MARYLAND PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
FOR OCTOBER 19, 2017
Meeting was conducted by conference call

Attending by phone: Liesel Fenner, Catherine Leggett, Kathy O’Dell, Nancy Kurtz, Elizabeth Hughes, Elaine Bachman, Liling Tien and Liz Fitzsimmons

Call to Order: Catherine Leggett called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Meeting Minutes: The meeting minutes from 7/20/17 were reviewed approved at 9:10.

MSAC Updates: Liesel Fenner announced the hiring of new Executive Director, Ken Skrzesz who was unable to attend the MPAC meeting to the scheduling of the County Arts Administrators of Maryland meeting. Fenner also provided an update on the 50th Anniversary Reception that took place September 28, at the Maritime Museum in Annapolis. Speakers included First Lady Yumi Hogan, Jane Chu, Chairperson of National Endowment for the Arts, as well as Shelley Morhaim MSAC Council President and Julie Madden MSAC, Acting Director. The reception launches a yearlong celebration of statement wide events commemorating MSAC’s service to the arts.

Public Art Program Director Report: Fenner highlighted a new program launched at the 50th Anniversary Reception, Public Art Across Maryland (PAAM). Grants of up to $5000 will be available to County Arts Councils that submit proposal applications for a public art project that celebrates the arts. The application deadline is January 29, 2018. (Application deadline was extended to April 30, 2018).

Fenner updated the Commission on public art projects. Later in October, Fenner will travel to Los Angeles for a shop visit to assess the work completed for the UMB, Health Science Facility III (HSFIII) artwork by Eric Peltzer. The project is the second MPAI commission and the on-site review will be conducted by Fenner and the HSFIII Project Manager with the fabricator and artist.

UMBC Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building (ILSB): The selected artist, Volkan Alkanoglu visited the campus for a Kick Off Meeting with the Project Committee Meeting October 3. The Project Committee includes art and science faculty as well as graduate students all whom presented an overview of their work to provide information on the future work that will take place in the ILSB to inform the artwork concept. Following the meeting Fenner, the architects and Alkanoglu led a community engagement meeting during the noon lunch hour, at which over 50 students, faculty and staff attended. Fenner and Alkanoglu utilized a smartphone app for audience responses to survey questions that assessed the community’s preferences, likes and dislikes for a range of public art and sculpture.

Kathy O’Dell commended Fenner for the use of the app and the excitement and engagement palpable in the room from the UMBC community. Fenner noted the app is called ‘PollEverywhere’ and that MSAC was researching subscribing to the software service for other future meetings.

Maryland National Guard Easton Readiness Center: The selected artist, Mark Stutzman met with the Project Committee for a kick-off meeting October 2. Initial design sketches for the proposed mural were reviewed and a priority task list was discussed to align artwork implementation with the building construction schedule.
USG Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Education Building: The Request for Qualifications application period is officially open on the Call for Entry website. The deadline is November 17 and the artist selection process will start at the beginning of the year.

The Catonsville District Courthouse public art project will be an outdoor based work as interior integration will not be possible. Kathy O’Dell noted the Courthouse site has view out to the UMBC campus and will provide a visual connection to our first MPAI project at the Performing Arts & Humanities Building.

Maryland National Guard Freedom Readiness Center design is over budget and the public art process will be delayed until the design refinements bring the construction costs down.

Elizabeth Hughes provided an update on the status of the confederate monuments that were removed in Baltimore. They are in storage and a plan for the bases is in discussion.

Fenner requested approval of two MPAC commissioner candidates architect Leslie Kahn of Bethesda and city engineer, Rodney Tissue of Hagerstown and proponent of the Hagerstown Cultural Trail. The Commission approved the two candidates. Fenner will advance the candidates to the Governor’s office for final approval.

There were no further items for discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 AM.