



# MSAC Council Meeting

Minutes

March 11, 2020

Maryland State Arts Council

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Facilitator, Joyell Arvella led a discussion for a Generative Conflict Debrief.

11:00 Call to Order, Agenda Review, Guiding Documents Review, Introduction,  
Jack Rasmussen

Executive Director Nicholas Cohen, of Maryland Citizens for the Arts, provided the council with an update about the Preservation of Cultural Arts (POCA) fund and the arts capital bill which provides capital dollars directly to organizations. Both bills have been passed out of the senate and are currently sitting in the house.

Rachel McGrain and Kate Lynch from AEMS provided a demo on a new platform Artlook Maryland, A Pathway to Equity and Access in arts education. It is a real time resource for parents, teachers and schools. It provides information on what school has the best tool to facilitate advocacy and grant writing. Also a great opportunity to show lawmakers advocacy and answer questions like, why your school doesn't have certain programming?

Finance Chair, Anne Winter West & Fiscal Officer Shaunte Roper provided the council with fiscal updates which included; FY 20 budget summary and budget projections for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Finance committee recommends that the budget variance surplus amount of \$180,000 moves to Special Request Grants.

John Schratweiser made a motion to approve. Shelley Morhaim seconded. None, opposed, all in favor.

The grants department presented the following grants update:

#### FY 20 Special Grant Requests

A special request grant from Special Collections at UMBC and a panel recommendation were previously approved by electronic council vote.

Emily Sollenberger presented the special grant request from World Art Focus (Joe's Emporium). The council agreed that further information is needed and the staff agreed to resubmit the request for an electronic vote.

Laura Weiss presented a special request from Chesapeake Shakespeare Company. John Schratwieser made a motion to approve the staff's recommendation. Anne seconded. All in favor, none opposed and two abstained.



## FY 21 Special Request Grants:

Maryland Citizens for the Arts: MD Summit, Regional Institutes, Events, Technical Assistance.

Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance: Urban Arts Leadership Technical Assistance

Arts Education in Maryland Schools: MSDE Maryland Centers for Creative Classrooms

Young Audiences of Maryland: Teaching Artist Institute

Special Projects, National Endowment for the Arts: Teaching Artist Professional Development

TBD Recipient: Equity & Justice

Dana Parsons presented the Grants for Organizations Update:

After an interim report review of the Peabody Institute the staff is recommending not to fund the final 25% of the GFO grant (\$1419) due to the changes submitted in the Interim report.

Shelley Morhaim made a motion to approve the funding of the final 25% of the GFO grant (\$1419) due to the changes submitted in the interim report. Jacqueline Copeland seconded. All in favor.

Staff proposed a change to declined grant language to convey transparency, accountability and capacity.

Julia Madden made a motion to approve the addition of declined language to grant guidelines. Zoe seconded. All in favor, none opposed, all in favor.

NASAA, Puerto Rico Conference, Keyonna Penick presented the dates for the next NASAA conference and several councilors expressed interest.

Executive Director Report, Ken Skrzysz

Program Reports were sent prior to the council meeting for review and time was held for feedback.

Equity and Justice Update

Next round of workshops “How are we Inequitable?” will be held in late April.

The ED reminded the council of the program revision process.

Special Request Grants Update

Carla DuPree presented the Program, Performance and Evaluation Committee Report which was sent for review prior to the meeting. The proposed changes are a direct result of the public editing process for the Arts in Education Program. The



editing process included over 40 editors, ranging from independent teaching artists, representation from arts organizations and programs (including current stakeholders), and representation from The Maryland State Department of Education Fine Arts Office and Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance.

The proposed changes impact the Arts in Education Grant and Teaching Artist Roster.

John Shratwieser made a motion to approve the Arts in Education Grants and Teaching Artist roster changes. Carole Alexander seconded. All in favor.

The proposed changes are a result of the public editing process for the Arts & Entertainment Districts Operating Support Grant Program. The editing process included 17 editors, including current A&E District managers, county arts agency leadership, independent artists, and A&E District residents from across the state. The process also incorporated feedback from a public listening session (in December 2019), A&E manager meetings (in June 2019 and at fall 2019 Regional Arts Institute convenings), and A&E Advisory Committee meetings.

MSAC used this editing process and the connection to funding 1) to clarify the expectations of A&E Districts, which, beyond completing an annual report, did not exist and 2) encourage long term planning, which in practice had only occurred during the redesignation process every 10 years.

Julia Madden made a motion to approve the Arts & Entertainment District Policy changes. Anne West seconded. All in favor.

New Business, Jack Rasmussen

The council received a timeline for the development phase for the new website. New vision for the directory is to expand the registry to all disciplines, and organizations. There will also be a business component and collapse of other rosters to highlight funding available funding.

Sessions proposals are in to review and rate for the upcoming Summit. The council discussed how to combine the Independent Artist Award and the Heritage Award for one awards ceremony. The staff also thanked Kayla Morgan for all of her hard work.

John Schratweiser made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Benny Russell seconded.