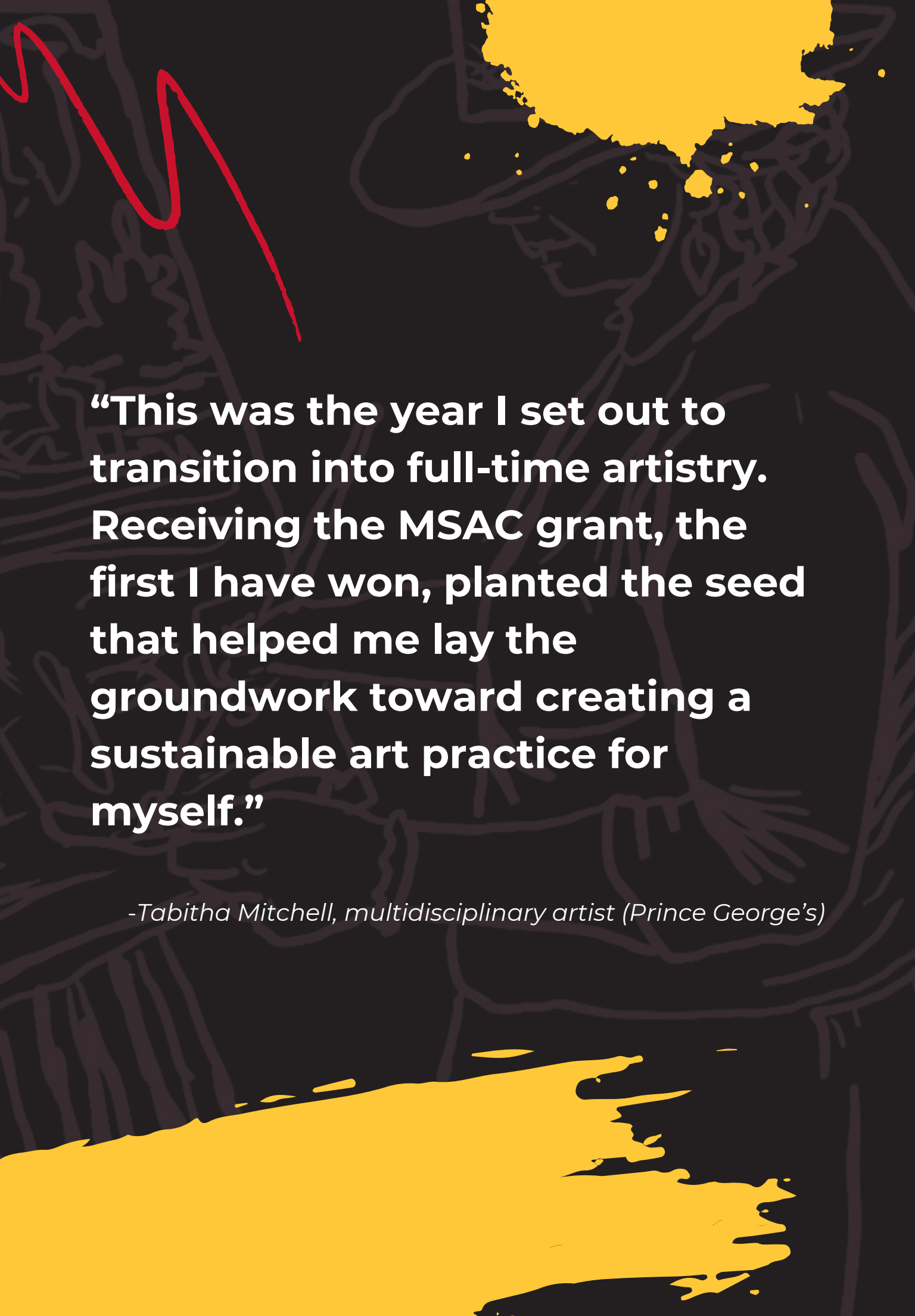




DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE maryland state arts council

# Annual Report

FY 2025



**“This was the year I set out to transition into full-time artistry. Receiving the MSAC grant, the first I have won, planted the seed that helped me lay the groundwork toward creating a sustainable art practice for myself.”**

*-Tabitha Mitchell, multidisciplinary artist (Prince George's)*

# SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Fellow Marylanders:

As I travel across the state to meet the executives, elected officials, and entrepreneurs that power our economy, I am excited to see the contributions of the arts sector and the impact of the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) at every stop. A traveler never has to go far before encountering the next mural, gallery, or theatre, many of which received support from MSAC.

During my first six months of service, I have had the pleasure of visiting the Arts & Entertainment Districts in Baltimore City, Dorchester, Frederick, Prince George's, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties. Each of these sites exhibited great art that reflected the history and spirit of their communities.

In Maryland, we recognize the importance of investing in the arts. In addition to generating a statewide economic impact of almost \$1 billion, a strong arts sector provides important community services, fosters inbound tourism, spurs positive health outcomes, and contributes to a high quality of life that's attractive to those considering relocation.

I hope you'll join me in celebrating Maryland's rich and diverse arts landscape, and in taking a moment to browse the following pages for stories about how MSAC has helped make your community a more inviting place to call home.

Sincerely,

**Harry Coker, Jr.**  
**Secretary**  
**Department of Commerce**



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Access, awareness, connection, equity, and leadership: those are the five pillars of the strategic plan MSAC released last year.

Some might label strategic planning as just another administrative step. However, we're proud of our new plan, because it truly encompasses the kind of public service that we provide.

We strive to create policies that make arts resources accessible to all Marylanders. We craft communications that raise awareness about the incredible stories coming from the arts sector. In the field, our team fosters collaboration by connecting artists and organizations from all backgrounds. We practice equity by meeting people where they are, whether they're first-time grantseekers or experienced administrators. And we maintain a commitment to leadership, both as a model to our constituents, and as learners who are always seeking opportunities to improve.

Through it all, we value a spirit of cooperation—among the dedicated MSAC staff who carry our work forward, outstanding councilors who represent every corner of the state, engaged grantees who provide experiences in their communities, participants who bring the arts to life, and peers who share in our vision and invest in the transformative power of the arts.

Together, we set the course for a future in which the vibrancy of the arts in Maryland remains bright.

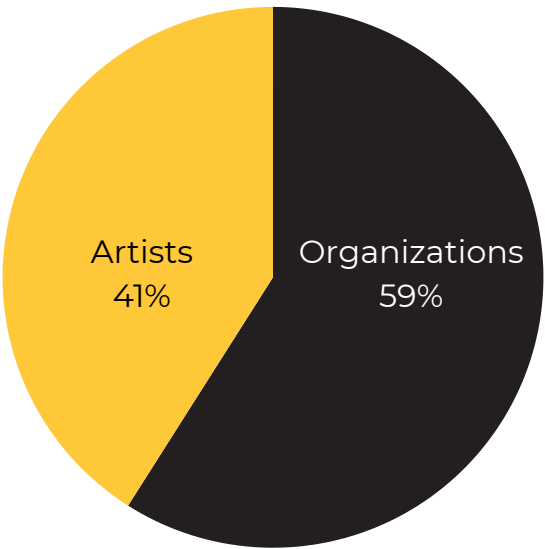
**Ruby Lopez Harper**  
**Chair**

**Steven Skerritt-Davis**  
**Executive Director**

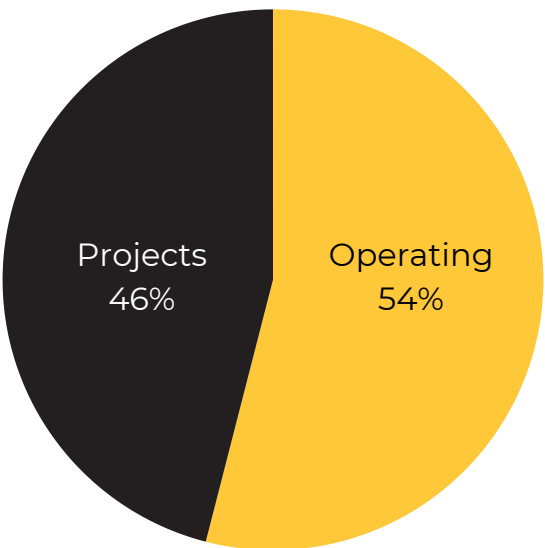


# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The data below illustrates MSAC’s grantmaking activity in FY 2025.



*Grantee Type*



*Grant Type*

Applications received: **3,761**  
Applications funded: **1,119**  
Award rate: **29.8%**

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS



Outdoor dance in the Black Arts District, serving the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor in Baltimore City.

***Spurring arts entrepreneurship  
and economic development  
through tax-related incentives***

**\$471,250**  
**27 grants**

Grants support staffing and basic resources for A&E District management organizations, from community partnerships to local arts collectives.



*"The MSAC grant has allowed us to elevate our programming, strengthen community connections, and build sustained momentum for downtown revitalization through the arts." - Elkton A&E District (Cecil)*

# ARTS CAPITAL

*Helping arts organizations  
increase their impact through  
capital projects*

**\$3 million**

**13 grants**

Grants fund expansion, renovation, or repairs for community-serving organizations in all regions of the state.



The St. Mary's County Arts Council is the site of a makerspace renovation supporting ceramic, glass, and fiber artists.

# ARTS IN EDUCATION



Maryland Poetry Out Loud champion Penny Tofigh, of Howard County, recites a poem at the state finals in Prince George's County.

***Sparking arts education  
experiences for learners of all ages***

**\$753,329**

**159 grants**

Grants connect teaching artists with learners in venues across the state, and the statewide poetry competition Poetry Out Loud engages students.

.....

*"The Arts in Education program provided a space for youth to express themselves, take creative risks, and celebrate their unique perspectives with their peers and adult mentors with encouragement. Youth worked together in teams, and there was noticeable improvement in their communication, social, and problem-solving skills." - **Nicole Green, teaching artist (Calvert)***

# COUNTY ARTS DEVELOPMENT

*Ensuring a stable arts  
infrastructure at the county level*

**\$5.1 million**  
**24 grants**

The program provides funding and tailored assistance for the arts agencies serving as creative hubs in all 24 state jurisdictions.



*"We love knowing that MSAC is always there to help. With any question that comes up, we know MSAC is only a call away! That, to me, is such a comforting feeling." - **Somerset County Arts Council***



An artist presentation at the  
Caroline County Council of Arts.

# CREATIVITY



Making barn quilts at an event in Garrett County.

***Providing a foundation for  
smaller arts organizations and  
artists to thrive***

**\$1.1 million**  
**271 grants**

Grants provide operating and project support for growing organizations and creative entrepreneurs as they add their talents to Maryland's vibrant arts sector.



*"These Creativity Grants have been a lifeline for small organizations, and as always, the MSAC staff has been incredible to work with—responsive, friendly, professional, and supportive."*

**- Savage Mountain Punk Arts (Allegany)**

# GRANTS FOR ARTISTS

***Maintaining a strong artistic workforce and a vibrant creative economy***

**\$385,000**

**154 grants**

Grants boost the careers of independent artists with broad support for working and living expenses.



*"This financial support provided stability during a crucial creative period, allowing me to sustain my interdisciplinary practice and maintain momentum." - Selin Balci (Anne Arundel)*



Watercolor artist Joanna Barnum in her Harford County studio.

# GRANTS FOR ORGANIZATIONS



Deer Creek Fiddlers' Convention, a program of Common Ground on the Hill in Carroll County.

## *Ensuring the stability of Maryland's arts sector*

**\$18.1 million**  
**306 grants**

Grants bring sustaining operating funding to arts organizations making an impact in communities across the state.



*"We are proud to say that, thanks in no small part to your support, the Parkway is now open, active, and moving into a bold new chapter with strong programs, new leadership, and a renewed commitment to serving the state of Maryland." - Parkway Theatre (Baltimore City)*

# MARYLAND TRADITIONS

*Creating opportunities for  
Maryland's diverse cultures*

**\$795,000**

|    |                                |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 8  | Folklife Network grants        |
| 15 | Folklife Apprenticeship grants |
| 6  | Heritage Award grants          |

Grants provide operating support for regional folklife centers, project funding for traditional arts education, and recognition of long-term achievement in traditional arts.

A photograph of a man, Luis Figueroa, sitting in a workshop. He is wearing a white polo shirt with a logo that says "Percusión". He has his arms crossed and is looking directly at the camera. In the background, there are several large wooden barrels, likely for rum or other spirits, and some tools and equipment are visible on the right side.

Mentor artist Luis Figueroa of Howard County taught *panderos de plena*, or Puerto Rican drum-making skills as part of a Folklife Apprenticeship.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY



Attendees at the Maryland Arts Summit in Prince George's County.

## *Building skills within Maryland's arts sector*

**\$129,156**

**66 grants**

Grants help artists and arts professionals further their knowledge as they build their careers in Maryland.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Virtual and in-person sessions increase access to grants and help artists and organizations grow their creative businesses.

## Offerings in FY 2025

|                                                                                     |                  |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------|
|   | Virtual sessions | 60    |
|  | Live sessions    | 10    |
|  | People served    | 1,961 |



Public Art Program Director C. Ryan Patterson meeting a constituent at a professional development event.

# PUBLIC ART

*Integrating the arts into  
Marylanders' everyday  
experiences*

**\$684,448**

**38 grants**

**16 commissions**

Funding supports public art planning, creation, and conservation, as well as commissions in state-owned properties.

"Allegany Survey" by David Hess, at Frostburg State University in Allegany County.

# FINANCIALS BY JURISDICTION

## ALLEGANY

A&E District Operating Support: \$34,907  
County Arts Development: \$194,872  
Creativity: \$15,000  
Folklife Network: \$82,500  
Grants for Artists: \$15,000  
Grants for Organizations: \$77,029  
**Total: \$419,308**

## ANNE ARUNDEL

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454  
Arts in Education: \$16,284  
County Arts Development: \$237,959  
Creativity: \$53,000  
Grants for Artists: \$42,500  
Grants for Organizations: \$1,223,726  
Presenting and Touring: \$21,410  
Public Art Across Maryland: \$20,000  
**Total: \$1,632,333**

## BALTIMORE CITY

A&E District Operating Support: \$69,815  
Arts Capital: \$1,055,000  
Arts in Education: \$57,450  
County Arts Development: \$235,562  
Creativity: \$353,460  
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$10,000  
Folklife Network: \$82,500  
Grants for Artists: \$132,500  
Grants for Organizations: \$7,585,955  
Heritage Award: \$10,000  
Presenting and Touring: \$20,475  
Professional Dev. Opportunity: \$52,704  
Public Art Across Maryland: \$321,361  
**Total: \$9,986,782**

## BALTIMORE COUNTY

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454  
Arts in Education: \$56,711  
County Arts Development: \$258,397  
Creativity: \$110,545  
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$15,000  
Folklife Network: \$82,500  
Grants for Artists: \$37,500

## BALTIMORE COUNTY (cont.)

Grants for Organizations: \$533,011  
Heritage Award: \$10,000  
Presenting and Touring: \$31,315  
Professional Dev. Opportunity: \$10,000  
Public Art Across Maryland: \$60,000  
**Total: \$1,222,033**

## CALVERT

Arts in Education: \$17,831  
County Arts Development: \$197,115  
Creativity: \$5,000  
Grants for Artists: \$2,500  
Grants for Organizations: \$160,457  
Public Art Across Maryland: \$30,000  
**Total: \$412,903**

## CAROLINE

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454  
Arts in Education: \$6,000  
County Arts Development: \$192,120  
Grants for Organizations: \$9,113  
Public Art Across Maryland: \$9,815  
**Total: \$234,502**

## CARROLL

County Arts Development: \$203,809  
Creativity: \$13,000  
Folklife Network: \$82,500  
Grants for Artists: \$2,500  
Grants for Organizations: \$42,980  
**Total: \$344,789**

## CECIL

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454  
Arts in Education: \$5,345  
County Arts Development: \$198,010  
Creativity: \$4,000  
Grants for Organizations: \$20,147  
Presenting and Touring: \$3,200  
**Total: \$248,156**

# FINANCIALS BY JURISDICTION

## CHARLES

County Arts Development: \$203,427  
Creativity: \$25,000  
Grants for Organizations: \$42,203  
**Total: \$270,630**

## DORCHESTER

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454  
Arts Capital: \$315,000  
Arts in Education: \$6,000  
County Arts Development: \$192,062  
Grants for Organizations: \$15,364  
Presenting and Touring: \$5,000  
Public Art Across Maryland: \$30,000  
**Total: \$580,880**

## FREDERICK

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454  
Arts Capital: \$95,000  
Arts in Education: \$35,536  
County Arts Development: \$213,349  
Creativity: \$43,000  
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$5,000  
Grants for Artists: \$22,500  
Grants for Organizations: \$453,482  
Presenting and Touring: \$12,260  
Professional Dev. Opportunity: \$5,592  
**Total: \$903,173**

## GARRETT

A&E District Operating Support: \$34,907  
Arts Capital: \$136,000  
Arts in Education: \$4,818  
County Arts Development: \$191,697  
Creativity: \$7,013  
Grants for Organizations: \$12,633  
Presenting and Touring: \$4,400  
Professional Dev. Opportunity: \$7,980  
Public Art Across Maryland: \$30,000  
**Total: \$429,448**

## HARFORD

A&E District Operating Support: \$34,907  
County Arts Development: \$211,000  
Creativity: \$22,000  
Grants for Artists: \$2,500  
Grants for Organizations: \$177,302  
**Total: \$447,709**

## HOWARD

Arts in Education: \$51,162  
County Arts Development: \$216,830  
Creativity: \$74,236  
Grants for Artists: \$12,500  
Grants for Organizations: \$409,881  
Presenting and Touring: \$5,000  
Public Art Across Maryland: \$10,000  
**Total: \$779,609**

## KENT

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454  
Arts in Education: \$6,000  
County Arts Development: \$190,952  
Grants for Artists: \$7,500  
Grants for Organizations: \$104,904  
Public Art Across Maryland: \$10,000  
**Total: \$336,810**

## MONTGOMERY

A&E District Operating Support: \$52,361  
Arts Capital: \$288,000  
Arts in Education: \$286,696  
County Arts Development: \$275,865  
Creativity: \$194,442  
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$35,000  
Folklife Network: \$82,500  
Grants for Artists: \$47,500  
Grants for Organizations: \$4,772,688  
Heritage Award: \$30,000  
Presenting and Touring: \$27,800  
Professional Dev. Opportunity: \$27,318  
Public Art Across Maryland: \$80,813  
**Total: \$6,200,983**

# FINANCIALS BY JURISDICTION

## PRINCE GEORGE'S

Arts Capital: \$360,000  
Arts in Education: \$145,681  
County Arts Development: \$266,791  
Creativity: \$122,001  
Folklife Apprenticeship: \$10,000  
Grants for Artists: \$47,500  
Grants for Organizations: \$1,331,057  
Heritage Award: \$10,000  
Presenting and Touring: \$5,000  
Professional Dev. Opportunity: \$21,562  
**Total: \$2,319,592**

## QUEEN ANNE'S

Arts in Education: \$17,573  
County Arts Development: \$193,666  
Creativity: \$4,000  
Grants for Artists: \$2,500  
Grants for Organizations: \$15,795  
Public Art Across Maryland: \$19,634  
**Total: \$253,168**

## SOMERSET

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454  
Arts Capital: \$218,000  
County Arts Development: \$191,410  
**Total: \$426,864**

## ST. MARY'S

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454  
Arts Capital: \$450,000  
Arts in Education: \$6,000  
County Arts Development: \$198,795  
Creativity: \$10,000  
Folklife Network: \$82,500  
Grants for Organizations: \$33,293  
**Total: \$798,042**

## TALBOT

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454  
Arts in Education: \$4,547  
County Arts Development: \$192,466  
Creativity: \$7,000

## TALBOT (cont.)

Folklife Network: \$82,500  
Grants for Artists: \$2,500  
Grants for Organizations: \$451,587  
Professional Dev. Opportunity: \$4,000  
Public Art Across Maryland: \$38,325  
**Total: \$800,379**

## WASHINGTON

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454  
County Arts Development: \$202,107  
Creativity: \$16,000  
Grants for Artists: \$5,000  
Grants for Organizations: \$409,993  
**Total: \$650,554**

## WICOMICO

A&E District Operating Support: \$17,454  
Arts in Education: \$14,624  
County Arts Development: \$197,938  
Creativity: \$8,000  
Folklife Network: \$82,500  
Grants for Organizations: \$198,991  
Presenting and Touring: \$5,000  
Public Art Across Maryland: \$20,000  
**Total: \$544,507**

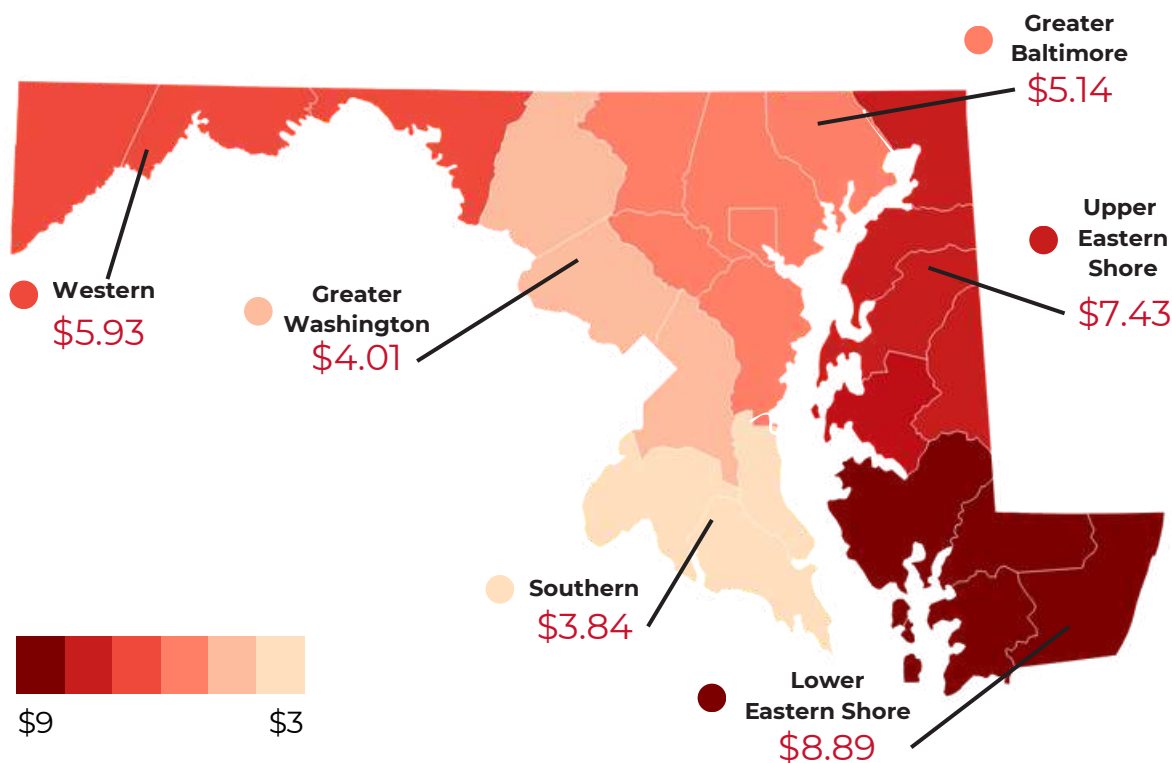
## WORCESTER

A&E District Operating Support: \$34,907  
Arts Capital: \$83,000  
Arts in Education: \$15,071  
County Arts Development: \$193,801  
Grants for Artists: \$2,500  
Grants for Organizations: \$61,469  
Public Art Across Maryland: \$4,500  
**Total: \$395,248**

*Figures reflect grants awarded in FY 2025 only.*

# FY 2025 GRANTS AWARDED

*The map below illustrates MSAC's FY 2025 per capita funding, by region.*



***\$4.89 for every Marylander!***

Music on the streets of the Arts & Entertainment District in downtown Frederick.

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

## INCOME

General funds: \$29,411,574

Special funds: \$1,603,988

Federal funds: \$995,800

Capital funds: \$3,000,000

**Total income: \$35,011,362**

## EXPENDITURES

Grants For Organizations: \$18,140,841

County Arts Development: \$5,050,000

Arts Capital: \$3,000,000

Creativity: \$1,090,039

Arts in Education: \$753,191

Public Art Across Maryland: \$684,448

Folklife Network: \$660,000

A&E District Operating Support: \$471,250

Grants for Artists: \$385,000

Presenting and Touring: \$136,967

Professional Development Opportunity: \$125,256

Folklife Apprenticeship: \$75,000

Heritage Awards: \$60,000

Legislative Line Items: \$925,000

General administration: \$3,454,370

**Total expenditures: \$35,011,362**

*Amounts listed in this page reflect FY 2025 actual expenditures.  
Amounts on previous pages reflect FY 2025 grants awarded.*

# COUNCIL AND STAFF

## COUNCIL

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**“Per the norm for MSAC, the agency has fostered a grantmaking environment that is welcoming, transparent, and supportive. It’s clear that MSAC is committed to empowering organizations of all sizes to engage in the arts and bring meaningful projects to life across Maryland.”**

*- Hagerstown Arts & Entertainment District (Washington)*





## MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL

401 East Pratt Street, Suite 1400  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

*For more information on MSAC and programs,  
please visit [msac.org](http://msac.org).*

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## STATE OF MARYLAND

Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lieutenant Governor



**Front cover:** Traditional kuchipudi dance from India at Kalanidhi Dance in Montgomery County.

**Back cover:** Artist Jimmy Reynolds inspecting his mural in Queen Anne's County.