



Maryland State Arts Council Council Meeting MINUTES

June 9, 2021
Google Meet

In attendance: Council Members: Benny Russell, Timothy App, Jacqueline Copeland, Julie Madden, Sumita Kim, Anne West, Joan Lyon, John Schratwieser, Jack Ramsussen, Molline Jackson, Zoe Charlton, Carole Alexander, Shelley Morhaim, David Fakunle, Senator Ronald Young Staff: Assistant Secretary, Tom Riford, Nicholas Cohen, Shaunte Roper, Ken Skrzesz, Rosa Chang, Tammy Oppel, Chad Buterbaugh, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Laura Weiss, Derrick Quevedo, Amelia Evans, Emily Sollenberger, Liesel Fenner, Ryan Koons, Dana Parsons, Catherine Frost, Precious Blake, Abdul Ali, Ryan Patterson, Keyonna Penick

10:03 a.m. Chair Julia Madden called the meeting to order and reviewed guiding documents. After the agenda review **Shelley Morhaim made a motion to approve the agenda. Zoe Charlton seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed to the motion.**

Assistant Secretary, Tom Riford informed the Council that by July 1 all Commerce staff will be back in the office unless telework policies are in place. He shared that a lot of Commerce staff will continue to telework which will save the state and taxpayers money. The Assistant Secretary expressed how impressed he is with MSAC staff's handling of the last round of 1000 emergency grant applications in comparison to the 800 that staff process in a year.

Executive Director Nicholas Cohen of Maryland Citizens for the Arts provided the Council with reflection from the 3rd Maryland Arts Summit. With over 400 registrations the summit theme "of the community" focused on a core group of live presenters. Registration for the summit will remain to view up to 27 recorded sessions and there will be supportive sessions launching in July. Since not all artists are able to take off work in the traditional sense without losing money, the \$200 stipend for up to 50 artists that MCA is able to provide because of the support from MSAC has been very impactful. Nicholas shared that after a debriefing scheduled in the near future and collection of all feedback a clearer picture will provide an idea of how to move forward for the next summit. He noted that collaboration will also continue to improve constituency engagement.

Executive Director's Report, Ken Skrzesz explained the Strategic Implementation Plan is a working document that highlights goals and evidence of achievements framed within performance evaluation goals to be completed either mid year or end of the year. Any



comments or recommendations are welcomed to be emailed any time in reference to the Plan.

The ED reported that MSAC is now fully staffed. Welcome new Program Director for the County Arts Councils and Arts and Entertainment Districts, Abdul Ali. MSAC is currently working with Human Resources to enhance the State Folklorist's role as Network Director with intentions to build connections over programs such as: Folklife, Independent Artist Network, County Arts Council, and Arts & Entertainment. The Folklife Specialist position would move to include grant related duties and step into the State Folklorist position.

July 1st MSAC staff will return to Ostend street offices. All meetings will more than likely continue to provide a virtual option and as things continue to open up staff will go into the field for site visits. MSAC has been asked to eventually leave the Ostend location and operate from the World Trade Center (WTC). Councilors offered suggestions for regional exhibition spaces as well as regional office hours which would make exhibitions and MSAC staff more accessible. Most councilors agreed that the WTC wouldn't meet the needs of the council for large meetings and exhibitions open to the public. Councilors also agreed that MSAC needs to have a visible presence. These concerns will be addressed during an Executive Committee meeting with Assistant Secretary, Tim Riford and Commerce Chief Operating Officer, John Papavasiliou.

Grants for Organizations Tiered Funding Model Research Discussion - Pennsylvania Arts Council Clarification. The Pennsylvania model resulted in a smaller reduction because of allocation and initial grant amounts.

Digital Votes, Keyonna Penick

AiE Grant Funding, May 21, 2021; April 2021 Executive & PPE Committee Meeting Minutes, May 11, 2021; National Endowment for the Arts Funding, May 6, 2021; Creativity Grant Funding, April 29, 2021; Americans for the Arts Membership, May 4, 2021; March Council Meeting Minutes, March 31, 2021; Approval of Editors for GFO Tiered Model by Councilors and Assistant Secretary, June 3, 2021

FY 2021 Meeting Dates sent to councilors prior to council meeting.

[Staff Program Reports](#)

(If unable to access Staff Program Reports please contact Executive Assistant/Council Liaison, Keyonna Penick)

Deputy Director's Report

Eight county arts councils wrote a letter requesting the council waive the match requirement for FY22.



After discussion Councilors determined the waiver wouldn't affect the set grant amount one way or the other and agreed it would be more appropriate to waive the match for all the County Arts Councils (CAC). **Senator Ronald Young made a motion to make a recommendation to the Secretary of Commerce to waive the match requirement for all 23 CAC for FY22. Shelley Morhaim seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. John Schratweiser abstained.**

FY 22 Budget Recommendation

FY21 Revenue Budget - Adjusted to include COVID Relief Funds of \$11m. Total State General Funds: \$22,383,526; Total Special Funds: \$9,300,300; Total Federal Funds: \$3,794,600; Total of All Funds: \$35,478,126.

Joan Lyon made a motion to recommend the FY22 Budget to the Secretary of Commerce for approval. Anne West seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed, Timothy App abstained.

Grant Funding Recommendations

GFO Recommendations

Grant Totals as recommended by Grants Committee: Total: \$15,999,067.03 (260 orgs) Cap allocation: 7.177%. Totals by category: Dance: \$282,906.44 (12 orgs); Folk & Traditions: \$359,242.23 (16 orgs), Literary: \$79,476.05 (5 orgs), Theatre: \$2,977,729.89 (54 orgs), Multi-Discipline A & B: \$4,331,794.35 (47 orgs), Music: \$2,803,723.70 (67 orgs), Service: \$915,888.25 (13 orgs), Visual/Media A & B: \$4,248,306.13 (46 orgs).

Breakdown of New Organizations (included in the grand total) Total: \$228,300.98 (32 orgs), Number of Orgs / \$ Totals by category: Dance: \$3,165.82 (1 org), Folk & Traditions: \$1,184.39 (1 org), Literary: \$7,507.82 (2 orgs), Theatre: \$28,225.74 (10 orgs), Multi-Discipline: \$53,887.41 (8 orgs), Music: \$1,737.24 (1 org), Service: \$118,043.50 (5 orgs), Visual/Media: \$14,549.07 (4 orgs). New Organizations not recommended for funding: Olney Children's Ballet, Maryland Center for Visual and Performing Arts, New Spire Arts, Baltimore School for the Arts Foundation, Lyrica Classic Entertainment, Burtonsville Players

County Arts Development Recommendations

Allegany: \$173,956; Anne Arundel: \$212,056; Baltimore City: \$212,305; Baltimore Co.: \$230,130; Calvert: \$175,666; Caroline: \$171,239; Carroll: \$181,315; Cecil: \$176,435; Charles: \$180,969; Dorchester: \$171,117; Frederick: \$188,454; Garrett: \$170,894; Harford: \$187,833; Howard: \$193,138; Kent: \$170,177; Montgomery: \$246,909; Prince George's: \$236,342; Queen Anne's: \$172,552; Saint Mary's: \$177,272; Somerset: \$170,642; Talbot: \$171,497; Washington: \$179,981; Wicomico: \$176,477; Worcester: \$172,644; CAAM: \$30,000; **Total: \$4,530,000**



Benny Russell made a motion to recommend the FY22 Grants for Organizations and County Arts Funding to the Secretary of Commerce for approval. Anne West seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Governance Committee Recommendations, John Schratwieser

Transactional to Transformational Leadership; Equity and Justice Experience Sharing; MSAC Professional Development Attendance

Equity and Justice: Moving from Transactional to Transformational: An Application of Observations by Ken Skrzysz to a Framework presented by Aiko Bethea and Brene Brown
Transactional ⇌ Transformational: On the transactional end lies; Responsive and Oriented to Present Issues; Works within the Organizational Culture; Maintaining the Normal Flow of Operations. On the transformational end lies; Proactively Forms New Expectations; Works to Change Organizational Cultures by Implementing New Ideas; Crafts Strategies for the Next Level of Understanding. Connecting the Work of Equity and Justice to the Transactional to Transformational Leadership Model: Level 1: Collective Experiences: Broad professional development brings participants to a shared level of understanding of, or commitment to, the work of equity, diversity, inclusion and access. Level 2: Engaging with Shared Resources: Shift the responsibility of engaging in learning from the organization to the participant. Level 3: Personal Alignment: Participants assume responsibility for all learning and the need to include equity and justice knowledge into personal pursuits. Level 4: Integration: A recognized ownership and personalization of the principals and values associated with equity, diversity, inclusion and access allowing the participant to be an inspiring leader for diverse groups and an ally for the aspirations of people who have faced historical inequities. Expectation of Commitment for MSAC Staff and Board between level 3 and 4.

Equity and Justice Experience Sharing

Council members will be asked to share any type of training or resource exploration at each Council meeting. Councilors offered suggestions such as accountability buddies and more time for a more in depth discussion. The Governance committee will schedule a meeting to discuss this matter further.

MSAC Professional Development Attendance

Council members will be asked to share any observations at each Council meeting.

All of these components will come together to build a governance toolkit to assist new and existing council members through their work as councilors. Councilors agreed that it is time to move past conversation and into action.

Joan Lyon explained that the Program Planning and Evaluation Committee (PPE) has recommended a Committee name change to Program Policy and Evaluation to more accurately reflect the objective of the committee. **John Schratwieser made a motion to**



recommend the Program Policy and Evaluation name change to the Attorney General for approval. Zoe Charlton seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Special Requests Grants, Dana Parsons

Executive Committee Approved FY21

Olney Theatre \$5,000; Imagination Stage \$5,000; Young Audiences \$3,815; Jewish Community Center \$5,000; Total: \$18,815. Emergency Grants Round 2; \$224,432.

June 2021 Approval

FY21 Spent/Encumbered Total: \$272,538; Remaining FY21 Budget for Special Requests: \$27,462; June grant request total: \$35,000; Network Technical Assistance Surplus: \$9,000.

New Business

John Schratweiser made a motion to approve the staff's recommendation not to fund Contemporary Arts. Discussion - why not fund? Dana informed the council that the application scored a 70% and the overall plan was incomplete. Julie seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Shelley Morhaim made a motion to approve the \$20,000 staff recommendation for the Garrett Arts Council. Anne West seconded the motion. Joan Lyon recused herself. All in favor, none opposed.

Shelley Morhaim made a motion to approve the \$15,000 staff recommendation for Southwest Partnership. Discussion - concerns in regards to being the sole grantee. Emily assured the council that the project is a multi-million dollar project and advised that there are several other donors in place. Joan Lyon seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Keyonna Penick presented MSAC By-Laws for officers. (Article IV, Section 1; Article IV, Section 3)

The Nominating Committee presented a recommended slate of officers: Jacqueline Copeland, Chair; Anne West, Vice-Chair; and Benny Russell, Secretary/Treasurer.

Shelley Morhaim made a motion to approve Jacqueline Copeland as Chair. Benny Russell seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Benny Russell made a motion to approve Anne West as Vice-Chair. Joan Lyon seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Joan Lyon made a motion to approve Benny Russell as Secretary/Treasurer. Anne West seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.



Congratulations to the Maryland State Arts Council Officers for Fiscal Year 2022.

Councilors thanked Julie for her hard work as Chair. Councilors also thanked Joan Lyon for her service over the years as her term comes to an end June 2021. Rosa Chang presented Joan with a scarf that she handmade with indigo dye. Joan thanked everyone for their support and progress during her time on the board. She mentioned that her home is always open and councilors and staff are more than welcomed.

12:57 p.m. adjourned.