Harford County Cultural Arts Board Meeting

Abingdon Branch of Harford County Public Library

Monday, March 6, 2023

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

Absent: Gig Devanney, Karen Heppen, and Erin Whipple. Jessica Boyle-Tsottles who represents the Harford County Council also was absent.

· The meeting was brought to order by Chuck Bowden at 6:08 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. Bill Rothenbach moved to approve these items and Peter McCallum provided the second. The consent agenda items were approved unanimously.

· The Harford Living Treasure nomination for Lawrason Sayre was examined. Peter McCallum moved to approve this nomination and Angie Sokolov provided the second. This motion was approved unanimously.

· The Board deliberated three Arts in Education grant requests. The first grant request was submitted by Bel Air High School—Performance Trip to Chesapeake Theatre. Chuck Bowden recused himself from the Bel Air High School grant deliberations because of being a faculty member there. Peter McCallum moved to approve this request and Chris Depkin provided the second. This grant request was approved unanimously.

By consensus, the next two grant requests, Southampton Middle School, was entitled "Making Student Voices Visible" and Woodberry Crossing—Nature Based/Nature Art Retreat, were discussed simultaneously due to their impact on the remaining budget allocation for Arts in Education Grants. Bill Rothenbach moved to approve the Southampton Middle School grant request and Christina McLoughlin provided the second. This grant request was approved unanimously.

Two areas of concern needing clarification were raised with the Woodberry Crossing grant request. These two areas were: (a) a wider audience of participants is strongly recommended and (b) the site for the conducted activities needs to be in Harford County. Christina McLoughlin moved that these two concerns be addressed and the

grant be resubmitted for the cost of supplies and time conducting and planning the arts activities. Bill Rothenbach provided the second. This motion was approved.

Finally, the Board recommended that no further Arts in Education grant requests be considered in the current budget year because all of the funds have been allocated.

· Jessica Cleaver stated that all current grant recipients have submitted their interim reports and will receive their final allocations. Bill Rothenbach suggested deferring the study of recipient compliance with Harford Cultural Arts Board award guidelines until Board liaisons are assigned for each grantee.

· Jessica Cleaver shared that the Harford County Tourism Grant is "on pause" for now and the status of the timeline is to be determined. Some of the Harford County Cultural Arts Board grant recipients are impacted by this decision because they receive partial funding from the Tourism Grant.

· The planned arts community happy hours following the Arts Gathering were discussed. Events are tentatively planned for early June (theater and dance), and October (visual arts), 2023, and January 2024(choral and musical arts). Potential happy hour venues also were explored.

· The Board agreed, by consensus, to apply for the second round of the ARGOS grants.

· Bill Rothenbach and Angie Sokolov agreed to serve as advisors for the planning details for the upcoming Arts Gathering. The Board reinforced that the advertising and marketing processes for the Arts Gathering begin immediately.

· Board members shared upcoming community arts events that will be occurring.

· The next meeting of the full Harford County Cultural Arts Board will be held on April 3, 2023. This meeting will be held at the Abingdon Public Library.

· The meeting was formally concluded at 7:25 p.m. by Chuck Bowden.