



Community Development Coordinators Peer Session November 1, 2018

Notes

Community Development Coordinators Peer Session coordinators:

[Jeff Garrett](#), Community Development Program Manager, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs

[Steven Skerritt-Davis](#), Program Director, Community Arts Development, Maryland State Arts Council

NASAA Research Associate Patricia Mullaney-Loss began the peer session at 3:00 p.m. Thirty-seven attendees introduced themselves and were followed by presentations from Western Arts Alliance and a sampling of participants from the County Arts Agencies of Maryland (CAAM) peer group. The CDC Peer Session concluded with brief reviews of current developments from present coordinators.

Western Arts Alliance (WAA) Executive Director Tim Wilson presented WAA's Advancing Indigenous Performance Program. It is a new program to build capacity and networking opportunities for indigenous performing artists (Alaskan Natives, Native Hawai'ians and Native American artists in the contiguous United States) through competitive grants that include mentoring aimed at career advancement, professional development, showcasing opportunities, and travel subsidies. The project educates arts presenting and touring professionals about the cultural origins and work of indigenous artists and builds strategies for integrating them into mainstream presenting and touring models. In addition, an Indigenous Artist Travel Fund will be available, in partnership with regional arts organizations, to advance the presenting and touring of indigenous artists.

Maryland State Arts Council Program Director, Community Arts Development, Arts & Entertainment Districts, and Individual Artist Awards Programs Steven Skerritt-Davis introduced three current heads of major local arts agencies. Each county in Maryland, as well as Baltimore City, has an arts council dedicated to ensuring local access to the arts for all Marylanders. County arts councils receive annual funding from the Maryland State Arts Council to carry out the work that best serves the needs of each distinctive community. Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County Chief Executive Officer Suzan E. Jenkins, Caroline County Council of Arts Director Marina Dowdall and Howard County Arts Council Executive Director Coleen West discussed their history and experiences with the county arts agencies of Maryland peer group.

The CDC Peer Session wrapped up with attendees sharing current developments, challenges and emerging opportunities in their agencies and states.