

Harford County Cultural Arts Board

Monday, May 1, 2023

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

Absent: Jessica Boyle-Tsottles who represents the Harford County Council was not in attendance.

- The meeting was brought to order by Chuck Bowden at 6:13 p.m..
- The consent agenda was addressed which consisted of the following three items—the February 6, 2023 meeting minutes, the financial report, and pertinent update reports. Karen Heppen moved to approve these items and Bill Rothenbach provided the second. The consent agenda items were approved unanimously.
- The Harford Living Treasure nomination for Robert Farrington was presented and deliberated. Bill Rothenbach moved to approve this nomination and Heidi Chuffo provided the second. This motion was approved unanimously.
- The Board revisited the Woodberry Crossing grant request for funding consideration after it had been resubmitted with revisions to address two specific concerns. These two concerns were: (a) a wider audience of participants is strongly recommended and (b) the site for the conducted activities needs to be in Harford County. After considerable deliberation it was determined that the two concerns had not been addressed in a satisfactory manner. Heidi Neff Chuffo moved to deny funding for this grant request and Bill Rothenbach provided the second. This motion was approved unanimously.
- Jessica Cleaver reviewed the Arts in Education guidelines for FY24 grants with the Board. The following two main revisions were highlighted: (a) grants will be reviewed quarterly and (b) there is a \$5,000.00 limit for each organization per fiscal year. A pending revision was deleted that mandated organizations be in existence for one year to be eligible to submit a grant request.
- Three items were addressed related to Community Arts Development FY 24 grants. First, Jessica Cleaver reported that as of May 1, 2023, 24 grant requests have been received. Second, each Board member shared the specific arts organizations with which they are affiliated that causes a conflict of interest. Third, a brief review was conducted of the grant review portal to be used by Board members. Chuck Bowden encouraged Board members to contact Jessica Cleaver immediately for assistance if any issues arise during the grant review process.
- There was a discussion about whether the Harford County Cultural Arts Board will follow the example of the Maryland Arts Council and waive the Community Arts Development match requirement for FY 23 and FY 24. Christina McLoughlin moved to waive the

match requirement for FY 23 and FY24, and Angie Sokolov provided the second. This motion was approved unanimously.

- A grant request of \$2,000.00 to sponsor the Derek Pentz blog from April 1-12/32 23 was discussed. The discussion was positive and some Board members have first-hand knowledge of his work. This request consideration was tabled until the next regularly-scheduled Board meeting for further study and discussion.
- Kaitlyn O'Connor submitted a grant request that was discussed. The Board recommended that the Star Center with which she is affiliated submit a grant request on her behalf for funding consideration.
- The Board debriefed key findings from the April 26, 2023 Arts Gathering. Two specific aspects were shared: (a) over 130 participants attended and (b) all participant comments to Jessica and Board members were positive. Jessica asked the Board members to send her their other specific thoughts about the Arts Gathering to her as soon as possible. The Board's overall consensus is that this event was extremely successful and greatly appreciated by the participants.
- The Board members reviewed the upcoming arts Happy Hours and reiterated their commitment to attending them as schedules permit.
- Jessica Cleaver conducted a brief review of the Board calendar for considering FY24 grant requests and the timeline for various teams to discuss their recommendations and achieve consensus before the June 5, 2023 meeting
- Various upcoming activities in which the Board has been invited to participate (such as the Maryland Arts Summit, Deer Creek Chorale rehearsals, and Harford 250 Sports Night) were announced and briefly discussed.
- The next meeting of the full Harford County Cultural Arts Board will be held on June 5, 2023. This meeting will be held at the Abingdon Public Library.
- The meeting was formally concluded at 7:49 p.m. by Chuck Bowden.