

Maryland Public Art Commission Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2020

By Conference Call 9:00-10:30 AM

Attendees:

Tom Rifford, Ken Skrzysz, Liesel Fenner, Rosa Chang, Ryan Patterson, Rand Griffin, Elizabeth Hughes, Molline Jackson, Leslie Kahn, Anne Klase, Kathy O'Dell Ph.D., Rodney Tissue, Elaine Bachman

The meeting was held virtually through Google Meetings and phone. Members introduced themselves as they joined.

Chair, Rand Griffin called the meeting to order at 9:05.

Rand welcomed new MPAC Commissioner, Judy Kwon.

The September 10, 2020, meeting minutes were approved.

MSAC Updates:

MSAC Executive Director Ken Skrzysz cited that an additional \$3M was awarded in Round 3 Emergency Grants. This third round illustrated that the need continues to increase. The Emergency Grants represent a 100% increase in grant processing administration and the work of the staff has been extraordinary, along with the ongoing technical assistance and professional development activities. We have reached more than 2000 constituents in this past year creating a learning community at a time when the bolstering of the arts community is so needed.

Tom Rifford added that every unit in Commerce has been involved in Emergency Grant relief and that MSAC has set an example for other state arts councils across the country.

Executive Committee/Program Updates:

Liesel provided an update on the DBM, USM, DGS, Morgan meeting held in September discussing artwork procurement. We learned that MPAI projects cannot be restricted to Maryland artists due to interstate commerce laws and GO Bond funding. The proposed idea of transferring funds to MSAC's budget for MPAI artwork purchases in state buildings would require BPW approval. The four agencies including MSAC decided this would delay the process and we would not proceed with the funds transfer idea.

The concurrent idea of utilizing MSAC's new Artist Directory as an application portal for artwork purchase was not possible with the present website architecture. Ken noted that the website could be amended following the launch in January 2021. In the short term, the artwork purchase solicitation will be included in our standard RFQ, OR issued through a separate Call for Submissions. Griffin suggested we use the new Artist Directory to notify artists about the Artwork Purchase opportunities and Ryan added that in their application, the applicants could provide a link to their profile in the Directory.

Griffin noted that it would be important for potential artist applicants to understand the whole picture for a project and that the first solicitation document issued should communicate that the project will include both types of opportunities: new artwork commissions and purchase of existing artworks.

Fenner noted that the Catonsville Courthouse will include the artwork purchase with the new artwork commissions in one solicitation document.

Later in FY22, staff will compile the applicant data and discuss with MPAC the pros and cons of each type of solicitation process.

In regards to not being allowed to restrict calls to Maryland artists, Hughes inquired if evaluative criteria could include language for Maryland applicants might receive an additional point in the scoring.

Fenner noted that points are not allowed but that User Agencies in their procurement use a selection criteria called "Maryland Economic Benefit". Typically this is a model for larger private business enterprises, rather than the typical model of solo artist-owned business, and should not be a criteria for MPAC applicants. Fenner suggested that the solicitation might articulate the type of content being sought for purchased artwork that would narrow the eligible pool to Maryland artists.

O'Dell was concerned that prescribing content could adversely affect Maryland's art history in the MPAC program. Griffin agreed not to restrict content.

Patterson discussed the need for revision and creation of MPAC program presentations at User Agency meetings, in particular paying attention to the accessibility of our materials. Re: registry, we have discussed the idea of a public art-specific artist registry. Again, after we process the open calls we can review our applicant data in June and assess the registry idea.

Griffin provided a summary, that assess the following priorities:

1. Marketing to Agencies
2. Marketing to Artists
3. Marketing what we've accomplished: retrospective of completed MPAC projects

Program Title

O'Dell introduced the proposed revision to our program name. MSAC has two public art programs:

1. Maryland Public Art Initiative Artwork Commissions and Artwork Purchase
2. Public Art Across Maryland New Artworks and Conservation grants.

The proposal is to put all four funding opportunities under one program title: Public Art Across Maryland. Compliments to Ryan for coming up with the idea.

Ryan anticipates that the new title will increase the number of MD artists interested in public art. Artists will see MSAC as a partner when they receive a grant, then work up to getting an artwork commission.

Griffin inquired about the governance of the program. Would it be in name only? Fenner noted that the funding channel is through the legislation, the MPAC is the overseer, and the Commission would continue to guide the commissions and artwork purchase process. We would still welcome the Commission's advising on New Artworks and Conservation as part of the overall program as well. The grants budget is approved by the MSAC Council and Molline Jackson now serves as MPAC's representative on the Council. In consultation with Commerce leadership we would get approval to move forward using the new program name.

Elaine, Molline and Judy supported the new name.

Griffin recommended we draft the proposal language, issue a resolution to pass the new name, and debut the new name in our marketing plan.

Project Updates:

Patterson referenced the capital projects list and the priority projects that we're focusing on, totaling \$2.8m. He also noted the application statistics from our recent Call to Artists at two Maryland HBCU's.

UMES: 229

Coppin State: 131

24-29% of applications were from Marylanders

The Artist Selection Committees for each respective campus are reviewing the applications. Molline Jackson is serving on Coppin and Zoe Charlton, MSAC Councilor is serving on UMES.

The next projects coming up include: Catonsville Courthouse, Salisbury Animal Health Lab, Morgan State, Towson State, School for the Deaf (Frederick), and Bowie State.

Other projects listed include police barracks that may not be publicly accessible. These require research to assess if they will receive public art.

Griffin recommended that in the future the list include the budget breakdown of the artwork commissions and artwork purchase budgets (if known). Also create a column indicating the Commissioner assigned on the Artist Selection Committee.

Public Art Equity & Justice Update

Fenner urged the Commission to view the video link of the dedication of St. Mary's Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland, <https://youtu.be/wJpRrci9elQ> .

Open Sharing: Seen and Heard

Jackson noted that MN-CPPC will be presenting a webinar led by Monument Lab of Philadelphia. Montgomery County is looking at historic sites and how these sites could be recognized/honored in the future.

Our funding and charge is based on new projects from DBM but how could our expertise get involved in memorials around the state.

Bachmann concurred as the State Archives' collection actions today are being studied and considered in the future. O'Dell mentioned that we had previously discussed how temporary memorials/murals could be documented before they disappear.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25. Include attachment of list.

The next meeting is March 4, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 AM.