

Harford County Cultural Arts Board
Starlight Theatricals
Monday, October 3, 2022

Present: Chuck Bowden (Chairperson), Jessica Cleaver (Coordinator), Chris Depkin, Gigi Devanney, Karen Heppen, Sierra Keys, Peter McCallum, Christina McLoughlin, Angie Sokolov, and Erin Whipple. Aurora Kahoe who represents Councilman Chad Shrodes also was in attendance.

Absent: Emily Fadgen, Heidi Neff Chuffo, Wendy Roberts, Bill Rothenbach, and Elizabeth Stevens.

- 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 May 2, 2022 meeting minutes and the most current financial summary. Karen Heppen moved to approve these items and Gigi Devanney provided the second. The consent agenda items were approved unanimously.
- Jessica Cleaver reviewed three current Arts in Education Grant requests for additional discussion in preparation for voting. The Upper Chesapeake Bay Pride Tony Aye grant request is for \$300.00 and The Upper Chesapeake Bay Pride Dustin Dawn grant request is for \$125.00. Angie Sokolov moved to approve these two grants and Karen Heppen provided the second. Both grant requests were approved unanimously. Jessica Cleaver then sought clarification regarding what portions of the 84 Youth Theater grant request were eligible for approval consideration. Following an extended discussion, all of this grant request with the exception of the proposed \$500.00 stipend for the program director, was deemed to be eligible for funding. Peter McCallum moved to approve this grant request, minus the proposed stipend, and Christina McLoughlin provided the second. This grant request, as amended, was approved unanimously.
- Jessica Cleaver presented the Arts in Education Grant Program revision recommendations as proposed by the study committee. These proposed revisions were discussed for the purpose of achieving clarification and understanding. Gigi Devanney moved to approve these revisions and Erin Whipple provided the second. This motion was approved unanimously.
- Jessica Cleaver also proposed that the Community Arts Development Grants guideline language be reviewed for the purposes of maximizing clarity and ease of use for applicants. Karen Heppen suggested that the fundraiser language needs more specific clarification so applicants and reviewers know what activities are eligible for funding. Chris Depkin will review what was recommended from the 2021 study committee and present this information at the next Board meeting. Karen Heppen will read through the current guidelines, particularly the financial portion, through the perspective of an applicant to ascertain what language may need to be revised. Christina McLoughlin will research the definition of fundraiser, and Jessica will provide language from MSAC guidelines on this topic.
- The FY23 slate of Board officers was presented. Chuck Bowden accepted the nomination for chairperson, Angie Sokolov accepted the nomination as vice chair, and Peter

McCallum accepted the nomination as recording secretary. Erin Whipple moved to approve this slate of Board officers and Karen Heppen provided the second. This motion was approved unanimously.

- Jessica Cleaver reminded Board members about completing and submitting both the Board Agreement and the Conflict of Interest Disclosure in a timely manner. Many of these completed forms have been submitted already. She also requested Board members to contact her who are interested in serving on the membership committee to interview community members who are seeking to join the Board. Angie Sokolov agreed to continue to provide the leadership for this interview process.
- The Board was made aware of an announcement made on October 3, 2022 by the Maryland State Arts Council of a grant application that is due on October 31, 2022. Jessica Cleaver and Karen Heppen shared that the grant awards to local arts councils that apply could be significant. In the case of the Harford County Cultural Arts Board, even though the exact amount is still to be determined, it is possible that the award could be in the vicinity of \$120,00.00. Jessica Cleaver will investigate the potential award amount further. Because of the “tight” deadline, Jessica Cleaver polled Board members, regarding their opinions on applying for this grant. By unanimous consensus, the Board agreed that an application for this grant award should be submitted. Further discussion focused on potential uses for awarded funds for eligible arts organizations including increasing budgeted fund reserves and perhaps creating endowments. The Board requested that Jessica Cleaver continue to explore the state guidelines in preparation for submitting a grant request. Additional information regarding this grant application process will be forthcoming.
- A brief roundtable discussion was begun regarding sharing ideas for facilitating creative connections and utilizing the arts to build community. Jessica Cleaver recorded the ideas that were presented. This roundtable discussion will continue at the next Board meeting and the ideas shared from this evening’s Board meeting will be reviewed. Initial ideas presented included: (a) investigating the frequency and format of future Arts Gathering functions and (b) encouraging Board members to emphasize the presence of the Harford County Cultural Arts Board by attending events sponsored by the various arts organizations that receive grant funding.
- Aurora Kahoe announced that Councilman Chad Shrodes is in the process of completing a Harford County Living Treasure nomination for Gene Umbarger. She requested that Board members be allowed to vote on the completed nomination, virtually, sometime during the next two weeks. By consensus, the Board agreed to this request.
- The next meeting of the full Harford County Cultural Arts Board will be held on November 7, 2022. This meeting will be held at Starlight Theatrical in Whiteford. Chuck Bowden is exploring a restaurant venue for the January 9, 2023 annual Board dinner meeting.
- The meeting was formally concluded at 7:36 p.m. by Chuck Bowden.