

# Harford County Cultural Arts Board

## Zoom Meeting

Monday, December 7, 2020

Present: Chuck Bowden (Chairperson), Jessica Cleaver (Coordinator), Kelley Dilworth, Emily Fadgen, Karen Heppen, Peter McCallum, Christina McLoughlin, Heidi Neff Chuffo, Wendy Roberts, Angie Sokolov, Laura Ward-Moran, Erin Whipple, and Aurora Kahoe (legislative assistant for Councilman Chad Shrodes). Mary Hastler also attended this meeting.

Absent: Marcia Bailey and Jared Noe.

- The meeting was brought to order by Chuck Bowden at 6:09 p.m..
- The consent agenda was the first meeting topic addressed. This consisted of the following three items—the November 11, 2020 meeting minutes, the most recent financial summary, and the Coordinator’s Report. Peter McCallum moved to approve all three items and Angie Sokolov provided the second. The consent agenda items were approved unanimously.
- The Independent Artist Relief Grant applications for McKenzie Horseman, Kenneth Reid, Spenser Shanahan, Brynn Shanahan, Jessica Treherne, and Patrick Yarrington were considered and discussed. Peter McCallum moved and Heidi Neff Chuffo provided the second to approve the grant request for McKenzie Horseman and Brynn Shanahan. This motion was approved. Angie Sokolov moved and Karen Heppen provided the second to approve the grant requests for Kenneth Reid, Jessica Treherne, and Patrick Yarrington. This motion was approved. The Board reached consensus to postpone the approval of the grant request for Spenser Shanahan until more clarification was received regarding her income status. Jessica Cleaver will follow up to secure the most accurate information for this grant request so it can be considered for approval.
- Angie Sokolov reported that there are six candidates interested in the two Board positions that are available. The Membership subcommittee is in the process of formulating questions for the upcoming interviews that will be conducted in early January, 2021. A survey will be sent to Board members, to be completed and submitted by December 21, 2020. Board members will be asked to self-identify the attributes that describe themselves, in order to create a “snapshot” of the current Board makeup. The goal of the Membership subcommittee is to present its recommendation for the two candidates who can help the Board achieve a more well-rounded membership with diversity in perspective, representation, community connections, arts connections, and strengths at the February, 2021 Board meeting for consideration and an approval vote. If approved, the names of the two successful candidates will be forwarded to the County Council for final approval.
- Jessica Cleaver shared that the Harford County Cultural Arts Board has received approval from the Maryland State Arts Council to receive the most recent Emergency

Funding Block Grant. This will allow Harford County Cultural Arts Board to create a new grant program, as discussed at a recent meeting. To be eligible to apply for grant funding, organizations must be based in Harford County or employ Harford County artists. She also reported that all Harford County Cultural Arts Board grant procedures and timelines are “rolling out” on schedule.

- A status report of the Harford County Cultural Arts Board “Unity Project” proposal was presented. Three immediate goals were shared. First, an email will be sent to local organizations inviting input via a quick 5 question survey by January 15, 2021. It will also be shared more widely via our distribution list and social media. Those targeted organizations will be contacted directly by Board members during February to encourage participation. The feedback received will inform a “Call for Art” to be published by March 1, 2021. Ratification of the vision document and proposed actions were moved by Peter McCallum, seconded by Karen Heppen, and approved. “Talking points” were shared, to enable the Board to effectively communicate the “Unity Project” goals and guidelines in follow-up phone conversations with organizations. The “Unity Project” committee will meet again in the near future to plan for this Board meeting discussion.
- The next meeting of the full Board will be held on January 4, 2021. This meeting 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 7:15 p.m. by Chuck Bowden.