

Harford County Cultural Arts Board

Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

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

Absent: Marcia Bailey, Kelley Dilworth, Emily Fadgen, and 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 May 3, 2021 meeting minutes, the most current financial summary, and the Coordinator’s Report. Peter McCallum moved to approve all three items and Karen Heppen provided the second. The consent agenda items were approved unanimously.
- The Independent Artist Relief Grant requests for Kelly Duncan and Michael Rose were presented for funding consideration. Peter McCallum moved and Bill Rothenbach provided the second to fund these two requests. This motion was approved unanimously. The Board also agreed by consensus to terminate the Independent Artist Relief Grant process since numerous COVID-19 restrictions have been removed by Governor Hogan.
- Jessica Cleaver presented the chart that displayed a proposal for use of the projected FY22 Arts Development Grant from the Maryland State Arts Council. Peter McCallum moved to accept this proposal and Karen Heppen provided the second. This motion was passed unanimously.
- The Board approved the following Community Arts Development Grant requests funding recommendations that were listed in the chart prepared by Jessica Cleaver following Karen Heppen’s motion to do so and Peter McCallum providing the second. The grant requests funded were: Ladew Gardens, ARC Northern Chesapeake Region, The Vestry of Deer Creek Parish, Liriodendron Foundation, Friends of Jerusalem Mill, Bach Concert Series, Harford Community College, SUCCESS Project, Bel Air Recreation Committee, Maryland Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, Ed Lally Foundation, Havre de Grace Farmer’s Market, Havre de Grace Arts Collective, Deer Creek Chorale, Inc., Tidewater Players, Inc., Harford County Maryland Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Upper Chesapeake Chorus of the Sweet Adeline’s International, inc., Harford Ballet Company Ballet DBA Chesapeake, and the Harford Choral Society, inc.. **The following four grant requests were not approved during this first voting round and were brought forward for extended discussion: Harford Artist’s Association, Inc. Theatreworks Live, Inc., Scottfield Theatre Company, and Lights, Camera, Action**

Production, Inc.. These four grant requests were discussed individually, and the decisions reached regarding their respective funding are outlined next.

- The motion to approve funding for Scottfield Theatre Company contingent upon the resolution of standing with the State of Maryland, and budget was adjusted to account for any payments to people acting as staff or contractors and board members. Christina McLoughlin made this motion and Elizabeth Stevens provided the second.
- The motion to approve funding for Harford Artists Association, Inc. was approved at a level accounting for payments to people acting as staff or contractors and board members and is following an extensive discussion of a potential conflict of interest issue on their Board that has been brought to this group's attention previously. Karen Heppen made this motion and Christina McLoughlin provided the second.
- The motion to approve Theatreworks Live was approved. The level of funding will be adjusted to account for any payments to people acting as staff or contractors and board members. Peter McCallum made this motion and Gigi Devaney provided the second.
- The motion to defer a final vote on funding for Lights, Camera, Action, Production, Inc. until panelists can attend arts programming presented by the organization. Christina McLoughlin made this motion and Gig Devaney provided the second.
- The next meeting of the full Harford County Cultural Arts Board will be held on August 2, 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. Currently, there will be no meetings in July or September 2021.
- The meeting was formally concluded at 7:54 p.m. by Chuck Bowden.