

## Harford County Cultural Arts Board Zoom Meeting Monday, May 4, 2020

Present: Chuck Bowden (Chairperson), Jessica Cleaver (Coordinator), Marcia Bailey, Pam Burton, Kelley Dilworth, Emily Fadgen, Renee Johnson, Karen Heppen, Peter McCallum, Christina McLoughlin, Heidi Neff Chuffo, Jared Noe, Wendy Roberts, Angie Sokolov, Laura Ward-Moran, Erin Whipple, and Aurora Kahoe (legislative assistant for Councilman Chad Shrodes).

Absent: None.

The meeting was brought to order by Chuck Bowden at 6:05 p.m..

The consent agenda was the first meeting topic addressed. This consisted of the following three items—the April 6, 2020 meeting minutes, the financial summary as of March 31, 2020, and the Coordinator’s Report. Heidi Neff Chuffo moved to approve all three items and Karen Heppen provided the second. The consent agenda items were approved unanimously.

Regarding the emergency relief grants for artist applications, Jessica Cleaver will serve as the sole gatekeeper to verify that applicants are Harford County residents. The personal and financial information that Jessica Cleaver obtains from applicants will remain confidential with her. Currently, she also is working to clarifying the application language to specifically outline who can apply for this emergency relief grant.

By consensus, the Board granted Jessica Cleaver discretion and flexibility to determine proof of residency of emergency relief grant applicants. Two specific items she may use to verify residency are a photo identification or a utility bill. Other proof of residency documents may be used as needed.

Jessica Cleaver encouraged Board members to “spread the word” among their artistic contacts about the availability of the emergency relief grants.

The issue of whether Board members or their immediate family and household members are eligible to apply for and receive emergency relief grant funds was discussed. Peter McCallum moved and Jared Noe provided the second that Board members and their immediate and household and family are not eligible to apply for and receive these grant funds. This motion was approved.

For the first round of emergency relief grant applications, 26 were received, 3 did not make it to the review process, 3 were not approved, and 20 were reviewed and recommended for approval. Jared Noe moved and Pam Burton provided the second that all 20 recommended grant recipients be fully funded at \$1,000.00 each. This motion passed unanimously. The checks will be issued as soon as possible and Mary Hastler advised the Board that every effort will be made to accomplish this in an expeditious manner. Jessica Cleaver will publicize an announcement for the second round of grant request submissions. The timeline for second-round submissions will be open for at least twelve (12) days until May 25, 2020.

For both FY 2020 and 2021 grants, we must communicate to recipients an acknowledgement that circumstances related to the current Covid-19 situation might cause their stated activities and plans to be altered. Grant recipients will be strongly encouraged to include at least a potential Plan B “pivot” proposal. It was recommended that our grant application documents contain a section that explicitly states the need for a Plan B “pivot” proposal where applicants will specifically outline how this will be addressed.

Regarding possible new models for upcoming grant requests, applicants should be encouraged to integrate creativity and flexibility in their proposals. One predominant theme to be highlighted is how the arts can promote health. Additionally, perhaps applicants can collaborate with other agencies to create cross-disciplinary arts initiatives/projects.

Board members were asked to reflect on how to best use the funds from the MSAC FY21 grant – the budget will be on the June agenda.

The meeting was formally adjourned by Chuck Bowden at 7:33 p.m.. By consensus, the June 1, 2020 Board meeting date was verified. This meeting will be conducted remotely.