

Delaware State Arts Council Meeting Minutes  
September 19, 2018  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
The Music School of Delaware – Milford

**Attending:** Council: Tina Betz, Donna Blakey, Janis Julian, John Muller, Michael Quattrociocchi, Rosetta Roach, Daniel Shelton

Staff: Paul Weagraff, Sheila Ross, Kristin Pleasanton, Dana Wise, Roxanne Stanulis, Katie West, Leeann Wallett, Gwen Henderson

Public: Amos Fayette (Music School of DE), Sara Pletcher (Downtown Milford, Inc.), Kris Knight (Deputy Secretary of State)

**Absent:** Mack Wathen (Chair), Madeleine Bayard, David Fleming, Andrew Horgan, Michael Kalmbach, Mary Ann Miller, Heather Morrissey, Cheryle Pringle

Mr. Quattrociocchi called the meeting to order at 10am.

**Motion to approve minutes from June 20, 2018 council meeting by Tina Betz – Second by Donna Blakey – All in favor – None opposed.**

**Chair’s Report – Michael Quattrociocchi (sitting in for Mack Wathen)**

Mr. Quattrociocchi reported that Donna Blakey, Michael Kalmbach, Mary Ann Miller, Madeleine Bayard and Michael Quattrociocchi have all been appointed to a second term on the council.

Mack Wathen sent a note that the UD Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is holding a series of Friday lectures and on October 19<sup>th</sup> David Kozinski, a 2018 DE Artist Fellow in poetry, will be presenting in the Arsht Hall from 12:45p – 1:45pm.

This weekend Milford is having the Lady Bug Festival, which is a significant event, not only for Milford, but also for the state. Hopefully some Council members will be able to attend.

**Amos Fayette – Director of The Music School of DE**

Mr. Fayette expressed his thanks for having the DSAC meeting here. The Music School appreciates it and is honored. He also expressed thanks for the Division’s support of the Music School of Delaware. This building would not have been possible without the support of the state, individuals, and business all coming together and helping out.

The Milford Branch of the Music School started last year with 127 students and now has an enrollment of 215, with expectations that the number will grow even more. The Milford Branch also experienced wonderful new and fruitful partnerships – thanks to Dr. Shelton for allowing the Music School to come into schools in the Capital School District. New for this year - after a lot of planning, the Milford Branch has come up with something called the Mispillion Café beginning on October 6<sup>th</sup>. It will be the first Saturday of every month. The school will be kicking it off with a salon concert where Mr. Fayette will be performing short pieces, and the following month will be a lecture about options in the field of music beyond performing and teaching. Later in the year, possible program plans include Drum Circle Happy Hour – a way to engage our adult population. The school is also going to move all performances into the new

space. For the first time, the Milford Branch will be able to use their own space, thanks to the Division's help.

**Sara Pletcher - Downtown Milford Inc. (DMI)**

DMI was established back in the 90's as a nonprofit that focuses on the revitalization and beautification of downtown. Unlike how a chamber works, DMI is a main street organization - nationally accredited. As long as a business fits within the geographic boundaries, DMI will partner and assist with marketing. DMI just went through a strategic planning process 2018–2021 and developed a 3-year plan that was approved by the board in May. DMI has four committees that have anywhere from 5–15 volunteers, and one paid staff person. All others are volunteers. DMI's committees focus on the promotion of downtown through the events with the Marketing and Advertising Committee; the Organization Committee focuses on getting volunteers and fundraising; the Economic Vitality Committee recruits businesses and makes sure small businesses stay here; the Design Committee focuses on beautification.

The Tourism, Arts, Downtown Development (TADD) initiative is a collaborative effort between Delaware and Maryland and is all about arts in the community. Sixteen to twenty different communities are a part of it. [Eatdrinkbuyart.com](http://Eatdrinkbuyart.com) is their website marketing campaign.

**Kris Knight – Deputy Secretary of State**

Mr. Knight shared with the Council that the Delaware State Arts Council does good work in the sustainability and support of the community overall. He commended Mr. Weagraff and the staff on doing a good job of managing the Division of the Arts. This is the first time he attended a DDOA council meeting.

In relating to economic development, the Department of State's Division of Small Business Office has invested in technology with Master Card for a retail space initiative for small businesses. Basically, the technology maps out the entire country to show areas with similar demographics and what worked for them to grow. It is a real-time database that will show a given block and what spaces are doing well, based on an algorithm through Master Card about spending trends & sales. Users can look and see what the 'hotspots' are in certain areas, economics that make a given area run or not run. Delaware is one of the first governments to sign up. The goal is to use it to inform government offices, councils and offshoots of government, especially dealing with granting, to help make better and more informed decisions. The goal is to award grants to meet needs, rather than just on a first-come-first-served.

**Director's Report – Paul Weagraff**

**Partnership News**

Both houses of Congress have approved \$155 million in funding for the NEA for next year, a \$2 million increase from the current fiscal year. Certain policy riders in the bill have to be resolved before the bill can be voted on. Senator Coons is on a conference committee responsible for working out a revised bill. Earlier in the year, the Trump Administration had proposed the elimination of the National Endowments for the Arts, Humanities, and Institute for Museum and Library Services.

The Division of the Arts recently submitted its full application to the NEA. A panel review process in early 2019 will forward recommendations to the National Council on the Arts. Awards will be announced in spring 2019, based on the state's population, service to underserved populations, and arts education programming.

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation has announced the film lineup for the 2018-2019 season of its On Screen/In Person program, bringing new films and their directors to communities throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Light Up the Queen hosts these films in Delaware.

In addition, three touring programs will come to Delaware as part of the 2018-2019 Mid-Atlantic Tours program: chamber choir The Crossing and contemporary band M is Black Enough to the Delaware Art Museum; and folk musician Kaia Kater to the Arden Concert Guild and Freeman Stage at Bayside.

NASAA's 2018 conference will be held in Baltimore on November 1-3, 2018. Representing the Division and Council will be Paul Weagraff, Kristin Pleasanton, Sheila Ross (AIE pre-conference), Leeann Wallett (Communications peer group), Mack Wathen, and Tina Betz. This year's theme focuses on engagement and inclusion. Kristin Pleasanton will be part of a presentation called "Flashes of Inspiration."

### **Recognition of Fellowship Artists**

This year marked the first year that Fellowship artists were presented in all three counties. Roxanne Stanulis and Ryan Grover (Biggs Museum) coordinated exhibitions and events at the Biggs Museum, Camp Rehoboth, and Cab Calloway School of the Arts.

### **Technology Projects**

The Division's new grants management system, SmartSimple.com, went live in mid-July. With the exception of artist fellowship applications, all grants, final reports, and panel review processes are now available on [smartde.SmartSimple.com](http://smartde.SmartSimple.com), including Poetry Out Loud registration, Summit registration (in 2019). Artist Fellowships will be added in 2019.

### **First Quarter FY2019 Rolling Grants Awarded** (see list)

- Arts Access: 4 grants, \$3,500
- Special Project: 6 grants, \$40,300

### **For your calendar**

November 1-3, 2018      NASAA conference in Baltimore

December 12, 2018      State Arts Council Meeting, New Castle County (TBD),  
10 a.m. to noon

### **Update on grants**

- DE All State Theater has declined the GOS grant – the organization is being dissolved.
  - o The funds will be used for other ongoing grant categories – ex: TransPARTation, Artist Residencies, etc.
- Chapel Street Players declined their ASF grant to fix the roof – they are exploring larger spaces.
  - o the ASF funds will go back in the "pot" for next year.

### **Katie West**

Ms. West did a brief walk-through of the new [SmartDE](#) system - demonstrating how to register for events and how to nominate panelists and onsite evaluators. She gave a quick tour of what it looks like when you login and complete an onsite evaluation, as well as demonstrating the steps for reviewing an application, which some council members who participate in panel reviews will be doing next spring. Ms. West conducted two workshops in each county, demonstrating how to apply for a grant, using SmartDE, and created a 30-minute video that is posted on the Division's website in the [Grant Overview](#) page.

### **Kristin Pleasanton**

Ms. Pleasanton reported that the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) put out a call to all states to submit ideas for the Flashes of Inspiration program. Submissions were to be modeled after the [PechaKucha Design](#) – a five-minute presentation, exactly 20 slides, each 15 seconds long. She then demonstrated a rough draft of the Division’s presentation – focusing on the partnership with the Division of Libraries Summer Reading Program. This year’s theme at the NASAA conference is engagement, inclusiveness, and diversity, the Ms. Pleasanton included those aspects into her presentation. Twelve projects were selected for presentation at the upcoming conference in November.

**Public Comment - None**

**Old Business – None**

**New Business – None**

**Motion to adjourn meeting at 11:36am by Mike Quattrocciochi – Second by Dan Shelton - All in Favor.**

**Following the meeting, Council and staff toured Mispillion Art League and Second Street Players before returning to the Music school for lunch.**