

Maryland Public Art Commission Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2021

By Conference Call 9:00-10:30 AM

Attendees:

Tom Riford, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Liesel Fenner, Ryan Patterson, Rosa Chang, Elaine Bachmann, Rand Griffin, Elizabeth Hughes, Anne Klase, Rodney Tissue, Leslie Kahn, Judy Kwon, Catherine Leggett, Kathy O'Dell, Jerome Gray.

The meeting was held virtually through Google Meeting and phone.

The Commissioners did introductions and welcomed incoming Commissioner, Jerome Gray. Tom Riford congratulated Steven Skerritt-Davis on being selected as the new Executive Director for MSAC.

Co-Chair, Kathy O'Dell called the meeting to order at 9:15.

The September 23, 2021, meeting minutes were approved.

MSAC Updates:

Steven Skerritt-Davis gave updates regarding staffing including four vacant positions for: Deputy Director, Grants Director, Program Directors for County Arts Council and Arts and Entertainment Districts, and Arts in Education.

Rand Griffin joined the meeting and took over facilitation.

Steven noted that the MSAC office has moved to the World Trade Center on the 14th Floor, sharing space with the Office of Tourism.

The Arts Capital Grant Program will be developed in FY23 and launch in FY24, and there may be an alignment with the public art program.

Both Liesel and Ryan are working with the newly developed group for artists and administrators titled [Public Art Exchange](#) (PAX).

The Maryland Traditions team has developed a Land Acknowledgement project that is a model of best practices working with native communities across Maryland. With approval it should be published soon.

MPAC Commissioners Update

The Commission approved a term renewal for Judy Kwon and new Commissioner candidate Rebecca Massie Lane. Their names will be advanced to the Secretary of Commerce for approval. Following approval they are sent to the Governor's Office of Appointments for approval.

Public Art & the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

The recent Infrastructure bill will be bringing federal dollars to transportation projects in Maryland. In the original draft for the Maryland Public Art Initiative, transportation projects were redlined out of the final bill. Ryan and Liesel are specifically interested in multi-modal transportation such as trails and bikeway projects slated for funding. We would like to research other states incorporating transportation projects in their public art program.

Elizabeth asked how this idea would affect procurement and would it complicate the process? Rand thought our program could get very 'messy' and complicated by the federal funding. He was concerned about going back to the legislature for revisions when we need more of a track record of completed projects, but supports the research idea. Catherine noted that federal funding could add another level of complexity and put a strain on the staff. Rodney added that it would depend on what type of federal grant program and that it could take a lot of staff time. Jerome noted that we should not not do it because it's hard. Leslie added that these types of projects are typically shovel ready. Kathy supported looking into other State Arts Agencies and what others are doing.

Project Updates:

Ryan highlighted recently the artist selection results for two projects:

Maryland artist Jackson Jarvis Studio was selected for the Catonsville Courthouse lobby and Wesley Clark for the second floor hallway. There were 170 applications that were narrowed down to three semi-finalists for each site location. Ryan noted the great participation of the Commissioner representatives on the panel (Kathy and Leslie), a judge and two community representatives. Liesel noted that Martha Jackson Jarvis is the first woman artist selected for the state's public art collection.

Thomas Sterner was selected for the Salsibury Animal Health Lab. Thanks to Elizabeth and Judy for serving on the selection committee. There were 130 applicants that were narrowed to four semi-finalists who prepared and presented proposals. Liesel highlighted that the artist previously received a Public Art Across Maryland grant and now successfully competed for the Artwork Commissions program.

Two projects, St. Mary's College of Maryland and Bowie State University are currently open and receiving applications. Elaine and Judy are serving on the selection committees for St. Mary's and Molline on Bowie. Catherine asked to join the Bowie selection committee.

Upcoming projects include Frostburg State and Towson State. These RFQs will be published in 2022.

In referencing the project staging calendar, Ryan noted that UMES and Coppin State are in design advancing the original artwork concepts, respectively. Rand commented that the calendar listing the upcoming projects makes the case for increased staffing. Steven agreed.

Public Art Equity & Justice Update

Rand commented on the increased costs of materials affecting projects. Judy cited increased shipping costs are also an issue.

Elaine and Elizabeth are serving on the Maryland 250 Commission (2026) that may involve several commemoration projects. The celebration does not currently have public funding and is garnering private support through a non-profit.

Kathy asked if there would be a way to highlight projects that are not under our public art programs, but capture projects happening around the state. Rand suggested projects the Commission or staff have advised on, in example the Howard County Courthouse. Ryan noted the [map](#) on our new website that is being built out to include MSAC funded public art projects. Rand requested following up on the map.

The meeting wrapped up and adjourned at 10:35 am.

The next meeting is March 10, 2022.