

## Maryland Public Art Commission Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2019

Held at UMBC, Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building Rm 308

Building and Artwork Tour: 9:00-9:45 AM

Business Portion of Meeting 9:45-10:30 AM

Attendees: Tom Riford, Ken Skrzysz, Liesel Fenner, Rosa Chang, Kathy O'Dell, Rand Griffin, Leslie Kahn, Molline Jackson; Catherine Leggett by phone.

Catherine opened the meeting and requested approval of the minutes from 7-18-19. The minutes were approved at 9:53 am.

Catherine complimented Ken Skrzysz on his speech at the UMBC Building and Artwork dedication ceremony on Sat. Oct 12, 2019. Catherine turned the meeting over to Ken for MSAC updates and stepped off the call at 9:59.

### MSAC UPDATES

Ken updated the Commission on MSAC's commitment to Equity and Justice (*statement provided as reference*).

The Maryland State Arts Council celebrates our state's diversity and promotes the role of the arts to connect people, bridge our differences, and inspire an appreciation of our shared humanity. Because the arts have the power to transform individuals and communities, MSAC is committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of our organization and across all the communities of our state, and in supporting our partners in modeling the same commitment.

MSAC has partnered with the following organizations Maryland Citizens for the Arts, Maryland State Department of Education, and Arts Education in Maryland Schools to develop a series of trainings for the four organizations' staff and Boards. MPAC Commissioners are welcome to participate as well. There are also weekly readings that will be shared with the Commission. Equity and Justice trainings and readings are optional for MPAC Commissioners.

Ken provided an update on the public art consultant. Commerce has approved a full time Public Art Project Manager contractual position and the position will be posted soon.

Ken referred the Commission to the recently approved Strategic Plan (SP). Rand asked if we are using the Plan to increase MSAC's budget. Ken responded our budget allocation for administrative staffing is low, but we are working to increase this, especially when we move into a new larger office. We drafted an Evidence of Growth model to support our requests for additional staffing. With the passage of SB12 that has increased our MPAC projects, Rand emphasized the SP be used to advocate for positions. Ken concurred, adding that staff drafted an implementation plan - Actions, Objectives and Strategies supporting each of the SP Goals. MSAC also completed seven Regional Arts Institutes around the state, discussing the SP with constituents - gathering further input for Actions, Objectives and Strategies.

**ACTION ITEM:** Final Implementation Plan will be shared with MPAC at January meeting.

UMBC Dean, Scott Casper joined the meeting. A moment of silence was held in memory of Representative Elijah Cummings who died early the morning of 10-17-19. The Dean noted the popularity of MPAI's first public art project *Forum* at the Performing Arts and Humanities Building. Last week students and faculty held a two-day reading, round-the-clock, of the Aenid in the *Forum*. The Dean thanked the Commission for making UMBC spaces more humane and approachable.

Ken and the Dean stepped out of the meeting.

#### MPAI PROJECT UPDATES (Liesel)

The UMBC digital rendering of *INFLIGHT* was presented, followed by photos of the installation over a four-day period in late August, juxtaposed with photos of the final installed artwork. At the building and artwork dedication, Governor Hogan discussed the artwork at length with the artist Volkan Alkanoglu. Thank you to Catherine Leggett and Elaine Bachmann for attending the dedication.

The Universities at Shady Grove (USG) Biological Sciences and Engineering Education Building dedication is scheduled, November 7, 1:30 pm the dedication of the building. The *Piney Branch Water Garden* by Michael Singer Studio will be 90% complete. Aluminum lighting elements are delayed to a schedule back-up at the contracted casting foundry. Also the garden plants will take time to establish and grow and Liesel is proposing an artwork dedication next fall, and inviting the artist back.

The Easton Readiness Center was dedicated August 10. Liesel showed photos of the final mural installation. The artwork scale is tremendous to behold. A Maryland Army National Guard service member commented, "This is the best thing in the building!" Members of the public who wish to view the work, must go be buzzed in to the secured Center.

Several MPAI RFQs are in draft: Catonsville Courthouse and Annapolis Post Office.

Fenner and Chang met with staff and project managers at the Morgan and Coppin State HBCU campuses respectively. Catherine Leggett is a Howard University alumnae and met the Interim Associate Dean who has invited MPAC for a public art tour of the Howard campus. As Ken referenced, in our work in Equity & Justice we are seeking to make our artist selection process more equitable, ensuring artists who have not done public art, but whose work could translate to public art, may successfully apply for and compete and win MPAI commissions.

**ACTION ITEM:** Liesel to schedule tour for early spring.

Rand requested updates on new MPAI projects including joint ventures, and a proposed procedure for how MPAC receives this information more timely from DBM.

**ACTION ITEM:** Provide full project list at January meeting and draft procedure.

#### BYLAWS

Liesel requested a Chair of the Bylaws Committee. Elaine was volunteered.

**ACTION ITEM:** Draft Bylaws will be sent by Liesel

Meeting adjourned 10:30 am.