

WHEREAS, The importance of providing preventive and rehabilitative programs for juveniles has long been recognized; and

WHEREAS, There is a continuing need to develop innovative approaches and opportunities to address the societal problem of juvenile delinquency; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to develop and provide structured art and cultural activities for juveniles under the purview of the Juvenile Services Administration to effectively respond to delinquent behavior; and

WHEREAS, There is a large number of professional artists, cultural organizations, college and university art and cultural resources prepared and interested in participating in such a program; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to coordinate, plan and administer art and cultural opportunities to juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HARRY HUGHES, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, DO HEREBY PROMULGATE THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER:

I. Placement

The Professional Artists Council is created as an independent unit within the Juvenile Services Administration, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

II. Functions and Responsibilities

The Council shall be responsible for:

A. Developing opportunities for youth in Juvenile Services Administration facilities to interact with role models to:

1. Channel the energies of participating youth into healthy and wholesome activities;
2. Create awareness of self-worth and achievement;
3. Develop a sense of belonging, cooperation and discipline; and
4. Develop and nurture personalized relationships.

B. Assisting in the continued recruitment and involvement of professional artists through:

1. Contacts both locally and nationally; and