



Maryland State Arts Council Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES May 23, 2023 Google Meet

The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Council, make recommendations to the Council, and shall perform other duties as specified...

Present: John Schratwieser, Carole Alexander, Lily Bengfort, Julie Madden, Shelley Morhaim
Staff Present: Chad Buterbaugh, Emily Sollenberger, Steven Skerritt-Davis, Tom Riford, Keyonna Penick

The meeting was called to order at approximately 11:03 a.m. followed by guiding documents.

Approval of February 28, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Shelley moved to approve February 28, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes, and Lily seconded. All approved. The motion was carried and the minutes were approved.

John informed the committee that he spent the morning preparing poppies for peace installations. There will be about 500 poppies to line the lawns of the county office building for Memorial Day weekend. He also informed the council of an ongoing project involving students at the Kennedy Center.

Tom Riford

- Thanked the committee for its leadership and thanked the board members for their attendance at council meetings.
- Attended the Triennial Opening Reception hosted by Maryland Art Place, an exhibition that showcased more than 70 different visual, performing, and literary artists. Steven gave a great speech.
- Impressed that the council is on track to do 3000 grants this year as opposed to 800 grants during a typical year - hats off to arts council staff.
- Attended a wonderful Preakness event on Saturday. Commerce had an informational tent representing Maryland, it was well attended and Governor Wes Moore was in attendance.
- National and Maryland Travel and Tourism Week kicked off



- New Southern Maryland National Heritage area
- Maryland Marketing Partnership (MMP) finalizing summer and fall national and international advertising that drives companies and workforce
- Welcoming seven new MMP board members
- The “You’re Welcome” campaign is in the works
- Reiterated how impressed he is with MSAC staff and their Herculean efforts

Steven thanked John for stepping up and shared well wishes for Jackie.

Executive Director’s Report (Skerritt-Davis)

Staffing Update

- Waiting to hear more about the Deputy Director position
- Ryan Patterson moving into an Arts Capital Management position
- Preparing paperwork for HR to fill the Public Art Program Manager position - position does a lot with state-commissioned projects
- The Marketing and Communications Manager position is vacant, hoping the posting will go out very soon. In the meantime roles have been redistributed amongst staff - thank you Ryan, Tammy, and Chad. Big shout out to the Commerce communications team for help with social media and e-blasts in the interim
- Tom is in conversation with his team about general staff and adding staff; Tom informed that advocacy for staff is always welcome in response to how councilors can help.

Arts Relief Update

- Shared arts relief tracker - very close to awarding all of 40 million.
- \$758M remaining - the majority will go out to Public Art Across Maryland;
- Big thanks to the staff
- Record the number of feedback, unsuccessful and successful

New Councilors Update

- FY23: Tonya Miller, Ashley Minner, and Joel Snyder; FY24: Gregory Tucker, Paige Hernandez, Albita Rivera, Ruby Lopez Harper
- Met with two of the councilors starting immediately and one starting in July; excited about the new energy and added value.
- FY23 Onboarding June 6 and FY24 onboarding after July 1 - volunteers for experienced councilors to attend are encouraged; all new councilors will be on boarded by the council meeting in September. Mentors needed

Strategic Planning Update

- Proposal review and selection - committee has wrapped up the proposal review.



- Consultant interviews scheduled for June

Legislative earmarks

- \$1.8M allocated to six different organizations that currently receive grants
- Steven and Shaunte are currently working with the Commerce budget team to separate these line items in our budget to make the intent of the grants clear; funds for specific projects and operating costs that do not go through MSAC processes.
- John believes councilors have an obligation to get in front of leadership, the general assembly, and the Governor to express disappointment and disapproval
- John expressed that this goes against everything MSAC stands for and is unfair and does not create access, it's about who knows who.
- Committee members agreed that MSAC needs to do a better job of sharing why this is inequitable and agreed that MCA should take action
- John will bring up at the June board meeting for brief discussion and suggest a small group of members, who do not overlap with MCA's board, discuss and contact MCA to review options and plans to address earmarks.
- Steven shared a link to NASAA - a wealth of knowledge with line item information. Steven is happy to be in conversations with other state arts organizations

PPE Preview

- Grants Program Consolidation Proposal
 - Network Organizational Development
 - Capacity building for network programs; \$10,000 maximum; FY 2020 - present; Budget remainders
 - Pause NOD in FY24 and direct constituents to Special Request grants.
 - Special Requests
 - Capacity building for all organizations; \$50,000 maximum; Newly revised for FY 2023; Positive public response; Staff capacity concern
 - Lower grant requests range to \$2,000 - \$25,000; Make pre-application consultations recommended, not required; Clarify that eligible requests must represent a departure from the applicant's regular arts activities; add a question and an evaluation criterion to this effect.
- Emergency Grants

The program was created out of necessity as a COVID response.
Cont'd w/ dedicated funding

 - FY20-21: various COVID-specific funds (for orgs + ind.



artists); FY22: ARPA funding (for ind. artists); FY23: Arts Relief (for ind. artists)

- In FY22, expanded to include losses sustained from non-COVID emergencies
- The need is varied and great; Guidelines do not define “emergency” clearly (range of hardships described in apps)
 - Staff/agency not equipped to evaluate/support/handle some of these events
- MSAC/State payment timeline insufficient for emergency situations; Staff capacity issues (for program management and reviews)

Proposal: Pause the program; Publish other available emergency resources; Reevaluate with intentionality to determine the best ways to support artists; include in upcoming strategic planning discussions

The committee agreed that the pause is smart right now moving it into strategic planning.

Other PPE Proposals

- Arts in Education Revision Policies
- Independent Artist Awards Revision Update
- Public Art Policies
- Panelists, Jurors, Editors, and Judges Approval Policy
- GFO Policy (in New Business)

Finance Committee Review

FY24 Budget Recommendations presented. Review of budget comparison.

June 8, 2023, Council Meeting Agenda Review

- Secretary Anderson
- Creative Assignment (Lily)
 - She won't be there and will send a call to see if anyone else can. She will do it next time.
- Executive Director's Report; Staff Reports
- Executive Committee Report; Program Policy and Evaluation Committee Report (Policies Approval); Fiscal Report/Finance Committee Report (FY24 Budget Approval); Nominating Committee Election; Governance Committee Report (Councilor engagement)

New Business

Sunshine Fund - a voluntary fund that celebrates accomplishments, extends well wishes, and fosters community among councilors and staff.



- Reminder to councilors before the next in-person meeting
- Carole organizing farewell gifts for departing council members

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30 pm.