

## Harford County Cultural Arts Board

Monday, January 8, 2024

Present: Chuck Bowden (Chairperson), Jessica Cleaver (Coordinator), Heidi Neff Chuffo, Karen Heppen (attended virtually), Sierra Keys, Peter McCallum (attended virtually), Christina McLoughlin, Bill Rothenbach, Angie Sokolov, Erin Whipple, and prospective Board member guests Marisa Canino and Edwin Remsberg.

Absent: Chris Depkin, Gigi Devanney, and Jessica Boyle-Tsottles who represents the Harford County Council were not in attendance.

- The meeting was brought to order by Chuck Bowden at 6:01 p.m..
- The consent agenda consisted of the December 4, 2023 meeting minutes, the financial summary, and an update. The update was about the resignation of the last original Board member for the Scotfield Theatre Company. This will not impact the current Scotfield Theater Company project funded by the Harford County Cultural Arts Board. Scotfield's Board is being restructured and a change in program focus is being examined. Bill Rothenbach moved to approve the consent agenda items and Peter McCallum provided the second. This motion was approved unanimously.
- The Living Treasure Nomination for Dion Guthrie was examined and considered. Peter McCallum moved to approve this nomination and Bill Rothenbach provided the second. This motion was approved unanimously.
- Jessica Cleaver informed the Board that the grant making software provider has requested to use the current Harford County Cultural Arts Board format as an exemplar for a new version of the software which is in the process of being developed. The provider also wants to know immediately following the February 5, 2024 Board meeting if we want to use the new version for the upcoming grant cycle. Jessica Cleaver shared that this can be done for the Community Arts Development Grants but not for the Arts in Education Grants. She asked requested that Board members field test the new software model by entering in as an applicant to determine if it is "user friendly" and operable.
- The Board discussed whether Harford Community College is eligible to submit an Arts in Education Grant request. By consensus, the Board agreed that this organization is eligible to do so based upon the current grant request criteria.
- Derek Pentz, creator of RockStarLife, provided a detailed, in-depth report regarding the use of the 2023 sponsorship funds that were awarded him by the Harford County Cultural Arts Board. The Board members concurred that this report serves as a good model for future sponsorship award recipients. Derek Pentz requested \$3000.00 in sponsorship funds for 2024. The Board agreed to award him \$2,500.00 for 2024 since this is the current cap. It was suggested that when Derek Pentz is notified about the 2024 award amount the \$2,500.00 cap is clearly communicated as the reason for this

funding decision. In a related deliberation, Peter McCallum moved that the cap for a sponsorship be \$2,500.00 and Bill Rothenbach provided the second. This motion was approved unanimously. Further deliberation regarding revisiting the cap and perhaps increasing it will occur at future Board meetings.

- The upcoming Singers and Instrumentalists Happy Hour will be held at Das Bierhall in Bel Air from 5:00-7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2024. Currently, the rsvp responses are very promising so a robust attendance is anticipated. The next round of Happy Hour gatherings for 2024 will be discussed for scheduling purposes during the February 5, 2024 Board meeting. Jessica Cleaver reminded the Board about the annual Arts Gathering that will be held at the Liriodendron Mansion on Wednesday, April 24, 2024. Further discussions and planning for this event will occur during future Board meetings. Finally, Board members were invited and encouraged to attend Maryland Arts Day in Annapolis on Tuesday, February 13, 2024.
- An initial cursory discussion focused on Board members sharing their experiences as ambassadors contacting their assigned organizations. This topic will continue to be revisited at future Board meetings.
- The next meeting of the full Harford County Cultural Arts Board will be held on February 5, 2024. This meeting will be held at the Bel Air Library in the Conference Room on the mezzanine level.
- The meeting was formally concluded at 6:51 p.m. by Chuck Bowden.