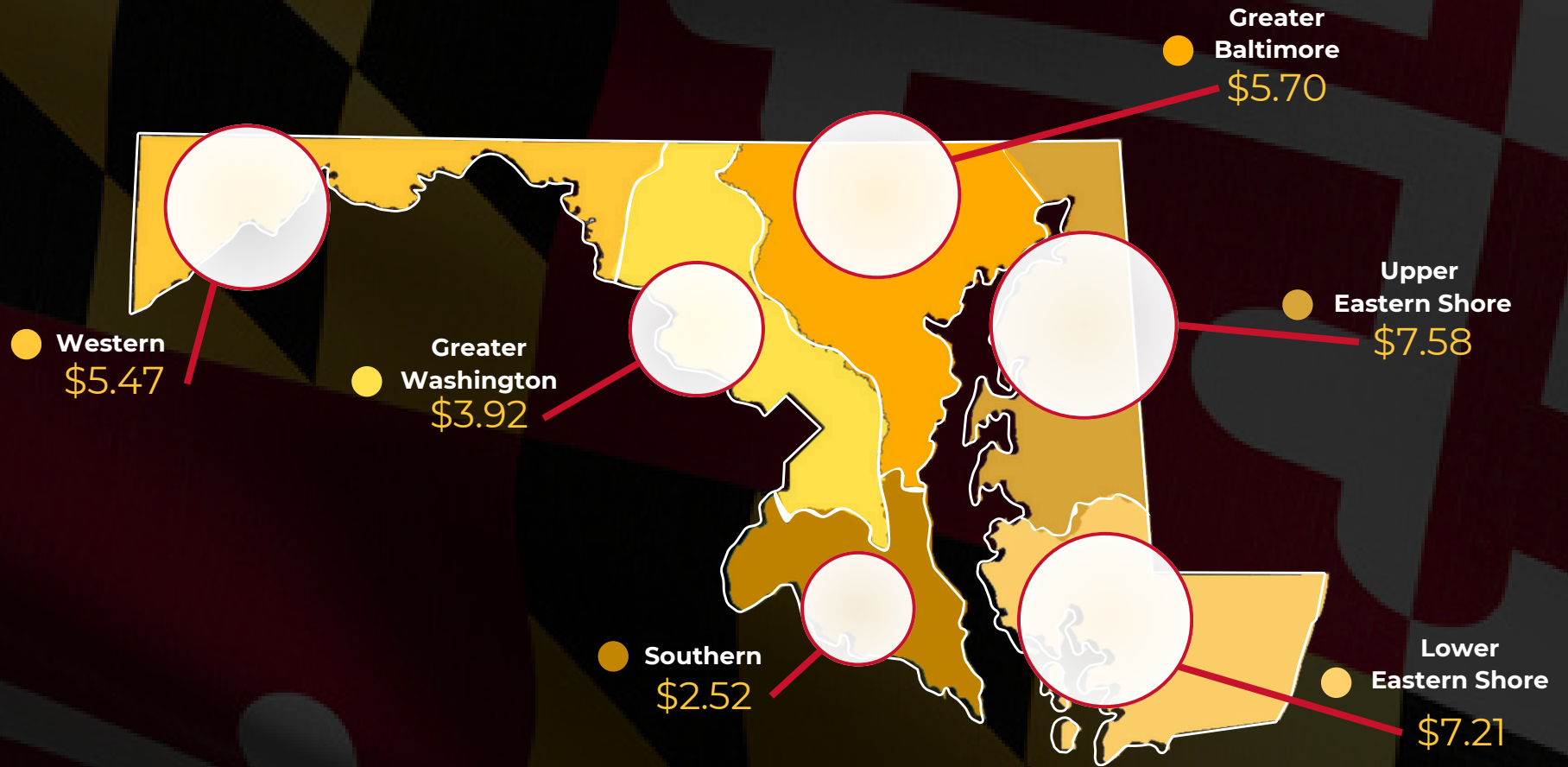
Figures reflect grants awarded in FY 2024 only.



Music at Common Ground on the Hill in Carroll County.

FY 2024 GRANTS AWARDED

The map below illustrates MSAC's FY 2024 *per capita* funding, by region



\$4.96 for every Marylander!

INCOME & EXPENDITURES

General funds: \$30,247,780

Special funds: \$1,300,000

Federal funds: \$990,800

Capital funds: \$3,000,000

Total income: \$35,538,580

Grants For Organizations: \$17,961,042

County Arts Development: \$5,000,000

Arts Capital: \$3,000,000

Creativity: \$923,098

Arts in Education: \$905,734

Public Art Across Maryland: \$738,699

Folklife Network: \$640,000

Grants for Artists: \$550,000

A&E District Operating Support: \$464,000

Professional Development Opportunity: \$165,959

Presenting and Touring: \$160,608

Maryland Traditions: \$135,000

Legislative Line Items: \$1,800,000

Special Request: \$98,800

Arts Relief: \$8,000

General administration: \$2,987,640

Total expenditures: \$35,538,580

Amounts listed on this page reflect FY 2024 actual expenditures; Arts Capital grants were awaiting Board of Public Works approval as of this publication. Amounts on previous pages reflect FY 2024 grants awarded.

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& STAFF

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“I am forever grateful for the support of the Maryland State Arts Council. It's amazing to know that there are people who will support artists, and that recognize our contributions, which often go unnoticed.”

— Melati Maupin (Montgomery)



A fire dancer in the Frostburg Arts & Entertainment District in Allegany County.

Front cover: Traditional dance during Cinco de Mayo celebrations in the Elkton Arts & Entertainment District in Cecil County.

Maryland State Arts Council

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