

December 4, 2023 Meeting of Harford County Cultural Arts Board Bel Air Library Conference Room

Present: Chuck Bowden (Chairperson), Jessica Cleaver (Coordinator), Heidi Neff Chuffo (attended virtually), Chris Depkin, Gigi Devanney, Karen Heppen (attended virtually), Christina McLoughlin, Bill Rothenbach, Angie Sokolov, and Erin Whipple

Absent: Peter McCallum and Jessica Boyle-Tsottles who represents the Harford County Council were not in attendance.

Consent Agenda

- November 2023 Meeting Notes & FY24 Spending Plan
- Motion to approve: Bill
 - Gigi 2nd
 - Approved

Grantmaking

- Jessica gave an overview of the proposed FY25 Grant Schedule to make sure the board was aware and to address any concerns
 - Chuck reminded the board that an extra meeting is always needed for small group meetings in the middle of May
 - Chuck also suggested that identifying questions sooner than later and prior to small group meetings could eliminate some of the delays of the past
- Jessica shared that WizeHive (grantmaking software) is working on a new product that has the potential to prove much more useful for grant making. The board will be permitted to review and play around with the new tool in January.
- Grantee Champions Update
 - Every board member has 2 organizations and Angie has 3
 - Reading the final reports is a good way of getting to better know the Grantees. This info can be accessed through the grant making software and Jessica will “assign” for easy review during the month of December
 - In January, everyone is encouraged to reach out to their organization to introduce yourself etc.

Sponsorships

- Derek Pentz’ #RockStarLife – The Art Blog sponsorship will lapse in January. Derek has not applied for a renewal but inquired about what the board would do.
 - Bill suggested an impact report or summary of how the funds were used and the group agreed this request would be made.
 - The group is amenable to renewing for 2024 based on what we receive from Derek and we will review at the January meeting.
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Programming

- Quarterly Gatherings
 - Angie shared that meeting new people and mingling was happening
 - Entertainment didn’t feel necessary and like it would possibly be a distraction

- Bill agreed that it was great and the feedback he received was great. Lots of people talking to many other people
- Chris noted that giving each group an opportunity to share something about themselves was nice and led to further interaction and productive conversations
- The board noted other specific examples of connections that were made
- **Jessica asked the group to consider what is next for 2024?**
 - A suggestion was made that “artist as parents” is another group we might bring together
 - Chuck suggested building on the established x3 groups and then adding new groups vs displacing
 - This question will be on the agenda in January
- Maryland Arts Summit