



Council Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 14, 2024
10:00am – 1:00pm

In attendance:

Councilors: Chris Sloan, John Schratwieser, Joel Snyder, Albita Rivera, Ruby Lopez Harper, Carole Alexander, Shelley Morhaim

Virtual: Greg Tucker, Tonya Miller Hall, David Fakunle

Staff: Steven Skerritt-Davis, Alysha Suryah, Cathy Teixeira, Chad Buterbaugh, David Mitchell, Emily Sollenberger, Kirk Amaral Snow, Laura Weiss, Ryan Patterson, Nora Howell, Rosa Chang, Ryan Koons, Tammy Oppel
Virtual: Derrick Quevedo, Liesel Fenner

Call to Order

Chris called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

- Jackie Coleman, Executive Director of Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, provided an overview of the organization's programs and offerings
- Steven reviewed Google Meet slides
- Chris reviewed guiding documents

Creative Assignment

Ruby led the Creative Assignment - "I am From"

Approval of December 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Carole moved, Shelley seconded, no abstentions, minutes are approved

Executive Director Report

Steven Reviewed

- Update to staffing structure; reporting and addition of positions
- Staffing Updates
- Praise for staff and continued positive feedback on customer service



survey

- Cathy provided an overview of General Trends in applications vs awards by program
- Inside the Council emails are not coming as frequently, due to vacancy in EA position
- Brief Legislative session update (expanded update to be provided by Nicholas Cohen)

Legislative Update- Maryland Citizens for the Arts

Nicholas Cohen, Executive Director of Maryland Citizens for the Arts shared an overview of the legislative session

- Unlike others, MSAC's budget was not cut, but increased
- Arts Incubator Workgroup bill proposed
 - The hope is that this will be an avenue to find another pocket of investment from the state
- POCA funds discussed

Interim Chair Remarks

Chris thanked Steven and staff for arranging a successful and productive retreat

- Announcement of Greenbag appointments:
 - Senate executive nominations
 - Chris Sloan - Second Term
 - New councilors (one will fill Jackie Copeland's seat, others will start July 1):
 - Marva Jo Camp- Prince George's County
 - Kathy Beachler- Garrett County
 - Yolanda Acree- Caroline County
 - Monique Walker- Charles County

Staff Reports

Arts Capital

- Ryan Patterson gave updates on the Capital Grant program application process and FY24 submissions
 - 81 applications= \$12 requested funding
- Creation of 4 PD webinars in preparation for FY25 application process
- Foresees need for additional funding for mobile equipment not eligible under capital grant



Creativity Grants

- Laura and Emily gave an update on the increasing number of Creativity Grant application submissions and proposed revision
 - Divide panels by app type; separate budget (Gen Op and Project)
 - Chris expressed concern that there may be fewer Creativity Grants for individuals
 - Ruby warned of compromising demographic reach in trying to equitably distribute funds between orgs and individuals

Land Acknowledgement Project

- Ryan K gave a presentation on the Land Acknowledgement Project process and updates on current status and events

Public Art Across Maryland

- Liesel gave updates on PAAM and the successful panel reviews just completed
 - Record number of applications received
 - Program is seeing greater efficiency with implementation of the new artist roster (kudos to Ryan P.)

Executive and Governance Committee Reports

Chris provided updates from the Executive and Governance Committees' discussions of the councilor nomination and orientation process and the role and purpose of the Governance Committee

- Anyone wishing to serve on the Nominating Committee should contact Chris or Steven

Strategic Planning Committee Report

Steven gave an update of progress to date and upcoming milestones

- AMS constituent survey results
- Staff workshop with AMS in February
- Council/Staff Retreat 3/13/24
- Small committee will develop purpose statement
- Staff to "push out" strategies

Program Policy and Evaluation Committee Report

- Creativity Grant Policies Vote
 - Separate the project-specific application into two application types:
 - Project - Planning Grant
 - Project - Implementation Grant
 - Update maximum grant amounts:
 - General Operating: up to \$5000



- Project - Planning: up to \$2000
- Project - Implementation: up to \$4000
- Project - Planning Grant funds can support out-of-state travel expenses
- Shelley moved to accept the recommendation, Carole seconded, all in favor, no abstentions, motion is approved
- Professional Development Opportunity
 - Starting in FY25, applications to be scored by a panel
 - Previously funded activities are not eligible
 - Carole moved to accept the recommendation, Ruby seconded, all in favor, no abstentions, motion is approved
- Touring Grant Policies
 - Touring Roster artist renewal application process
 - John moved to accept the recommendation, Albita seconded, all in favor, no abstentions, motion is approved

Finance Committee Report/Fiscal Update

Steven provided a fiscal report update and thanked Cathy for working with Commerce on the budget in the absence of a fiscal officer at this time

Nominating Committee Election

- Committee Nominations Vote
 - Nominations from the floor:
 - Lily Bengfort
 - John Schratwieser
 - Carole Alexander
 - Shelley moved to accept the recommendation, Joel seconded, all in favor, no abstentions, motion is approved

Greg Tucker left at 12:00pm

Accessibility, Equity, and Justice Sharing

- Grantmakers in the Arts Training available in May
- Highlight of recent grants that advance accessibility, equity, and justice across MSAC programs

New Business

- John inquired about the Governor's new Entertainment Council and would like for the Arts Council to be informed regarding its purpose and actions moving forward
- Steven offered to invite the Entertainment Council to a future meeting.
- NASAA Assembly is in Puerto Rico in October. Staff and Council attendance is encouraged



- GFO panels are Thursday, April 4 and Friday, April 12. Councilor oversight is appreciated. All councilors are welcome to observe

Final Thoughts/Adjournment

Chris adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.