(c)   The executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the Council, subject to the concurrence of the Secretary, and shall be in the unclassified service of the State Personnel Management System.

(d)   Subject to the rules and policies set forth by the Council and the administrative supervision of the Secretary, the executive director shall:

(1)   Be the administrative officer of the Council staff;

(2)   Direct, administer, and supervise the activities of the Council staff; and

(3)   Appoint and remove employees of the Council.

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The Council is authorized to conduct programs subject to approval of the Secretary, including, but not limited to the following:

(1)   Continuation of the program of the body formerly known as the Governor's Council on the Arts in Maryland including its statewide survey of resources and needs in the arts.

(2)   Determine the extent to which existing resources can fill the needs.

(3)   Design new or expanded programs in the arts either individually or in concert with existing arts organizations or arts organizations which may come into existence hereafter.

(4)   Encourage and assist in the formation and activities of local community arts councils.

(5)   Provide technical and consultative assistance to arts organizations throughout the State.

(6)   Assist, both logistically and financially, in the touring of outstanding professional performances and exhibitions of art, from within and outside the State, to communities throughout the State.

(7)   Make awards for excellence in the arts.

(8)   Make grants to arts organizations and individual artists.

(9)   Cooperate with educational institutions and organizations to establish a higher level of education in and appreciation of the arts on the part of students throughout the State.

(10) Explore the feasibility of regional arts programming in the neighboring states and of program exchange with other states and implement any such programs it deems advisable.

(11) Publish an annual report and such other material as it deems appropriate.