

Harford County Cultural Arts Board

Monday, August 28, 2023

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

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

- The meeting was brought to order by Chuck Bowden at 6:06 p.m..
- The consent agenda was addressed which consisted of the following two items—the August 7, 2023 meeting minutes and the FY 23 year-end report. Karen Heppen moved to approve these items and Bill Rothenbach provided the second. The consent agenda items were approved unanimously.
- Jessica Cleaver reviewed both the Board Member Agreement and the Disclosure of Conflicts Form. She will collect these signed forms no later than the October 2, 2023 Board meeting. The Board also discussed the status of the County Council approval of the renewal of the Confirmation of Executive Appointment to the Cultural Arts Board that is still pending.
- A focused discussion was conducted regarding the distinct differences between the nature of a grant request approval and a sponsorship. Christina McLoughlin provided specific information in this area and will be sending Board members more with sample proposals. Bill Rothenbach moved and Angie Sokolov provided the second that the Board explore the formalized sponsorship path with the WHFC request. This motion was approved with Heidi Neff Chuffo abstaining. Angie Sokolov moved and Karen Heppen provided the second that the Board sponsor the Upper Chesapeake Bay Pride event being held on October 7, 2023. The rationale behind this motion is that the Board has supported this event since its inception. This motion was approved unanimously. A follow-up to these motions was the discussion for the Board to explore creating a budget line for sponsorships. This will be discussed again at future Board meetings and will include the creation of guidelines as well as specific processes for implementation.
- Jessica Cleaver shared that she sent regrets to invitations for the Board to participate in the following organizational events: Bel Air Festival for the Arts, Havre de Grace Arts Show, and Upper Chesapeake Bay Pride.
- Two key decisions were made in the Grantmaking portion of this meeting agenda. First, the Board agreed by consensus that there will be no quarterly cap on the \$41,000.00 budget since some quarters may have a limited number of applicants with minimal funds being requested. Second, Bill Rothenbach moved and Sierra Keys provided the second to approve the following grant requests with the recommended caps: (a) The Havre de Grace Colored School--\$5,000.00; (b) Bakerfield Elementary School, Author

Lindsey Pope--\$250.00; (c) Bakerfield Elementary School, Rich Simpson--\$1,500.00; (d) Down Syndrome Association of Maryland--\$2,880.00; (e) Bakerfield Elementary School, Author Dr. Melissa Boyd--\$250.00; and (f) Ballet Chesapeake--\$5,000.00. This motion was approved with Gigi Devanney abstaining.

- Chuck Bowden reviewed the Maryland State Arts Council guidelines for grantees with multiple programs that apply for multiple grants. The guidelines allow one application per organization.
- The Board members reviewed the upcoming arts Happy Hours and reiterated their commitment to attending them as schedules permit. These upcoming Happy Hours are: (a) Visual and Literary Arts, September 7, 2023, Hopkins Farm Brewery; and (b) Singers and Instrumental, January 11, 2024, Das Bierhall.
- The Harford County Cultural Arts Board FY 24 Budget recommendation was deferred to the October 2, 2023 meeting,
- The next meeting of the full Harford County Cultural Arts Board will be held on October 2, 2023. This meeting will be held at the Abingdon Public Library.
- The meeting was formally concluded at 7:47 p.m. by Chuck Bowden.