

Maryland Public Art Commission Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2021

By Conference Call 9:00-10:30 AM

Attendees:

Tom Rifford, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Liesel Fenner, Ryan Patterson, Rand Griffin, Elizabeth Hughes, Molline Jackson, Leslie Kahn, Anne Klase, Judy Kwon, Kathy O'Dell Ph.D., Rodney Tissue, Elaine Bachman, Rosa Chang

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.

The December 3, 2020, meeting minutes were approved.

MSAC Updates:

MSAC Deputy Director Steven Skerritt-Davis cited that Round 4 Emergency Grants would be announced with an additional \$5 million in Relief Act funding to be distributed to artists, organizations, county arts agencies, and A&E Districts. Applications will be due April 1. The new MSAC website launches March 5, so do stay tuned. The MSAC FY22 annual budget is currently in session and progressing towards approval. We held a public art listening session with Ryan and Liesel for A&E district managers and it was informative for districts planning public art.

Marketing Public Art Across Maryland

Liesel reviewed marketing for the new title change from Maryland Public Art Initiative to Public Art Across Maryland. The new website will reflect the new title following approval by Secretary Schulz, which will then be followed by an announcement in the April MSAC Newsletter and social media posts.

MPAC Commissioner Vacancy

Molline Jackson was appointed and is now serving as a Councilor on the Maryland State Arts Council. She will serve on MPAC as an 'Institutional Member' and her former seat is vacated.

There will also be a seat opening when Rodney Tissue steps down following the Frostburg State University public art project (est. Fall 21). Rand requested Rodney recommend candidates.

Our highest priority is a candidate fulfilling geographic representation from Baltimore City on the Commission. Please send candidates' names to Liesel.

MD 9-11 Memorial

Rand briefly noted the 10th anniversary of the Memorial is this September 11. He requested Commissioners serve on the planning committee. Kathy also noted the impediment to the building shadow. Liesel committed to following up with Tom and Commerce staff.

Elizabeth noted the importance of the backstory of the Memorial's creation and inquired if the oral histories had been recorded. It will be important to look at the role of monuments in the community's history as we re-examine monuments everywhere. What records are left behind so information is

available for research. Elaine mentioned that Archives has extensive paper and digital files documenting the history of works in the collection, and are public records. Liesel noted that the history component would be included in the ceremony planning.

Liesel asked for volunteers and Rand, Kathy and Molly volunteered.

Project Updates:

Ryan referred to the newly-designed CIP Public Art List and gave an overview of the projects. He noted that the CIP list would be presented every-other meeting to report updates.

Several Commissioners complemented the new list format. Rand suggested that perhaps an Executive Summary overview could be provided for MPAC meetings. Judy also suggested that perhaps the list connects to more comprehensive project management details. Ryan noted that this list was a first step in reporting-out to the Commission and will be connected to a larger database of project information. Kathy suggested that perhaps an additional column with Lessons Learned could be added at a project's conclusion.

Rand also noted further information could be added on whether a project was allocating funds to Artwork Purchase. Elaine added that in her experience if a project manager saw this allocation, the artwork purchase funds might get spent on building project overages. Elizabeth noted that the State procurement process could pose a challenge to artist small businesses and suggested we get an exemption from this procedure. Liesel noted that artwork purchase procurement would parallel our open call artwork commission process as per the legislation. Ryan noted that the purchase program has faced some challenges, in fact, Catonsville Courthouse will not include artwork purchase. Liesel to follow up on this at the next meeting.

Public Art Equity & Justice Update

Molline presented the four semi-finalists selected for Coppin State University and that she is serving on the Artist Selection Committee. She emphasized that the artwork will represent the University and the community and be aspirational and make a statement. Liesel commended Molly for her leadership serving on the Artist Selection Committee and advocating for artists in the review meeting. The final selection takes place March 12.

Liesel noted that MSAC Councilor Zoe Charlton served on the UMES Artist Selection Committee and the final selection meeting is March 5. She noted that one of the semi-finalist artists dropped out of the competition for the Exterior Plaza site and only two artists will now be presenting artwork proposals.

Open Sharing: Seen and Heard

Rodney noted that on April 6, the Hagerstown Cultural Trail dedicated a new work, *Moller's Sustained Wind*. Moller Pipe Organs were world-renowned and produced in Hagerstown. The project received a PAAM grant and the artist used pipes in the artwork that had been manufactured in the factory.

Elaine highlighted that Lawyer's Mall was rededicated April 5, at the Statehouse and the Thurgood Marshall statue by Toby Mendez was re- installed in the original location it was designated for.

The meeting adjourned at 10:32.

The next meeting is June 17, 2021.