

**Harford County Cultural Arts Board  
February 6, 20123 Meeting  
Abingdon Library Meeting Room**

Present: Bill Rothenbach, Mary Hastler, Heidi Neff Chuffo, Karen Heppen, Christina McLoughlin, Erin Feeney, Chris Depkin, Gigi Devanney, Jessica Cleaver, Chuck Bowden

Absent: Elizabeth Stevens, Jessica Boyle Tsottles, Angie Sokolov, Peter McCallum

Consent Agenda

- Chris made a motion to approve and Bill seconded, motion approved

Grantmaking

- Arts in Education
  - The Ward Y in Abingdon provided more information....experience the bible in new ways and through various artistic expressions
    - **Bill made a motion that the grant be funded as requested and the motion failed**
    - A discussion ensued and it was confirmed that public funding can be used towards religious-themed programming, with several precedents shared
    - How do we define 'quality arts experience' ?
    - **Bill made a motion to fund as requested (after further discussion)**
      - **Motion passed with 1 opposed and 2 abstained**
    - **It was generally agreed that Guidelines should be revised to ensure experiences are quality art experiences**
  - Blacktastic program for Edgewood Middle School and Hall's Cross Roads Elementary School – Karen made a motion and Bill seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
- CAD Grant Guidelines Updates
  - Minimal updates (definition of fundraising and grammar) but otherwise unchanged. Prior to publication and acceptance of applications,
  - **Bill made a motion to approve and Karen seconded. Passed unanimously**
- Chuck shared his understanding of the concerns about changes to the Portal Website, as discussed at the January 9 meeting \* *edits by Jessica added below*
  - Changing the numbering on the form, eliminating/consolidating questions is doable, but will have a ripple effect within the portal – *which is the official archive of all grant-related information*
  - This would *affect* how a previous grantee, *Cultural Arts Board staff, CAB member, or a review panelist* accesses *past applications* that may lead to *confusion and incorrect/incomplete recordkeeping.*
  - There is value in streamlining however, Chuck posed a question to the board - how urgently do we want to address these issues, knowing broader changes may be coming for the board?
  - **Discussion about timing and the nature of the changes followed. The group agreed we should revisit the changes and the June 5 meeting. No one opposed. A heartfelt thanks to Chris for her work on this!**

Finance Committee

- Recommendations to Utilize Arts Relief Funding
  - Greater leeway for how to utilize funds per MSAC caused a small group to meet to define how the approx. \$95k should be used
  - **Recommendation from the group is to keep the funds as cash reserve, for future opportunities, expenses of the Cultural Arts Board, or to distribute if the granting amount from the State drops, as examples.** The group would like to title these funds in a way that ensures they will be used in support of the arts, no matter what changes come to the board.
  - Karen noted nonprofits and granting organizations are moving towards keeping reserved funds **and this approach is aligned with MSAC guidelines**
  - **Gigi moved to accept the small group's recommendations and Chris seconded. Unanimously approved.**

#### Programs

- Harford 250 Sponsorship
  - Jessica shared the Board's offer to fund artists who participate in the program of events. Harford 250 was planning to fund a small honorarium, agreed a larger honorarium was best practices.
  - The total cost is just under \$5,000. They are requesting \$2,800 contribution.
  - This will be treated as a sponsorship vs a grant
  - **Chris moved to fund the requested \$2,800 and Christina seconded. Unanimously approved.**

#### Mary Hastler's Update

- The new Administration is interested and, per a call from the Deputy Director of Economic Development, would like pursue bringing the Arts Board back under County Council Jurisdiction, potentially under tourism vs the auspices of the Library as it has been
- These are changes being considered for July 1<sup>st</sup>, and the new Fiscal Year

Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm