

Harford County Cultural Arts Board
Zoom Meeting
Monday, April 6, 2020

Present: Chuck Bowden (Chairperson), Jessica Cleaver (Coordinator), Marcia Bailey, Pam Burton, Kelley Dilworth, Emily Fagden, Renee Johnson, Karen Heppen, Peter McCallum, Christina McLoughlin, Heidi Neff Chuffo, Jared Noe, Wendy Roberts, Angie Sokolov, Laura Ward-Moran, Erin Whipple, and Aurora Kahoe (legislative assistant for Councilman Chad Shrodes).

Absent: None.

- The meeting was brought to order by Chuck Bowden at 6:07 p.m..
- The consent agenda was the first meeting topic addressed. This consisted of the following two items—the March 2, 2020 meeting minutes and the financial summary as of February 29, 2020. Karen Heppen moved to approve both items and Jared Noe provided the second. Both consent agenda items were approved unanimously.
- The remainder of this meeting focused on how the current COVID-19 public health crisis impacts the revision of fiscal allocations that had been awarded to FY20 grant recipients, as well as the appropriate use of remaining FY20 funds, and FY21 grant awards. Throughout this portion of the meeting the discussions were spirited, reflective, and thoughtful; furthermore, they focused on how to achieve strategic and well-planned outcomes. **The following four approved motions that will be highlighted next are the results of those discussions.**
- **Changes to FY20 Community Arts Development (CAD) Grant Requirements**

In recognition of the unprecedented situation all organizations, as well as individuals, are now facing, Harford County Cultural Arts Board will follow the example of the Maryland State Arts Council by relaxing the guidelines pertaining to all grants awarded for fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020). The matching requirement for FY20 grants has been eliminated and, if needed, funds may be used for arts-related purposes other than originally planned. Organizations can also receive a deadline extension to complete their final reports (currently due August 1, 2020) upon request. This motion was made by Kelley Dilworth, seconded by Heidi Neff Chuffo, and approved unanimously.

- **Changes to FY21 Community Arts Development (CAD) Application Deadline and Requirements**

Harford County Cultural Arts Board will also waive the application requirement for all eight Harford County-based nonprofit arts organizations currently receiving general operating funds for fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020). Those organizations, Deer Creek Chorale, Harford Artists' Association, Ballet Chesapeake (also known as Harford Ballet Company), Harford Choral Society, Bay Country Gentlemen (also known as Harford County Maryland Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society), Havre de Grace Arts Collective, Theatreworks Live, and the Upper Chesapeake Chorus of Sweet Adelines International, will automatically receive the same grant amount in fiscal year 2021. Applications will still be accepted for CAD grants to support general operating for Harford County-based nonprofit arts organizations that are not current FY20 grantees. The deadline for these applications will be extended to June 1, 2020. Funding decisions will be announced by July 1, 2020. This motion was made by Jared Noe, seconded by Pam Burton, and approved unanimously.

- **CAD Grant Applications**

Applications will still be accepted for CAD grants to support arts programming presented in Harford County by Maryland-based nonprofit, religious, and government entities. The deadline for these applications will be extended to September 15, 2020. Funding decisions will be announced by November 15, 2020. This motion was made by Jared Noe, Seconded by Christina McLoughlin, and approved unanimously.

- **Harford County COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant Fund for Harford County Artists**

To support the Harford County artists whose livelihoods have been negatively affected by COVID-19, an Emergency Grant Fund will be established. Grants, up to \$1000 per person, will be available to those who demonstrate a financial need and loss of income due to the COVID-19 crisis. Applications will open Friday, April 17, 2020. For best consideration, applications will be due by 11:59 PM Wednesday, April 29, 2020. Applications submitted after the deadline will be reviewed and distributed on a rolling basis, while funds remain. This motion was made by Jared Noe, seconded by Christina McLoughlin, and approved unanimously.

- Jessica Cleaver will compose a draft press release that outlines the aforementioned approved motions and send it to Board members for critique. Subsequently, this press release will be published in a timely manner.
- The meeting was formally adjourned by Chuck Bowden at 8:46 p.m.. By consensus, the May 5, 2020 Board meeting was reinstated. If the current COVID-19 governor's restrictions are still in effect, this meeting will be conducted virtually. If the governor's restrictions are revised and a face-to-face meeting is permitted, the site will be the Bel Air Public Library.