

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

\$5.0 Million (T00G00.05)

The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) is an agency of the Department of Commerce that plays an essential role, ensuring every person has access to the transformative power of the arts. MSAC's mission is to advance the arts in our state by providing leadership that champions creative expression, diverse programming, equitable access, lifelong learning, and the arts as a celebrated contributor to the quality of life for all the people of Maryland.

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 24 - Program Highlights and Plans to Allocate Remaining Balance:

- Commerce began its outreach and marketing strategies 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 drafted and posted online: program eligibility, guidelines, and application requirements Tuesday, March 15, 2021.
 - Commerce has sent out the second alert of the program on March 16, 2021 to over 30,000 businesses, business groups, community organizations, advocacy groups, economic development professionals, and elected officials.
- MSAC opened applications for RELIEF Act funding on March 5, 2021, with a deadline of April 1, 2021.
- Staff held a virtual question and answer session on March 10th, 2021 at 2 p.m. that included 145 participants.
- As of March 17, 2021, 370 applications had been submitted and over 600 additional applications were in draft status.
- Reviews of submitted applications will begin on March 22, 2021, and all funding decisions will be made after the April 1, 2021 deadline.

March 24 - Programmatic and/or Implementation Issues:

- None to report.

March 24 - Distribution of Funds:

- MSAC plans to begin distributing funds in early May.