

Harford County Cultural Arts Board Zoom Meeting

Monday May 3, 2021

Present: Chuck Bowden (Chairperson), Jessica Cleaver (Coordinator), Emily Fadgen, Karen Heppen, Peter McCallum, Christina McLoughlin, Wendy Roberts, Angie Sokolov, Erin Whipple, Marcia Bailey, Gigi Devanney, Bill Rothenbach, Chris Depkin, Elizabeth Stevens, and Aurora Kahoe (legislative assistant for Councilman Chad Shrodes). We were also joined by Ken Skrzysz (executive director of The Maryland State Arts Council) and Steven Skerritt-Davis Deputy Director of the Maryland State Arts Council). Mary Hastler, joined the meeting about half way though.

Absent: Kelley Dilworth, Heidi Neff Chuffo, and Peter McCallum.

The meeting was brought to order by Chuck Bowden at 6:04 p.m..

- The Meeting began with Introductions. Spending some time to meet our 4 new Board members; Gigi Devanney, Bill Rothenbach, Chris Depkin, and Elizabeth Stevens.
- The meeting was then turned over to Ken Skrzysz and Steven Skerritt-Davis from The Maryland State Arts Council. Ken gave our Arts Board a thorough presentation on What the Maryland State Arts Council does and the Funding Big Picture. How the County Arts Organizations and State Organizations need to be getting the money out into the community and acting as a coach to Arts organizations around the area.

(This Slide show has been emailed to entire board)

Christina McLoughlin asked the question, “If an applicant had an issue or challenge with the county can they reach out to the State?” Steven Skerritt-Davis answered, “Yes.” And that it would be all confidential and of course the State would be willing to help and support.

- The consent agenda was then addressed. Karen Heppen moved to approve all three items and GiGi Devaney provided the second. The consent agenda items were approved unanimously.
- Jessica Cleaver explained to our new members of the board The Living Treasures Program and the role of the Arts Board in nominating these submissions for the Library archive. Jessica Cleaver then presented the Harford Living Treasure Nominations for Clarence J. Barnes, Doris (Gough) Carey, and Agnes E. (Presberry) Minor. Karen Heppen loved all these applications. Bill Rothenbach motioned to approve all three applications and Emily Fadgen provided the second. The Harford Living Treasure nominations were unanimously approved.
- Independent Artist Relief Grant requests for the following individuals: (a) Denise Carr; (b) Kelsey Kearney; (c) Ariel Pelayo; (d) Ariana Tharrington ; (e) Elizabeth Tilley; and (f) Eliner Tryon Eligin. After discussion the board decided to pull out Kearney, Tilly, and Tharrington for more discussion. Christina McLoughlin voted to approve, Carr, Pelayo, and Eligin’s grants, and this motion was seconded by Emily Fadgen. Gigi Devaney voiced concerns about Kelsey Kearney’s grant request. However, it was approved by Karen Heppen and seconded by Wendy Roberts. Ariana Tharrington was approved previously for an independent artist relief grant by this board. Christina McLoughlin voiced concern about this grant. Emily Fadgen made a motion to approve, and

Chris Depkin seconded the motion. Elizabeth Tilley's grant request was discussed by all. Bill Rothenbach voted to approved this grant and Christina McLoughlin acted as the second.

- Mary Hastler spoke to the board next about all the new projects happening at the library. The Aberdeen library is being renovated and a story garden and community art project is being added to that library. The Darlington library will also be getting a smaller update with an agricultural theme.
- Chuck Bowden spoke to the board about our grant review process. We will be breaking into small groups to do our grant reviews and those groups will be emailed to us around May 24th. On June 7th we will meet to discuss our reviews with our small groups. On June 16th the entire board will meet to discuss our reviews all together.
- Jessica Cleaver and the Board Officers will be conducting an orientation for new Board members (and any others who wish to join) in the next few weeks, look for dates in your email.
- The meeting was formally concluded at 7:52 p.m. by Chuck Bowden.