



MSAC Council Minutes

March 10, 2021
Maryland State Arts Council

Chair Julia Madden called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. After review of the agenda Joan Lyon made a motion to approve the agenda and Anne West seconded.

Fiscal Report, Shaunte Roper, Benny Russell

FY21 Revenue Budget: Total State General funds \$22,383,526; Total Special funds \$1,300,000; Total Federal funds \$794,600; Total of all funds \$24,478,126. FY21 Revenue Budget - Adjusted to include COVID Relief funds of 11 million: Total State General funds \$22,383,526; Total Special funds \$9,300,000; Total Federal funds \$3,794,600; Total of all funds \$35,478,176. FY21 Budget Summary as of February 28, 2021: Total Council Approved budget \$24,341,744; Actual Expenditures \$25,184,223; Surplus/Deficit \$136,382; Projected Surplus (Deficit) by FY End (\$7,051). FY21 Budget Surplus as of February 28, 2021: \$671,890. After expenses, contracts and grants remaining surplus \$73,484. FY21 Special Request Grants as of February 28, 2021: FY21 Budget \$300,000; actual expenditures \$262,038; remaining budget \$37,962.

Planning Collaborators Update

Maryland Citizens for the Arts, Nicholas Cohen

Maryland Arts Day successful. Emergency funding of \$5M and \$10M to entertainment venues still in the works. Under the American Relief Act Maryland stands to receive an additional \$4B of relief money and MCA is hopeful the Arts Council will get another round.

Based on what is happening in session, the proposed \$2.9M cut by Governor Hogan to the state arts council will not happen. Instead it looks like the arts council will receive \$27.3M to remain fully funded.

The 1994 Stabilization Act to change funding formula and \$23M to be cut over five years. The Stabilization Act is crucial to MSAC growth. The Arts Capital bill has passed the Senate and is currently in the house. The \$3M would be administered



by MSAC and would come with a staffer to manage.

Arts Education in Maryland Schools, Quanice Floyd

Take Action with AEMS during National Arts in our Schools Month: Week 1- Arts Education is a civil right (inform), Week 2- Arts education is transformative (inform), Week 3 - How decisions are made (equip), Week 4 - How to influence change (take action). Mondays: Listen - Hear from arts educators; Tuesday: Learn - join experts from across the state for panel discussions; Wednesday: Prepare - Explore resources; Thursday: Act - We need your participation; Friday: Reflect - Read and reflect. Cultivate and motivate folks for the 2024 election. Also working on expanding Artlook Maryland.

Maryland State Department of Education, Alysia Lee

MSDE provided 250 hours of professional learning during 2020 and 150 hours during 2021. The next masterclass- Songwriting Workshop - to feature Martha Gonzalez has been sold out.

Deputy Director Report, Steven Skerritt-Davis

Maryland Arts Awards Overview

Recognizing the extraordinary creative energy in Maryland: Heritage Awards; Independent Art Awards; Arts Education Advocacy Award; Poetry Out Loud; Department of Education, Fine Arts Office Award; Maryland Citizens for the Arts Elected Official Award. Virtual Event - April 16, 2021 6 p.m.

No questions regarding staff reports.

Grant Revisions - Between September 2020 and February 2021, 45 minutes of designated staff meetings were held to elevate a portion of the grant process in alignment with MSAC's commitment to equity and justice.

Several topics including; call for panelists, panelist orientation, grant agreement form processing/payment were addressed. Outcomes included; testimonial design launched for collection and publication for Black, Indigenous, and people of color can see themselves in the panelist process; revision and elevation of the panelists application to ensure the time commitment and content required does not act as a barrier for completion; revised the panelist orientation process to include implicit bias training for all panelists in connection to the grant evaluation process;



communication to applicants was revised so that ineligible and declined communications served as a connector to future opportunities through specific customizations; an approval process guiding document was established to ensure transparency of the panel recommendations through to funding. As needed, some programs will prepare for public revision processes for FY22 and beyond as a result of this work.

Staffing Update - Program Director position for County Arts Councils and Arts & Entertainment Districts has been posted and intern positions still vacant.

Digital Votes, Keyonna Penick

Funding Increase for Creativity, January 13, 2021; FY 2022 Folklife Apprenticeship Panelists, January 26, 2021; FY 2022 County Arts Development Panelists, January 26, 2021; Governance Committee Meeting Minutes, February 4, 2021; January 13, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes, February 4, 2021.

Public Art Announcement

Maryland Public Art Initiative Program Title Change. Current MPAI Offerings: artwork commissions, artwork purchases for state buildings. Current Public Art Across Maryland program offers grants for: new public artworks and conservation. Public Art Across Maryland- our program title combining four offerings: Artwork for state buildings - artwork commissions and artwork purchases. Grants - new public artworks and conservation.

Emergency Grants Distribution (Round 4) Update, Dana Parsons

Timeline: Application open March 5 - April 1; Eligibility Review complete by April 2; Application Review April 5-16; Approvals April 19-21; Grant Agreement Forms sent and fully executed April 22-29; Invoices sent May 3-14. Legislation priority to organizations who have not received previous funding. Ease of application for prior grantees (round 3), increased marketing, independent artist applications will be in the amount of \$3,000, with recommended funding still based on need.

Grants Office Report, Dana Parsons, Emily Sollenberger, Laura Weiss

Organization Eligibility- Current Eligibility: Organization located in Maryland has "significant programming in Maryland" - To increase transparency in the application process, MSAC staff is looking to define "significant programming in Maryland" as more than X% of programming occurring in Maryland. Next steps:



Deep dive research into currently funded organizations and what this percentage is for current organizations - to share at May PPE with recommendation.

John Schratweiser mentioned that this is a huge step forward towards equitable funding.

Grants for Organizations Tiered Funding Model -

Current model: $\text{Grant Amount} = \text{Total Allowable Income} \times \text{Panel Score} \times \text{Cap Allocation \%}$ (same for all)

Proposed Tiered Model: Cap Allocation % is largest for smaller (Level 1) organizations and decreases for largest (Level 5) organizations for 5 years

Justification: Champion an equitable funding model for arts organizations. Next Steps: March Listening Session for May PPE Committee Meeting.

Grants for Organizations Revisions

Grants for Organizations Funding: Higher Ed Institutions and Tuition-Based Organizations. Objective: To align grandfathered organizations with the correct funding programs. Adding questions to GFO application: Identify % of programming serving the community (other than tuition-paying constituents). Based on the response, the staff recommends the current funding program. List the programming that reaches beyond tuition-based constituents. Based on the response, the grantee may change to an Arts Program model (if not already), or phase out of the GFO program. Next steps: March 24 Listening Session for May PPE Committee Meeting.

Council Members discussed the current slate of Nominating Committee Members - Zoe Charlton, Shelley Morhaim and Carole Alexander to nominate a new slate of officers (chair, vice, and secretary/treasurer) for FY22. Anne West made a motion for the slate of current nominating committee members to stand. Joan Lyon seconded the motion. All in favor. Next steps include a nominating committee meeting and a slate of officers sent to the council before the June council meeting.

Carole Alexander thanked everyone for their contributions to the Sunshine Fund. The councilors congratulated Special Projects for the artists book. Thanks to Rosa Chang, Lillian Jacobson, and Derrick Quevedo. Assistant Secretary, Tom Riford, acknowledged the Council's hard work on emergency grants and thanked the council for their service and leadership during this very peculiar time.



11:15 Adjourn, Julie Madden