

# Harford County Cultural Arts Board

## Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, November 11, 2020

Present: Chuck Bowden (Chairperson), Jessica Cleaver (Coordinator), Emily Fadgen, Karen Heppen, Peter McCallum, Christina McLoughlin, Heidi Neff Chuffo, Jared Noe, Wendy Roberts, Angie Sokolov, and Erin Whipple,

Absent: Marcia Bailey, Kelley Dilworth, Laura Ward-Moran, and Aurora Kahoe (legislative assistant for Councilman Chad Shrodes).

- The meeting was brought to order by Chuck Bowden at 6:02 p.m..
- The consent agenda was the first meeting topic addressed. This consisted of the following three items—the October 5, 2020 meeting minutes, the most recent financial summary, and the Coordinator’s Report. Peter McCallum moved to approve all three items and Karen Heppen provided the second. The consent agenda items were approved unanimously.
- The Independent Artist Relief Grant applications for Derek Pentz and Andrea Sauer were discussed. Peter McCallum moved that they be approved as presented and Christina McLoughlin provided the second. Both of these grant applications were approved unanimously.
- The Harford County Living Treasure nomination for James McMahan was presented. Peter McCallum moved that nomination be approved and Angie Sokolov provided the second. This motion was approved unanimously.
- Due to the recent resignations of Pam Burton and Renee Johnson, there are now two vacancies on the Harford County Cultural Arts Board. Jessica Cleaver reported that there has been abundant interest in this position and currently there are eight individuals who have expressed a desire to serve. She anticipates that even more individuals will apply. A small team of current Board members will be organized to deliberate questions to ask the interested candidates. Informal virtual meetings will be held in December, 2020 between this team and each candidate. This will give both parties an opportunity to engage in a dialogue about Board responsibilities and expectations, interview each other, and ask questions in addition to those developed by the Board team. Angie Sokolov volunteered to chair this team and asked that interested Board members contact her by Thanksgiving if they would like to serve. Peter McCallum and Christina McLoughlin advocated for the development of selection criteria that will help document the rationale for those candidates who are finally recommended by the Harford Cultural Arts Board and are recommended to the Harford County Executive, who will present his appointees to the Harford County Council for final approval. As part of this discussion, Jessica Cleaver described a matrix of Board member attributes she has seen that can be incorporated into the selection criteria.

- Jessica Cleaver shared that the Harford County Cultural Arts Board has been awarded \$50,000.00 in Emergency Grant Funding from the Maryland State Arts Council. Christina McLoughlin moved that \$5,000.00 be regranted to each of the ten currently funded Harford County Arts organizations. As part of this motion, each organization will be asked to state how additional funds would be used should they be made available. Emily Fadgen provided the second. This motion was approved unanimously.
- An extended discussion was conducted regarding whether the Harford County Cultural Arts Board should apply for additional Emergency Funding that is available from the Maryland State Arts Council. In addition, the purposes for using these funds was discussed. By consensus, the Board endorsed pursuing this additional funding. Christina McLoughlin recommended the following two points for consideration. First, any Maryland nonprofit may apply to fund hiring a Harford County-based gig artist, a cap of 10-15% of administrative costs to cover items such as booking and artists fees should be established. Second, Harford County-based arts organizations may apply to re-employ, or temporarily contract any staff that have been furloughed. The Board concurred with these two recommendations.
- Jessica Cleaver made the Board aware that the Maryland State Arts Council has waived the matching requirement for the County Arts Development Grant for 2021. Karen Heppen moved that the Harford County Cultural Arts Board extend this waiver to all the following outgoing grants: (a) General Operating; (b) Arts Programming; and (c) Arts in Education. Peter McCallum provided the second. This motion was approved unanimously.
- The Board discussed the Maryland State Arts Council's recent loosening of restrictions on Arts in Education grants usage. Consensus was reached that Title I schools will receive priority in this area and that other schools will be considered based upon their stated needs.
- Several suggestions for consideration were offered by Board members regarding how to link grantmaking to IDEA (Inclusion Diversity Equity Access principles). In review, the Harford County Cultural Arts Board approved that this be an integral part of the application process in August, 2020. Suggestions discussed and endorsed included: (a) add a question within the grant application to ask applicants how this is topic being addressed; (b) provide guidance to applicants to address this topic where it naturally occurs throughout the entire application; (c) include a specific IDEA statement in the grant proposal along with criteria that highlight expectations; and (d) require each applicant to state the diversity goals for their organization and board structure. Jessica Cleaver will move forward with incorporating these endorsed suggestions into a prototype grant application for the Board to review and provide critique.
- The next meeting of the full Board will be held on November 18, 2020. The specific purposes for this meeting are to vote on the grant request funding recommendations from each review panel and to receive a Celebrating Diversity update. On December 7, 2020 the Board will meet to begin working on the Celebrating Diversity initiative. Both

meetings will be held virtually unless the current Covid-19 restrictions are rescinded. If this occurs, meetings will be held at the Bel Air branch of the Harford County Public Library.

- The meeting was formally concluded at 7:44 p.m. by Chuck Bowden.