



MSAC

Program Policy Evaluation Committee

MEETING MINUTES
August 24, 2021

It shall be the duty of the Program Policy & Evaluation Committee to review and assess, as necessary, on-going programs maintained by the Council; to study new program initiatives for Council consideration; to direct the Council's on-going planning process with respect to policies, programs, and Council operations; to make recommendations for Council action on these matters when appropriate; and to undertake such other duties as the Council may from time to time direct. The committee shall consist of no fewer than three members

In attendance: Jack Rasmussen, Molline Jackson, Julie Madden, Shelley Morhaim, Jackie Copeland, Carole Alexander, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Chad Buterbaugh, Dana Parsons, Emily Sollenberger, Laura Weiss, Keyonna Penick

Called to Order at 1:02.

GFO Tiered Funding Model

In June 2021, MSAC undertook a public editing process to change the Grants for Organizations (GFO) funding formula so that state funding for arts organizations can be more equitably disbursed.

- Proposed funding formula: GFO Equitable Funding Model: Grant = Allowable Income x Panel % x **Cap Allocation %** ; **Cap Allocation %s** are based on budget size, with organizations divided into five budget levels.
- Justification: Organizations with smaller budgets (with less resources and capacity) are supported with a larger cap allocation %, which aligns with an equity model, rather than the previous equality model.
- Proposed: Organizations with a significant (50%) increase or decrease in total allowable income receive a 2-year phased grant up/down to account for the large funding change.
- Justification: Allows for easier transitions between years of significant increases/decreases.
A two year transition, rather than a three year transition, supports the organization more proactively and does not alter/decrease the grants for other organizations significantly.
- Proposed: Organizations new to the GFO program complete an on-year



application in year one, receive 100% of the total grant amount, and enter into the GFO program's three-year application cycle.

- Justification: Allows organizations to receive full grants in year 1 rather than waiting 4 years and to move into their discipline-specific grant cycle immediately, removing barriers to MSAC funding and increasing support for capacity in new, usually small, organizations.
- The current policy is not valid in practice. Organizations entering the GFO pool have smaller budgets so the impact of their addition on the overall budget does not significantly alter/decrease the grants for other organizations. This former practice is based on paternalistic assumptions that small organizations need additional oversight.

The editor panel was extraordinarily aligned with the equity and justice consensus and community input. Larger organizations such as the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra have expressed concerns and complaints about the formula change. Although there were reps from the organization on the editor panel support must be gained from highlighting how the change will make funding more equitable. Julie Madden made a motion to present the editor recommendations for the GFO tiered funding model to the full council for a vote. Jackie seconded the motion. All in favor.

Artist Employment Initiative Update, Chad Buterbaugh

Phased development: Phase 1 (summer): Staff interviews; Phase 2 (fall): Public outreach (Five public dialogues, online survey, program-specific communication); Phase 3 (winter): Program development; Phase 4 (spring): Marketing. Rollout Summer 2022. Parallel trends at other SAAs; Rhode Island State Council on the Arts; South Carolina Arts Commission.

Folklife Network Grant Policy Update, Chad Burterbaugh

History - 2001-2018: Discretionary "partnerships"; 2019: Folklife Network grant introduced; modeled on CAD; 2020: Grantees grow from five to eight regional folklife centers; 2021: Program revision to align further with CAD policies and procedures.

Vision - 2022-onward: Direct MSAC support of grantee needs; Direct grantee support of local traditional artist needs; Inter-center communication.

- Current language: Folklife Network grants are between \$10,000 and \$50,000 and are disbursed annually.
- Proposed language: Folklife Network grants are \$85,000 and are disbursed annually.



- Justification: Further alignment with grant amounts in the County Arts Development program.
- Current language: Folklife Network grants must be matched in cash at a ratio of 4:1.
- Proposed language: Folklife Network grants must be matched with a cash value of \$12,500.
- Justification: "Relief" measure recommended in line with additional effort spent cultivating Folklife Apprenticeship and Heritage Awards locally
- Current language: For each Folklife Network grant, the grantee is responsible for facilitating Folklife Apprenticeship applications and Heritage Award nominations as suitable candidates are identified, and within the capacity of the regional folklife center
- Proposed language: Each Folklife Network grantee is expected to support two other Maryland Traditions grants—the Heritage Award and the Folklife Apprenticeship—in their regions. Each fiscal year, grantees must assist local traditional artists in the completion of either a Heritage Award nomination or Folklife Apprenticeship application. Assistance may take many forms, including but not limited to performing artist interviews to gather and organize answers to application or nomination questions, advising on application or nomination strategy, or helping artists create and submit materials in SmartSimple
- Justification: Further alignment with grantee expectations from County Arts Development program, where local councils directly support local arts activities

The idea of applying formula based provides funding for traditional arts that raises the profile of the arts. Adding another folklife center is also in discussion. Jackie made a motion to present the editor recommendations of the Folklife Network Grant Policy to the full council for a vote. Julie second the motion. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.