



BALTIMORE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS, INC.
BOARD MEETING - Thursday, December 5, 2019 - 9AM
MINUTES

Attending: Michael Davenport, Anana Kambon, Brian Lyles, Franklin McNeil, Jeffrey Pillas and Laurie Rush

Staff Attending: CEO Donna Drew Sawyer, Tony Covington, Barbara Cyrus, Jocquelyn Downs, Rosalind Healy, Lenora Henry, Kathleen Hornig, Brian Wentz

Special Guest: Ken Skrzysz, Maryland State Arts Council

Absent: Tom Crawford, E. Scott Johnson, Jack Lewin, Paula Rome, Michael Shecter

Special Guest Ken Skrzysz

Anana Kambon, Board President, welcomed Ken Skrzysz, Executive Director of the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) who explained how MSAC supports the Baltimore Arts Council and Arts Councils across the State of Maryland.

- Ken informed BOPA board members that he and his colleague are meeting with all 24 arts councils around the state to learn more about them and identify opportunities to strengthen State/Local partnerships.
- The Maryland State Arts Council (MSCA) is updating the application process for grants to be more inclusive with local community needs.
- MSCA plans to institute a Professional Development grant which will launch in February 2020 and will include webinars.
- The Maryland State Arts Council will hold an Arts summit at UMBC in 2020.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- The Minutes from the September 26, 2019 meeting were approved and adopted as final.

Arts Council Report - Jocquelyn Downs, Arts Council Director

- The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Program completed the 2019-2020 application process. BOPA received 3,500 submissions with 25% from Baltimore City.
- Jocquelyn expressed thanks to Board Members who donated to support the Scholastic program.
- The Board discussed strategies for additional Scholastic sponsorships.

Festival and Events Report – Kathy Hornig

- Brilliant Baltimore and Light City/Book Festival surveys have been distributed. Informal feedback suggests that Brilliant Baltimore events were well received. The events include:
 - Free Fall Baltimore
 - Combined Light City/Baltimore Book Festival
 - Farmer’s Market and Bazaar
- Kathy announced that we received positive feedback about the combined Light City/Baltimore Book Festival. She also stated:
 - Given that this was the first combined festival, there was a learning curve with aligning the Baltimore Book Festival and Light City. Surveys and additional conversation will provide helpful information for planning 2020 festivals and events.
 - The French and Netherlands Embassies attended our festival and expressed interest in partnering with BOPA for future festivals.
 - This year there were Neighborhood Lights events in 20 neighborhoods including Central and neighborhood library branches. The programs were fun, however, this aspect of the festival should receive better marketing.
- BOPA will provide support services for the Downtown Partnership Annual Monument Lighting on December 5.
- BOPA will end the year preparing for the annual New Year’s Eve Celebration

Other Business

- There being no additional new business, a motion to end the meeting was made and seconded.

Anana Kambon adjourned the meeting at 9:52 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Barbara Cyrus
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December 6, 2019
Date