



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 287 Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program

Thank you for consideration of SB287. This bill creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant (MACC) program, and allocates \$10 million to the program every year from 2022 through 2027.

The MACC program will:

- o Be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) in consultation with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
- o Be open to any organization that participates in either the MSAC Grant for Organization Program or The Community Arts Development Program
- o Be a meritocratic source of capital funding for arts programs from around the state of Maryland. **Organizations will be able to apply annually for funding of up to \$1 million per year.**

In addition to being a major contributor to the city's economic health, Baltimore's cultural community adds immeasurably to our quality of life, from educating our children to improving our streetscapes with murals and public art. Arts rich communities, like Baltimore, can help create an innovative work-force through arts education, more fully engage our citizens in civic activities, and help residents meet the challenges the future holds.

While our sector is growing, funding is no longer keeping up with the demands for arts programs and services. We know this fund would help us complete important projects and continue to support artists and arts organizations doing great work across Baltimore City.

For these reasons, I ask that you please support SB287.

Sincerely,

Jocquelyn Downs

Jocquelyn Downs, Director of the Baltimore City Arts Council
Baltimore Office of Promotion & Arts

