

Harford County Cultural Arts Board

Zoom Meeting

Monday, April 5, 2021

Present: Chuck Bowden (Chairperson), Jessica Cleaver (Coordinator), Kelley Dilworth, Emily Fadgen, Mary Hastler, Karen Heppen, Peter McCallum, Christina McLoughlin, Heidi Neff Chuffo, Wendy Roberts, Angie Sokolov, and Erin Whipple.

Absent: Marcia Bailey, Aurora Kahoe (legislative assistant for Councilman Chad Shrodes).

- 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 March 1, 2021 meeting minutes, the most current financial summary, and the Coordinator’s Report. Karen Heppen moved to approve all three items and Peter McCallum provided the second. The consent agenda items were approved unanimously.
- Jessica Cleaver announced that the names of the new Board members have been forwarded to the Harford County Council for approval. If approved, it is hoped that these new Board members will be able to attend and be introduced at the May 3, 2021 Harford County Cultural Arts Board meeting.
- Jessica Cleaver presented the Harford Living Treasure Nominations for Margaret Lake Foutz Era and James Zane Williams. By consensus, the Board asked Jessica Cleaver to contact each of these individuals for more specific information. Once this information is received, the Board will reconsider these two applications for approval.
- The Board approved funding the Independent Artist Relief Grant requests for the following individuals: (a) Trevor Ebert; (b) Derick Ebert; (c) Michael Johnson; (d) Linda Leanza; (e) Sue Leonard; (f) Andrea Sauer; (g) Michele Sauers; (h) John Sauers; (i) Kelly Sneddon; (j) Gretchen Walsh; and (k) Jonathan West. Peter McCallum moved to approve the aforementioned grant requests and Angie Sokolov provided the second. The grant request for Kelly Duncan was discussed at great length but not approved. Jessica Cleaver was asked to contact Kelly Duncan about this decision and to determine if it will be brought to the Board again for consideration.
- Jessica Cleaver moderated the Board’s discussion regarding funding the Round 2 Covid Supplemental Grant for Arts Organizations for the following: (a) Ballet Chesapeake; (b) Deer Creek Chorale; (c) Harford Artists Association; (d) Bay Country Gentlemen. (e) Havre de Grace Arts Collective; (f) Scottfield Theater Company; and (g) Theatreworks Live. Peter McCallum moved to approve funding these supplemental grant requests and Emily Fadgen provided the second. All of the supplemental grant requests were approved with those Board members recusing themselves who were associated with specific organizations in this list.

- By consensus, the Board agreed to continue offering Independent Artist Relief Grants as long as needed until the current COVID-19 state of emergency is terminated. The Board will continue to examine and analyze the health metrics data at least until the CDC officially announces that herd immunity has been attained.
- Jessica Cleaver asked the Board to determine if the updated guidelines for the FY 22 Community Arts Development Grants were ready for approval and if any revisions should be made to the accompanying narrative questions. The Board discussed infusing references to IDEA throughout the entire grant application but Jessica Cleaver stated that doing so was too time intensive for this year. After much discussion the Board recommended that an additional IDEA question be added in the appendix for this year with next being dedicated to infusing IDEA references throughout the subsequent grant application. Jessica Cleaver requested that Board members provide a timely response to the IDEA question she will be adding to the appendix and then vote by Friday, April 9, 2021 so the application can be posted. This will allow the grant submission deadline of May 21, 2021 to be maintained.
- Several topics of note were discussed during the “Coordinator’s Corner” portion of the meeting agenda. First, Jessica Cleaver and the Board Officers will be conducting an orientation for new Board members (and any others who wish to join) during the month of May. Second, Jessica Cleaver presented that the impact of last month’s grant expenditures resulted in a fund balance of approximately \$15, 000.00. This bodes well for allocating most or all current funds in preparation for the state monies for FY 22 that will be received shortly. Third, Mary Hastler presented an historical overview of the Harford County Cultural Arts Board, its assigned tasks, scope of influence, and to whom it is to report. Currently, the Board is under the auspices of the Harford County Public Library and ultimately reports to the Harford County Council. Based upon the input from legal counsel, Mary Hastler outlined the guidelines of the initiatives in which the Harford County Cultural Arts Board may be engaged.
- The next meeting of the full Harford County Cultural Arts Board will be held on May 3, 2021. 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 7:46 p.m. by Chuck Bowden.