

# Harford County Cultural Arts Board

## Zoom Meeting

Monday, December 6, 2021

Present: Chuck Bowden (Chairperson), Jessica Cleaver (Coordinator), Marcia Bailey, Chris Depkin, Gigi Devanney, Emily Fadgen, Karen Heppen, Peter McCallum, Christina McLoughlin, Heidi Neff Chuffo, Wendy Roberts, Bill Rothenbach, Angie Sokolov, Erin Whipple, and Aurora Kahoe (legislative assistant for Councilman Chad Shrodes).

Absent: Kelley Dilworth, and Elizabeth Stevens.

- The meeting was brought to order by Chuck Bowden at 6:05 p.m..
- The consent agenda was the first meeting topic addressed. This consisted of the following three items—the November 1, 2021 meeting minutes, updates/reports, and the most current financial summary. Bill Rothenbach moved to approve these items and Peter McCallum provided the second. The consent agenda items were approved unanimously.
- The Harford Living Treasure Nominations were presented for Henry and Barbara Holloway. Peter McCallum moved to approve these two nominees and Bill Rothenbach provided the second. This motion was approved unanimously.
- A discussion was conducted that focused on when the Board should return to in-person meetings. Peter McCallum recommended that whenever this occurs, a hybrid model of in-person and virtual should be used. Heidi Neff Chuffo stated that the COVID-19 health metrics data for Harford County are onerous as the positivity rate is increasing and there is an onset of the new Omicron variant. It was decided that Board meetings remain virtual for now but the data should continue to be re-examined periodically to determine if and when in-person meetings can resume.
- Tami Zavislan was unable to attend the Board meeting due to a personal illness; therefore, the topic she was going to address “Signed Advisory Board Member Agreement” will be deferred to the January 3, 2022 meeting.
- Jessica Cleaver presented the most recent Arts in Education application entitled: “Trauma Through Medicine Painting for Young Adults.” Board members shared several concerns about this grant application including the apparent absence of licensed clinical mental health professional involvement, potential liability issues, and the need to explain the applicant’s interpretation of medicine painting. Jessica will contact the applicant for more clarification and discussion about the issues raised by Board members. The applicant’s responses will be shared at the January 3, 2022 Board meeting before a vote is taken on this grant request. In addition, Jessica Cleaver will consult with the county attorney to seek counsel regarding the extent to which Board members are covered by liability insurance.

- Emergency funding for grant applicants as a continued practice during this current COVID-19 pandemic situation was discussed. This form of financial assistance to Arts organization experiencing revenue loss because of COVID-19 has been instituted during the last two years as part of the Harford County Cultural Arts Board grant request process. As part of this discussion, one facet receiving emphasis related to the organizational expenditures preparing for a production rather than the lack of tickets sold. Gigi Devaney stated that our grant application process should not be the very first step an arts organization uses for offsetting its potential loss of revenue. Chris Depkin moved that the Board explore arts organizations funded by our organization which have experienced financial issues due to COVID-19 and Bill Rothenbach provided the second. This motion was approved.
- The preliminary draft of the Harford County Cultural Arts Board 2022 budget was discussed. Jessica Cleaver encouraged Board members to continue their examination of this budget draft as Jessica Cleaver is making adjustments to it based upon feedback.
- Jessica Cleaver requested that Board members examine the current draft of the Harford County Cultural Arts Board Planning document for 2022-2025. This plan is still being revised and refined. The continued feedback provided by Board members will help shape this document so it can be presented formally for full deliberation during the January 3, 2022 meeting.
- The next meeting of the full Harford County Cultural Arts Board will be held on January 3, 2022. This meeting will be held virtually unless the current COVID-19 restrictions are rescinded. If this occurs, meetings will be held at the Bel Air branch of the Harford County Public Library.
- The meeting was formally concluded at 7:25 p.m. by Chuck Bowden.