

# Harford County Cultural Arts Board

## Zoom Meeting

Monday, March 1, 2021

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

Absent: Jared Noe, 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 February 1, 2021 meeting minutes, the most current financial summary, and the Coordinator’s Report. Karen Heppen moved to approve all three items and Peter McCallum provided the second. The consent agenda items were approved unanimously.
- Chuck Bowden presented a board membership update report. Both Jared Noe and Laura Ward-Moran have resigned from the Harford County Cultural Arts Board for personal reasons. The board accepted their resignations with regret. Angie Sokolov presented an overview of the interview process for the six candidates who had applied for serving as new board members. The four candidates recommended by the interview committee to the board for approval are Bill Rothenbach, Gigi Devanney, Chris Depkin, and Elizabeth Lane-Stevens. After discussing these candidates’ credentials and strengths, the interview committee shared that all six candidates were exceptionally well-qualified. Karen Heppen moved to approve all four candidates and Peter McCallum provided the second. This motion was passed unanimously. The next step is for these four candidates’ names to be forwarded to the County Executive’s Office for his review.
- By consensus, the Project Unity progress briefing and discussion was deferred to the April 5, 2021 Board meeting.
- The Independent Artist Relief Grant applications were examined and discussed for the following nine individuals: Ezra Berger, Katelyn Blomquist, Jereaux Embry, Rosemari Kelly, Antonio Moore, Thomas Phelan, Kevin Quantmeyer, Shaun Riley, and Ariana Tharrington. Peter McCallum moved that each artist grant application be awarded \$1,000.00. Karen Heppen provided the second. This motion passed unanimously.
- Jessica Cleaver gave an update on the Covid Supplemental Grant for Arts Organizations applications. Currently, all ten organizations responded with nine submitting requests and one declining. After discussing the budget situation, the board agreed that all ten organizations would be receive their requested amount and also be offered the opportunity to request additional monies in a “Round Two of Covid-19 Supplemental Grants for Fiscal Year 21.”

- Jessica Cleaver provided a status report on the Harford County Cultural Arts Board budget. All current CAD grants have been disbursed at 75% at this point. Arts in Education grants had not been promoted this year, as schools are not in session full-time yet. The Independent Artist grants have been disbursed at an 80% rate with \$16,000.00 out of \$20,000.00 allotted as of January 31, 2021. By June 30, 2021, all funds must be disbursed. Karen Heppen supported the judicious use of any remaining unspent funds to ensure that organizations are able to meet their fiscal demands that might not be able to address should the state allocation be reduced. Board members were asked to reflect upon how the remaining funds in the Harford County Cultural Arts Board budget should be allocated by June 30, 2021. While numerous potential options were considered during a lengthy discussion, final decisions regarding this budget topic will be made at the April 5, 2021 Board meeting.
- The next meeting of the full Harford County Cultural Arts Board will be held on April 5, 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 7:53 p.m. by Chuck Bowden.