

Arts Council Grants, Maryland State Arts Council, Department of Commerce

\$5.0 Million (T00G00.05)

Purpose: Recovery Now Funding

The Council shall provide emergency art grants to artists, art districts, and art organizations. Organizations that have not received prior funding from the Council or that do not qualify for funding under other Council programs will receive priority.

March 10, 2021 - Program Highlights and Plans to Allocate Remaining Balance:

- As of March 3, 2021, MSAC has:
 - Developed guidelines, grant applications, review rubrics, and the review process for grants to independent artists and arts organizations;
 - Had guidelines and review rubrics reviewed and approved by the AAG; and
 - Set the application launch for March 5, with a deadline of April 1, 2021.
- Commerce is currently developing outreach and marketing strategies and materials to ensure the program reaches as many businesses as possible with the goal of providing equitable distribution of these funds across a diverse group of business owners and regions. Commerce has sent out the first alert of the program on Wednesday, March 3, to over 30,000 businesses, business groups, community organizations, advocacy groups, economic development professionals, and elected officials.
 - MSAC followed up and sent an email out to these groups alerting them that the application is now open on March 5.

March 10, 2021 - Programmatic and/or Implementation Issues:

- MSAC and DHCD discussed concerns over eligibility crossover between MSAC RELIEF Act grants and DHCD MD-SERI grant regarding performance venue organizations. It was decided that venues would be eligible for both MSAC and DHCD RELIEF Act programs, but MSAC will take into account whether a venue received MD-SERI funding from DHCD when making RELIEF Act funding awards, and DHCD will take into account whether a venue has received a MSAC RELIEF Act grant when making its RELIEF Act grants. To assist DHCD, MSAC will regularly provide DHCD lists of awardees under the RELIEF Act grant.

March 10 - Distribution of Funds:

- MSAC plans to begin distributing funds in early May.