

Harford County Cultural Arts  
Board Zoom Meeting Monday,  
August 3, 2020

Present: Chuck Bowden (Chairperson), Jessica Cleaver (Coordinator), Renee Johnson, Karen Heppen, Christina McLoughlin, Heidi Neff Chuffo, Angie Sokolov, Erin Whipple, Jared Noe, and Marcia Bailey. Absent: Wendy Roberts, Pam Burton, Kelley Dilworth, Peter McCallum, and Laura Ward-Moran.

- The meeting was brought to order by Chuck Bowden at 6p.m.
- The consent agenda was the first meeting topic addressed. This consisted of the following items—the June 1, 2020 meeting minutes and the FY20 year end financial summary. Karen Heppen moved to approve both items and Jared Noe provided the second. The consent agenda items were approved unanimously.
- Three (3) Artist Relief Grant applications we reviewed and presented for this meeting. The board did not seem to have any concerns about Nicki Jergensen, or Pamela Wilde's applications, however there were concerns about Asha Wilkenson's application. Jared had a conflict of interest and was removed from the meeting while we discussed the application. The boards' concerns about the application include the fact that there is no evidence of cancelled engagements or loss of teaching jobs. Renee Johnson felt unsure because of the lack of documentation. Chuck Bowden asked Jessica if we could ask for more documentation. Jessica Cleaver said we can definitely ask for more, however it look a longtime for this applicant to get a W9 to Jessica. Karen Heppen was not concerned about the Wilkenson application and was not opposed to approve it. Heidi Neff Chuffo was not opposed either, but did feel like asking for more documentation would be helpful. Christina McLoughlin thinks we should fund this application because we don't make loss of income evidence mandatory on the application. Perhaps we should change the application for the future. Christina McLoughlin motions to ask for more documentation of loss of income in order for us to fund this Asha Wilkenson's application. Jessica Cleaver will approve contingent on loss of income documentation. Renee Johnson suggests that maybe we give some examples of what kind of documentation we are looking for. Jessica asks if we should make a file upload a MUST have. Erin Whipple, Karen Heppen, and Chuck Bowden think we should leave the application as it is. Chuck Bowden asks if anyone has any concerns about Nicki Jergensen, or Pamela Wilde's applications. No concerns. Karen Heppen motions to approve these 2 applications, Jared Noe seconds. Motion

to approve Nicki Jergensen, and Pamela Wilde's applications are unanimously approved.

- Chuck shifts gears to discuss the Budget and Priority task force recommendations. committee collaborated to develop a set of proposals for utilizing the FY 21 Grant The members of this committee are: Pam Burton, Jessica Cleaver, Kelley Dilworth, Pete McCallum, Christina McLoughlin, Wendy Roberts, and Erin Whipple.

- A. The board approved the request for \$50,000 emergency grant from MSAC. The full amount to be used as subgrants to existing general operating supported grantees for Covid related needs. Jared Noe voiced some of his concerns about the for profit arts organizations that can not qualify for funds.
- B. The updated Community Arts development grant guidelines and application for the FY22 application release should be in February or March. There will be a new category for Inclusion Diversity Equality Access. This is targeted to be ready by December 31st.
- C. The Unity+Diversity=community project proposal. Karen Heppen's thoughts include, wanting to hear more. A one size fits all attempt will not work and this needs to be a give and take process, but she thinks it is a terrific step. Christina McLoughlin's thoughts are that we dont want to make any decisions about this project without including ALL diversity. We need to be reaching out to community organizations for their input and help. Karen Heppen wants to know the timeline. Jessica Cleaver says by December 31st. Important that we build a community coalition, reaching out to many community groups. The entire board NEEDS to be involved. We will really get this moving after election day. Then all the information out by January and should be judging Art by April. And we will have winners etc. Jessica reiterates that this will be a lot of listening to the community. This will also cost a lot of money so we need to be all in. Chuck Bowden calls for a vote. Karen Heppen motions to pass item B. (see above) Christine McLoughlin seconds. Motion is approved. Christina McLoughlin motions to use \$40,000 for the Unity+Diversity project. Heidi Neff Chuffo seconds. Motion is approved. The task force will meet again and invite the rest of the group.

- The Board agreed by consensus to the following meeting schedule...

1. No September meeting
2. October 5th meeting will involve Board elections

3. November 2nd will be panel meetings for grant reviews
4. November 11th will be a quick meeting for grant voting
5. December 7th will be the Unity+Diversity meeting

Jared Noe made a motion to approve these dates and Erin Whipple seconded.

- A nomination committee must be formed to elect new Board officers. Jared Noe will head this committee. Christina McLoughlin suggests putting Pete McCallum, and Wendy Roberts on the committee as well.
- Chuck Bowden calls for reflections on 2020. Christina McLoughlin says 1. She understands Jared's concern for For profit arts organizations. And wonders if there is a way we can support them, maybe through advocacy or awareness. 2. She is proud of our Board and how we have responded quickly and nimbly. Jared Noe states that he has seen so many artists grateful to receive grants. Renee Johnson is proud of what we have done during this trying time and glad to be a part of it. Angie Sokolov misses the Arts and is glad to have this board. Erin Whipple is happy to have our boards' positivity.
- The meeting was formally adjourned by Chuck Bowden at 7:25 p.m..