

CST_FAV_SB287

Uploaded by: Coffee, Jane

Position: FAV



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

Thank you for consideration of SB287. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund that will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Chesapeake Shakespeare Company (CSC) is an acting company and theater in Downtown Baltimore that performs Shakespeare and classic plays. Currently in the midst of our 18th Season, we serve 32,000 patrons each year, including 16,000 school children. We perform 7 to 9 plays each year, with both an indoor and a summer season outside at the historic Patapsco Female Institute Park in Howard County. Teachers in the region have come to rely on CSC's productions to teach Romeo & Juliet, and Macbeth. People of all ages, families, Veterans, senior citizens and young adults flock to our theater and to the PFI to see fun, and engaging shows performed by our resident acting company of diverse theater professionals.

Chesapeake Shakespeare Company supports SB287 as a reliable funding source for arts organizations. At a time when philanthropic giving has been shrinking enormously, and capital needs are increasing, a predictable fund will help organizations by reducing the amount of work required to locate, cultivate and win a grant. CSC has renovated and now occupies two historic properties. We live with the reality of always having to decide between funding a necessary capital improvement to sustain our physical plant, or funding our programming. We often have major capital expenditures (new roofing, HVAC efficiencies, accessibility improvements and supports for individuals with physical, mental and emotional disabilities, better storage, etc) that we cannot budget for or tackle as a project because we need to fund our productions and our education programming. We can appreciate that having a consistent capital fund source administered by MSAC could streamline the process of applying for and receiving capital funding grants.

One immediate need we would use this funding for is replacing our 30 year old HVAC system, which experts tell us is on its "last legs". We have been fund raising for this project for 2 years. A grant from the Maryland State Capital Grant fund would help us complete this project now.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 287.

Jane Coffey
Director of Development

7 South Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
410.244.8571 office
410.244.8570 box office
chesapeakeshakespeare.com

CST_SB287

Uploaded by: Coffee, Jane

Position: FAV



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

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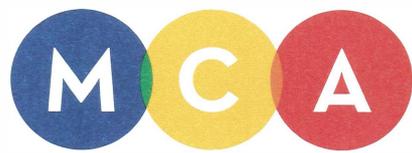
Jane Coffey
Director of Development

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MCA_FAV_SB287

Uploaded by: Cohen, Nicholas

Position: FAV



maryland citizens for the arts

January 27, 2020

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

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Nicholas Cohen

Executive Director

Amanda Morell

Program Manager

Morgan Brown

Program Coordinator

Thank you for your consideration of SB 287. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund that will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program has two components - a competitive grant program for large institutions (\$3 m+ budgets) and another one for mid-size to small institutions.

Maryland arts organizations contribute over \$1.3 billion to the local and state economy, engage over 8 million arts visitors a year and provide over \$60 million towards local and state tax revenues. Many of these organizations provide safe, engaging and welcoming arts spaces within communities throughout the state. They serve a broad range of Marylanders from toddlers to advanced ages and do so within buildings that are, many times, in dire need of capital improvements.

While Maryland is 3rd in the nation in per capita spending on the arts, many arts organizations lack the resources and ability to divert money towards expensive capital improvements. Instead, these organizations make the choice to spend on programming and community engagement - ensuring that dollars are invested on behalf of the arts and their communities without sacrificing opportunities and important community engagement initiatives. As a consequence, these organizations desperately need access to capital funds through a fair and transparent process.

HB 127 provides an equitable path and process for the over 300 arts and culture organizations with critical access to capital funds. In every region of Maryland, we see vibrant arts communities - with dedicated capital arts investment, we can continue to be a leader in the nation for arts and culture and ensure that the next generation of Marylanders is afforded the same incredible access that we enjoy today.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 287.

Respectfully,

Nicholas Cohen
Executive Director

BOPA_SB287

Uploaded by: downs, jackie

Position: FAV



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

SMAC_SB 287

Uploaded by: Elder, Nell

Position: FAV



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Nell Elder
Executive Director

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

Thank you for consideration of SB287. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund that will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program has two components - a competitive grant program for large institutions (\$3 m+ budgets) and another one for mid-size to small institutions..

The St. Mary's County Arts Council serves a small rural community and is challenged by a lack of funding. Leonardtown, our county seat, is designated as an Arts and Entertainment District. We are lacking a performance venue in Leonardtown and the county would greatly benefit from a grant that would enable us to create such a space.

We spend a lot of our time attempting to raise sufficient funds to keep our current level of programs. We've been fortunate to have received donations in the form of real property that we have used to run our programs, especially those in under-served communities of the county. We can't realistically continue to provide our current level of service to the community by hoping to rely on these kinds of donations.

SB287 creates a program that promises equity in distribution of funds, and allows the small but critical arts services we provide to flourish.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB287.

Nell Elder
Executive Director
St. Mary's County Arts Council
PO Box 1310
Leonardtown, MD 20650
info@smcart.org

SB 287 Arts and Culture - MML

Uploaded by: Fiore, Justin

Position: FAV



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

January 29, 2020

Committee: Senate Budget & Taxation

Bill: SB 287 – Maryland Arts and Culture Grant Program

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 287, which would earmark \$10 million annually from FY 2022 through 2027 for the creation and administration of a Maryland Arts and Cultural Capital Program.

Municipalities across the State market themselves to surrounding communities as a cultural hub. Increasingly, the arts have played a role in their economic development strategies. This is especially true of municipalities who are seeking an Arts & Entertainment District designation, as one economic impact report found the current “Maryland A&E Districts collectively supported more than \$1 billion in state GDP, approximately \$72.1 million in state and local tax revenues, and 9,987 jobs that paid more than \$320 million in wages.”

The League therefore respectfully requests that this committee provide SB 287 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott A. Hancock	Executive Director
Candace L. Donoho	Government Relations Specialist
Bill Jorch	Manager, Government Relations & Research
Justin Fiore	Manager, Government Relations

1212 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-268-5514 | 800-492-7121 | FAX: 410-268-7004 | www.mdmunicipal.org

AVAM_SB 287

Uploaded by: Hoffberger, Rebecca

Position: FAV

American Visionary Art Museum

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB287 Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program

Thank you for consideration of SB287. This legislation creates a much-needed Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program benefiting organizations all across our beautiful state, with a new capital grant fund that will be thoughtfully and efficiently administered by the Maryland State Arts Council.

The Program has two components - a competitive grant program for large institutions (\$3 m+ budgets) and another one for mid-size to small institutions that is open to both arts entities supported through the Maryland State Arts Council.

Last year, I sadly witnessed an increase in need for capital projects of unforeseen repair due to vandalism when my colleagues at The Jewish Museum of Maryland experienced breakage of their historic stained-glass windows. We, too, had our first serious damage in 24 years of operation of our campus' electric blue light bollards. This bill will provide a truly needed, flexible source of quick rescue repair funds in addition to spreading capital support to aid arts institutions, large and small, all across our state.

Please consider your personal support to provide passage of this bi-partisan and innovative bill meant only as a blessing – this year.

Thank you for all you do and for your time in contemplating adding your own support in favor of the passage of SB 287.

With sincere respect and appreciation for your care in this matter,



Rebecca Alban Hoffberger, Founder & Director
American Visionary Art Museum

SB 287 Arts and Culture - MML

Uploaded by: James, Jeannine

Position: FAV



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

January 29, 2020

Committee: Senate Budget & Taxation

Bill: SB 287 – Maryland Arts and Culture Grant Program

Position: Support

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The League therefore respectfully requests that this committee provide SB 287 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott A. Hancock	Executive Director
Candace L. Donoho	Government Relations Specialist
Bill Jorch	Manager, Government Relations & Research
Justin Fiore	Manager, Government Relations

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Strathmore_SB 287

Uploaded by: Jeffries, Monica

Position: FAV

STRATHMORE

January 22, 2020

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 287 Maryland Arts Capital Grant Program

Thank you for consideration of SB 287. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund that will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program has two components – a competitive grant program for large institutions (\$3+MM budgets) and another one for mid-size to small institutions that is open to arts organizations.

Strathmore presents and produces exemplary visual and performing arts programs for diverse audiences; creates dynamic arts education experiences; and nurtures creative ideas and conversations that advance the future of the arts. The organization's hallmark is the Music Center at Strathmore, with a 1,976-seat concert hall and education complex. Its core campus also includes the historic Mansion at Strathmore, which features an intimate Music Room and art galleries. Most recently, Strathmore opened AMP, a 230-seat cabaret-style venue located just up Rockville Pike from the core campus in the burgeoning Pike District of Montgomery County. Strathmore's signature mission-driven programs include the Strathmore Student Concerts, the Artist in Residence program, and Bloom, a community outreach initiative to expand arts access to every corner of Montgomery County.

Constructed with public funding, The Music Center at Strathmore stands as an extraordinary example of what can be accomplished with state and county capital support. The creation of an Arts Capital Grant Program would ensure that arts organizations of all sizes can pursue their dreams to expand, renovate, repair, and construct facilities that will enhance their service to their patrons. This additional option for capital support makes it possible for organizations to plan for and implement projects more strategically and efficiently. The State of Maryland has made significant investments in arts facilities around the state. This important capital support will help organizations maintain, update, and expand them so that they may serve generations to come. Having the Bill pass this year enables organizations to take advantage of local tax credits, matching support by local agencies, and to plan for maximum support from private sector partners.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 287.

Regards,



Monica Jeffries
Hazangeles President and
CEO

AHCMC_ SB287

Uploaded by: Jenkins, Suzan

Position: FAV

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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB287
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program**

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Montgomery County is multicultural, growing more so, and is now home to many organizations and individual artists who reflect the county's diverse populace. Growth in the number and budgets of eligible organizations has brought more competition for public funding, and there is not a strong base of private funding to sustain the arts and humanities in Montgomery County. The Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County's research, in line with the findings and preliminary recommendations of the County-commissioned September 2018 Arts & Cultural Facilities Feasibility Study by Victor Gotesman Performing Arts Facilities Planning, demonstrates that the growth of many nascent, seasoned and legacy organizations, artists and scholars practicing their art across the county requires increased financial and human resources, increased technical, capital and capacity building assistance, relationship building, and professional development opportunities. Two recent fires - last year, at Adventure Theatre in Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture and earlier this year at the Sandy Spring Museum - demonstrate the need for critical capital funds to assist arts and humanities organizations with existing structure or physical plant repairs that are key to an organization's arts or humanities mission. Effective capital funding encourages and helps sustain our cultural ecosystem by supporting both emerging and established organizations and responds to needs outside of programmatic or general operating expenses.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB287.
Suzan Jenkins, CEO, Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County

Suzan.jenkins@creativemoco.com
301.565.3806

BROS _SB287

Uploaded by: Keating, Aran

Position: FAV



BALTIMORE ROCK OPERA SOCIETY

Baltimore Rock Opera Society, Inc. (BROS)

EIN: 47-1406439

1/20/20

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB287 Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program

Thank you for consideration of SB287. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund that will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program has two components - a competitive grant program for large institutions (\$3 m+ budgets) and another one for mid-size to small institutions that is open to all kinds of essential arts organizations in Maryland. These arts organizations are completely vital to our culture, our economy and the long-term success of Maryland as a leader in the region's future.

Baltimore Rock Opera Society (BROS) is a vital organization in the Baltimore City and Baltimore regional arts environment. We are a linchpin organization that creates gigantic collaborative arts projects that bring together artists and audiences of many different age groups, demographics and abilities. We create exciting original rock theater where amateurs, experienced professionals, young artists in training and early career artists go to exchange ideas, train each other and create some of the most visionary work to ever emerge from Charm City. Although Baltimore currently has many productive and groundbreaking small arts organizations, those companies are in great danger of being priced out of the neighborhoods that they helped to establish. As Baltimore's future economic outlook improves, there is little evidence to suggest that Baltimore's arts organizations will share in that improvement. **This program is URGENT to ensure that dynamic and vital cultural organizations such as BROS are able to gain a foothold in Baltimore and to guarantee that art has a role in the city and the region's future. If the bill is passed this year, we believe it could play a vital role in helping to fund the renovations of a new, nationally recognized performance home for BROS in the Station North Arts & Entertainment District.**

Help keep Baltimore and Maryland's Arts Communities alive and vital! In order for this region to continue to attract wealth and investment we must be able to deliver nationally recognized cultural experiences. Arts organizations can't deliver their best to audiences if they can't fund the capital projects that will keep them alive. For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB287.

Rock on!

Aran Keating

Executive Director

Baltimore Rock Opera Society (BROS)

aran@baltimorerockopera.org - 410-212-4473

<http://www.baltimorerockopera.org>

FAC_SB287

Uploaded by: Kennelly, Louise

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB287 Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program

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This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund that will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program has two components -- a competitive grant program for large institutions (\$3 m+ budgets) and another one for mid-size to small institutions.

Frederick County is considered one of the most art-centric communities in the state and the arts are fueling our economic vibrancy but we cannot fulfill our potential without a source of capital support that this bill would provide. The number one concern cited among our artist --and arts organization -- members is a lack of space. From the individual studio artist to the Frederick Symphony Orchestra, our arts stakeholders are not able to stabilize and grow without the infrastructure necessary to provide accessible programming.

SB287 creates a program that promises equity in distribution of funds, and allows the critical arts services we provide to flourish. The Frederick Arts Council is itself in the early stages of restoring a church in downtown Frederick. The community arts center will house our public art program and serve as a community center for arts and culture. The 8000 square foot building will create a space for us to serve the people of Frederick County, our thousands of public school students, and the many visitors who come to experience the unique cultural amenities Frederick has to offer.

We know this fund would help us complete this important project and would also help the nearly two dozen grantee organizations we support who are doing work in all corners of our county.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB287.

In appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise Kennelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Louise Kennelly

Executive Director

Frederick Arts Council 11 West Patrick St. Frederick Maryland 21701

WCMFA_SB 287

Uploaded by: Lane, Rebecca Massie

Position: FAV



January 23, 2020

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

Thank you for your consideration of SB 287 This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund that will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program has two components – a competitive grant program for large institutions (\$3 m+ budgets) and another one for mid-size to small institutions.

Over the past 6 fiscal years (FY13-FY18), the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) has raised and expended, in addition to its annual operating costs of \$1.3 million, over \$3.7 million for capital expenses related to facility renovations and upgrades. Creating a new Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, provides additional resources and potential leveraged funding when seeking grants and financial support from federal public resources, private foundations, and individuals.

During the past six fiscal years, the MFA has averaged 43,969 visitors each year. The museum has received visitors from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 62 foreign countries. Each year the museum receives citizens from all 23 Maryland Counties, and the City of Baltimore. The MFA is one of five nationally accredited fine arts museums in Maryland and an anchor cultural institution in Washington County, Western Maryland, and the 4-state region.

SB 287 would address critical needs for many arts organizations throughout the state providing support for infrastructure, visitor safety and future economic growth.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 287

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Massie Lane'.

Rebecca Massie Lane
Director

WCAC_SB 287

Uploaded by: Mullis, Anna

Position: FAV



LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR: SB 287 Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program

Thank you for consideration of SB287. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a capital grant fund that will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council.

The Program has two components - a competitive grant program for large institutions (\$3 m+ budgets) and another one for mid-size to small institutions.

As a county local arts agency, the Worcester County Arts Council depends on our only source of support which comes in the form of the annual funding provided by the Maryland State Arts Council. This funding is distributed by the Maryland State Arts Council to all 24 state's jurisdictions through the Community Arts Development grant.

Although the Worcester County is a geographically large county with population over 51,000, the median household income falls well below the state average. Our county overall has a poverty rate that is above the state average, with our youth being 45-50% FARMS (free and reduced meal students) in our public-school system.

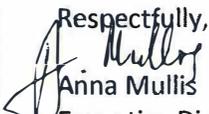
The Worcester County Arts Council strives for equitable funding for the arts on the local level through transparent processes that are accessible to all county constituents despite their social and economic status. We continue to lead the way in support of the arts with programs designed to encourage involvement in the arts by everyone in the community. We bring the arts to underserved areas of the community with its wealth of free, high quality art exhibits, activities, and performances. In addition, the Community Art Development Grant Program provides critical support to projects designed to involve those who are often shut out by economic barriers.

The SB 287 creates a special opportunity that will allow the Worcester County Arts Council to strengthen the impact of the important services we provide to grow vibrant arts community.

We know this fund would assist more than two dozen grantee organizations we support and enrich lives by access to and participation in a diverse spectrum of arts, artists and cultural experiences for all.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 287

Respectfully,


Anna Mullis
Executive Director

Supporting Arts in Worcester County Since 1976

ACAAC_SB287

Uploaded by: Nyman, April

Position: FAV



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www.acaac.org

WE ARE **ARTS**
FOR ANNE ARUNDEL

January 27, 2020

Thank you for consideration of SB287. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Cultural Capital Grant Program, a new capital fund that will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program has two components – a competitive grant program for large institutions (\$3 m+ budgets) and another one for mid-size to small institutions that is open for arts organizations supported through the Maryland State Arts Council.

As the Director for the Arts Council of Anne Arundel for over 12 years I work with 50 arts non-profits in Anne Arundel County. Many of these groups own or seek to own their facilities. This important legislation will provide a way for organizations to achieve this goal without individually approaching their Legislator. Having a regulated process will ensure several things:

1. It ensures that access the funds are available for all arts non-profits throughout the State.
2. The application is available and administered by a known leader to arts organization – The Maryland State Arts Council.
3. Ensures that the funds are distributed in an equitable manner.
4. Provides Transparency

I have also had the opportunity to be a part of CAAM (County Arts Agencies of Maryland) during my tenure. The topic of Capital funding is a re-occurring topic each year, as most of the County Arts Councils do not have access to funding for this type of expenditures. I know that we would all welcome and support the process laid out in SB287.

Please consider this important legislation to support the Arts and non-profits throughout Maryland.

Respectfully,

April Nyman
Executive Director

SB287 Support MDCFA Amanda Pugh

Uploaded by: Pugh, Amanda

Position: FAV



MARYLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

January 29, 2020

Senator Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West-Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 287-Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program- SUPPORT

Dear Senator Guzzone and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 287- Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program. This bill would help nonprofit arts organizations apply for necessary funding to improve their arts facilities to enhance their positive impact in their communities.

I can attest to the great value and impact of arts participation from my years-long experience training and performing as a ballet/contemporary dancer, actor, and cellist. My dance training started when I was four years old, and I started playing the cello at age nine. I also performed in plays/musicals throughout my student life. My academic and personal achievements were shaped by my well-rounded education in dance, theater, and music, and the experience I gained performing in front of audiences instilled my self-confidence. From age 18-25, I performed professionally in dance and music, while also earning degrees in Dance and Arts Administration from Goucher College.

Today I work full-time at the Maryland Center for the Arts as the Operations Manager, overseeing program/event development, fundraising, and the marketing of our educational arts programs and capital project. We are building a new multi-purpose arts center on a 41-acre wooded site in Bel Air that was gifted to us from the Emily Bayless Graham Estate. Our purpose in building this facility is to provide much needed space for local schools and arts organizations to present performances, art exhibits, educational programs/workshops, and special gatherings for the arts.

I, among many others, have personally experienced the power of the arts. Not only do the arts inspire and challenge, they also have a unique way of expanding one's intelligence and perspective. Learning how to play music on an instrument improves understanding of math and learning how to tell a story through acting improves reading, writing, and speaking skills. As Rep. Alma Adams once said: "The arts are a universal language that help us understand diversity, cultures and our most complex issues... Each generation has its own unique set of challenges, but it is through the arts and humanities that we learn compassion, understanding and critical thinking skills that enable us to address these problems and find solutions."

Thank you for carefully considering the Maryland Arts and Cultural Capital Grant Program to enhance arts programs and facilities in the State of Maryland to continue to positively impact the lives of residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Amanda Pugh
Operations Manager, Maryland Center for the Arts

PERFORM. EXPRESS. ENHANCE. INSPIRE.

PO Box 687 Bel Air MD 21014 / 443-567-5216 / Fax 443-371-7511 / www.mdcenterforthearts.org

RH_SB 287

Uploaded by: Rilette, Ryan

Position: FAV



January 23, 2020

240.644.1100 BOX OFFICE
301.585.1225 EDUCATION CENTER
240.644.1099 ADMIN OFFICE

RoundHouseTheatre.org

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB287
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program**

Thank you for consideration of SB287. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund that will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program has two components - a competitive grant program for large institutions (\$3 m+ budgets) and another one for mid-size to small institutions that is open to both arts supported through the Maryland State Arts Council.

Round House Theatre is a home for outstanding ensemble acting and lifelong learning that seeks to captivate audiences with stories that inspire compassion, evoke emotions, and demand conversation. We have recently re-opened our renovated theatre in Bethesda, designed to serve as a gathering place for audiences and community members alike. Now that we have opened our new home to the public, we're excited to share it by continuing to improve access to the arts.

The consistent availability of capital funds through the creation of an Arts and Culture Grant Program would enable us to focus operating resources on mission-based initiatives. We will advance our Theatre for Everyone philosophy through programs such as Free Play and On the House, which offer tickets to Round House performances at no cost to local teenagers and college students, as well as to nonprofit community groups and organizations. It would also allow us to expand our extensive catalog of discount ticket programs, including Pay-What-You Can performances, 2-for-1 performances, under-35 discounts, and more.

This potential avenue for new funding would further improve the accessibility of our productions, offering relaxed performances for sensory-sensitive adults and teens; investing in new technologies for Assistive Listening Devices, Audio Description, and Open Captioning; and creating partnerships to build relationships with the blind, Deaf, hard-of-hearing, neurodiverse, and visually impaired communities.

An Arts and Culture Grant Program would also enable us to make great strides toward equity in our productions, commissioning 30 new plays exclusively from female playwrights and playwrights of color; creating a New Play Festival to promote new work across American theatre; and achieving Equity On Stage by ensuring that at least half of our actors and directors each year are people of color.

We at Round House are committed to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility across our organization. Having SB 287 pass this year would enable us to capitalize on the momentum of our grand re-opening to continue to advance our dedication to offering Theatre for Everyone. For these reasons, we ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 287.

Sincerely,

Ryan Rilette
Artistic Director
RRilette@RoundHouseTheatre.org

Ed Zakreski
Managing Director
EZakreski@RoundHouseTheatre.org

BETHESDA
4545 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814-3309

EDUCATION CENTER
925 Wayne Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4451

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
Silver Spring Civic Building
One Veteran's Place
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4681

BCS_FAV_SB 287

Uploaded by: Ross, Michael

Position: FAV



January 27, 2020

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Guy Guzzone and the Honorable Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

I am writing to you to express my steadfast support for Senate Bill 287: Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program. This program will give Maryland arts organizations efficient, accessible and more equitable access to vital State capital funding support. Creating this program will make planning for capital projects easier, ease assembly members and arts organization workloads, and position the State of Maryland as a forward moving leader in capital funding for the arts.

While the current process—submitting bond bills or gaining access to the Capital Grants budget—has helped place Maryland as a strong supporter of arts infrastructure at the national scale, it still operates through a time-consuming, often confusing, lengthy, and challenging process that usually results in only larger, more well-known arts organizations receiving State capital funding. Not every arts organization has the means or money to be able to do this—therefore creating this program and housing it under Maryland State Arts Council's umbrella instills equitable, accessible funding for all organizations to obtain. I know firsthand having gone through this process with both bond bills and capital budgets more than once, I know that this program will be manageable, create opportunities for organizations to bolster their impact, and continue advancing inclusiveness in Maryland's artistic ecology.

I strongly support the creation of the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program under Senate Bill 287. Please feel free to contact me directly if there are any questions at 410-986-4001. Thank you for proposing this legislation. For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 287.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Ross", written over a light blue curved line that extends across the page.

Michael Ross
Executive Director

MAP_SB 287

Uploaded by: Royce, Amy

Position: FAV



January 23, 2020 RE: SB 287

Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program

Attention: Honorable Members of the Committee

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I write this letter in support of Senate Bill 287. For the last 8 years I have been running Maryland Art Place (MAP), a 38 year old not for profit organization located in the state designated Bromo Arts and Entertainment District. MAP purchased its 5 story, 20,000 square foot building in 1986, vacating the property in the early 90's due to crime and safety challenges, only to return back to its investment in 2014 under my leadership. The A&E designation was catalyst for our return and reinvestment among other factors such as more meaningful community engagement opportunities (MAP was formerly at the Power Plant Live Facility).

As anticipated, MAP's building has become extraordinarily important to our cultural eco-system in Baltimore City and is an economic driver. MAP also represents the State in Baltimore City and is the sole operator of the Maryland State Artist Registry and Resource Bulletin on behalf of the Maryland State Arts Council. Under our roof we house many individual artists, three fine art galleries (MAP's 2,400 square feet at street-level), and a handful of creative start-ups to include several music studios, fashion designers (Nationally acclaimed Bishme Cromartie incubated here the last 5 years), and a basement Cabaret we are working to revitalize which was once home to Baltimore's sub-culture and more marginalized performative communities (last 20 years). The Cabaret will be a great source of earned income for MAP if fully realized.

I share all this because securing the type of capital we need to not only improve the building, but also keep it safe for all our tenants, has been more than a challenge. We are constantly competing for small pots of capital that we need to make needed and necessary improvements for stability now and in the future. The truth is we need more than these small pots. The passing of this bill could have profound effects much like the Cultural Facilities Program run by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, which helped to revitalize the Historic Anacostia Corridor and many other thriving neighborhoods in DC today.

Please consider passing SB 287. If passed, the effects will yield great reward and its impact will be considerable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy C. Royce". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Amy Cavanaugh Royce
Executive Director, Maryland Art Place

KCA_SB 287

Uploaded by: Schratwieser, John

Position: FAV



Celebrating Creativity.
Connecting Communities.
Sharing Conversation.

Thank you for consideration of SB 287. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund that will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program has two components - a competitive grant program for large institutions (\$3 m+ budgets) and another one for mid-size to small institutions.

The Kent Cultural Alliance (formerly the Kent County Arts Council) serves Maryland's smallest and most rural community. Kent County does not have access to the large corporate arts founders of Montgomery County and Baltimore City. We do not have a large population of wealthy philanthropists who are able to make multi-million dollar gifts to nonprofits. And, as a county arts council, we receive the smallest Community Arts Development grant of all 24 jurisdictions. SB 287 creates a program that promises equity in distribution of funds, and allows the small but critical arts services we provide to flourish.

The Kent Cultural Alliance is itself in the early stages of restoring a 200 year old farm house in Downtown Chestertown as its new permanent home. The Raimond Arts Building, which includes a 1799 two and a half story frame dwelling, will serve as a community center for arts and culture. With a budget of \$1.2 million (and \$800,000 already raised) the now 5000 square foot building will create a space for us to serve the people of Kent County, our 2000+ public school students, and the many visitors who come to experience the unique cultural ecology this beautiful county. We know this fund would help us complete this important project and would also help the nearly two dozen grantee organizations we support who are doing work in all corners of our county.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 287.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Schratwieser', is written over the typed name and contact information.

John Schratwieser, Director, Kent Cultural Alliance
john@kentculture.org - 410-708-9751
101 Spring Avenue, Chestertown, MD 21620

Elfreth_FAV_Sb287

Uploaded by: Senator Elfreth, Senator Elfreth

Position: FAV

SENATOR SARAH ELFRETH
Legislative District 30
Anne Arundel County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Education, Business and Administration

Chair, Pensions

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



James Senate Office Building
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3578 · 301-858-3578
800-492-7122 Ext. 3578
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Sarah.Elfreth@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 29, 2020

Testimony in Favor of SB287
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 287. This bill would create the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant (MACC) program to be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. As the bill is currently written, the MACC would be funded by a mandatory appropriation of \$10 million dollars and would equitably distribute capital funding among our large and small arts organizations across the State.

There is no question that arts organizations across Maryland play a vital cultural and economic role: annually, 9.2 million Marylanders enjoy arts events¹ and Maryland State Arts Council grantees generate a total economic impact of \$1.3 billion and create over 16,000 full-time equivalent jobs². However, many of these same organizations focus their limited funding on impactful programming and community engagement, leaving precious little money for desperately needed capital improvements.

This Committee is no stranger to the needs of the arts organizations that bring so much light to our communities. In my own District, our Shakespeare company is in desperate need of staff bathrooms, Maryland Hall is midway through transforming a high school into the premiere arts center of our County, and a half dozen smaller organizations are desperate to repair leaky roofs, stand up new classrooms, and become ADA compliant. These same stories play out across Maryland. This bill would give large and small organizations across Maryland an opportunity to receive capital funding so they can continue to make their beneficial social, cultural, and economic impact on our State.

You will find testimony from Maryland Citizens for the Arts as well as arts organizations from across the State in your packet. Once again I ask for your support of Senate Bill 287 so we can provide the support that these arts organizations need.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sarah Elfreth'.

Sarah Elfreth

¹ Maryland Citizens for the Arts 2017 Annual Report

² Maryland State Arts Council 2019 Annual Report

HCAC_SB 287

Uploaded by: West, Coleen

Position: FAV



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

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Grants & Special Projects Assistant
Dana Whipkey

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Building Attendants
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Doug Newhouse
Gena O'Brien

Thank you for consideration of SB287. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund that will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program has two components - a competitive grant program for large institutions (\$3 m+ budgets) and another one for mid-size to small institutions that is open to both arts supported through the Maryland State Arts Council.

The Howard County Arts Council serves a vibrant and growing arts community which will require greater capital resources to meet the demand of our growing audiences. Last fall, the Howard County Arts Council, at the request of our County State Delegation drafted **The Capital Arts Projects Request Application (CAPRA) Pre-Submission Guidelines for the Downtown Columbia Arts District**. The purpose of CAPRA is to establish an annual, pre-submission review process for Downtown Columbia capital arts funding requests and present prioritized projects to the Howard County State Delegation for further consideration. The process can also be expanded to other areas of Howard County as needed.

The Howard County Arts Council also operates the Howard County Center for the Arts, a 32,000 square foot, multi-purpose arts facility located in Ellicott City. The Arts Center features two professional galleries, an intimate black box theatre, three classrooms, meeting and office spaces, a dance studio, and individual artists' studios. At the Art Center, we present 10-12 exhibitions, provide low-cost meeting and studio space for artists, and offer year-round classes in the visual arts, music, theater and dance for people of all ages. Each year, nearly 40,000 visitors browse through the galleries, take a class or attend an event at the Center.

The Center is a valuable community resource, where people of all ages and skill levels can develop and learn, artists can work and teach, and community arts organizations can establish themselves and grow. It is also an important venue for the work of both emerging and professional artists and provides a supportive, creative environment for the production and appreciation of artwork in all disciplines. The Center is located in a former elementary school built in 1961, which is in need of capital improvements.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 287

Coleen West, Executive Director, Howard County Arts Council
8510 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043
410.313.ARTS(2787)
coleen@hocoarts.org

AAC_SB287

Uploaded by: Westendorff, Julie

Position: FAV



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

Thank you for consideration of SB287. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund which will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council.

The Program has two key components which provide equitable access to funding for arts organization with more than and less than a \$3 million annual operating budget. This equality in funding allows for capital expenditures which far exceed funding generally available to small organizations, and ensures it is evenly distributed and accessible.

Allegany County is consistently ranked as one of the poorest counties in the State of Maryland. Like many rural communities decimated by the departure of manufacturing and industry, we have turned to other avenues to revitalize, with arts and culture emerging as a growing force in our area. A program of this nature creates an influx of new investment where it is desperately needed. While we often hear of massive investments made in cities and other parts of our state, we face many of the same challenges – and more. Drugs, vagrancy, inadequate housing, lack of transportation and a loss of hope impact our community in a real and tangible way. **In our community, art and culture is not a simply luxury; it is a path to pulling out and up, and it is critical to our survival.**

Unlike many of our counterparts across the state, our pool of available philanthropists is small and these dollars are sought by many competing organizations; in fact, the largest gift we received from any individual in 2019 was \$7,000 – hardly providing for any type of capital effort. This Program would create a game-changing impact in our community.

The Allegany Arts Council serves as the umbrella organization for the arts in our County of more than 70,000 residents. We not only support our own initiatives, but the work of more than 15 other arts agencies through direct financial support. We serve as a major anchor in downtown Cumberland, and provide tangible support for other businesses, including restaurants, shops and related services. While Allegany County's economic footprint across the State is small, we have an enormous presence in our community.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB287.

Julie Westendorff,
Executive Director, Allegany Arts Council
9 N. Centre Street, Cumberland, MD 21502
jwestendorff@alleganyarts.org
301.777.2787

DBM_Info_SB287

Uploaded by: Wilkins, Barbara

Position: INFO



LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 287 Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program (Elfreth, et al)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: January 29, 2020

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

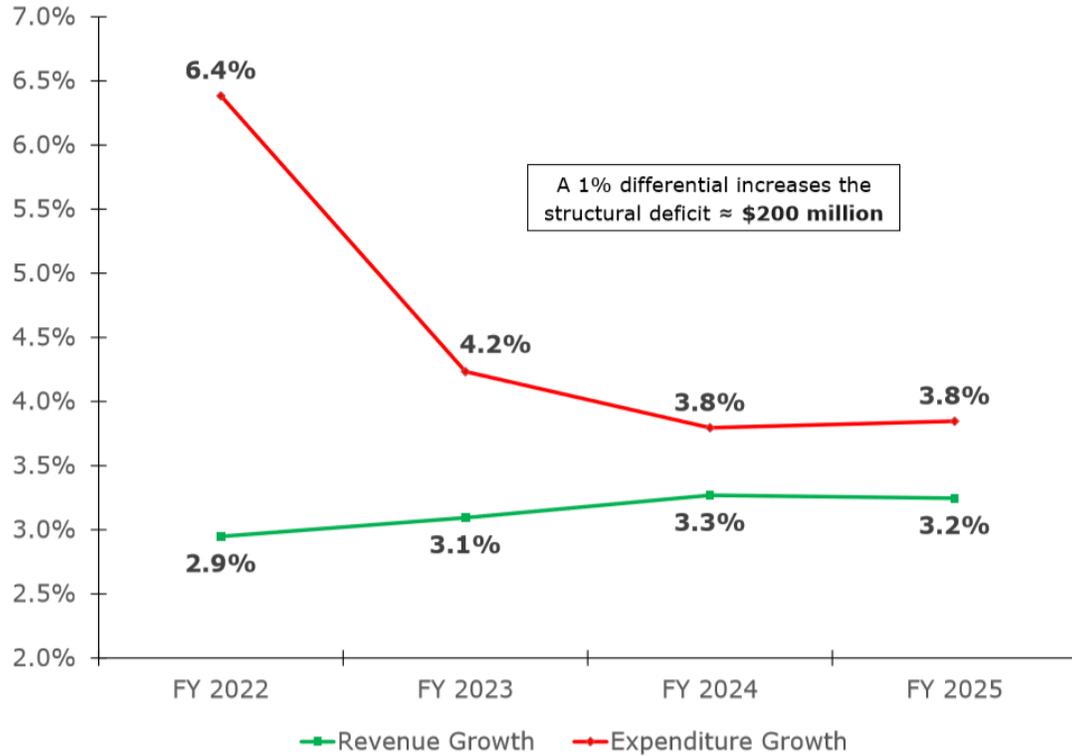
SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 287 establishes the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program to be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council, and mandates an annual appropriation in the amount of \$10 million for FY 2022 – FY 2027. The bill provides how the funds are to be distributed.

EXPLANATION: The FY 2021 Budget allowance includes \$18.6 million for Grants for Arts Organization within the Maryland State Arts Council – a 13.7% increase since FY 2019.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is charged with submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually and strives to create a structurally balanced budget, in which the growth in spending is less than the growth in revenues. Actions by the General Assembly to mandate spending levels makes it exceedingly difficult for the Administration to achieve structural balance. DBM is focused, not on the underlying policy proposal being advanced by the legislation, but rather on whether the aggregate increased spending is sustainable when spending growth continues to exceed revenue growth.

The FY 2022 General Fund forecast shows spending growth of 6.4%, whereas revenue growth is forecast to be 2.9%. Growth in State spending will outpace otherwise healthy revenue growth not only next year, but also for the foreseeable future. The result is a short and long-term structural gap that will continue to strain State resources until the underlying causes have been resolved.

Future Spending Outpaces Revenue Growth



Source: Department of Budget and Management, FY 2021 Budget Highlights Book, Appendix F (January 2020)

General Fund Budget Outlook Fiscal 2022 - 2025

	Est. 2022	Est. 2023	Est. 2024	Est. 2025
Cash Balance	-\$833	-\$1,135	-\$1,201	-\$1,298
Structural Balance	-\$701	-\$905	-\$984	-\$1,071

Department of Legislative Services, January 2020 Fiscal Briefing

For FY 22 – FY 25, the cumulative impact of an ongoing imbalance between spending and revenues is a \$3.6 billion structural gap. Our structural budget problem reflects a spending problem; not a revenue problem.

The ever-increasing use of mandates and entitlement spending by the General Assembly is a more recent practice, making the State’s structural budget deficit a chronic challenge. According to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS), 70.2% of the FY 2020 General Fund allowance is mandated or entitlement spending.

Until we achieve long-term structural balance, programs cannot rely on a consistent funding level. Constituencies for these proposed programs or enhanced spending bills should be forewarned that passage

of this legislation does not guarantee future funding. Whatever specific funding is mandated will likely be repealed or otherwise modified in a subsequent Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) – this action is necessary to ensure a constitutionally required balanced budget in the next fiscal year.

The Administration is cognizant of the downside risks facing our economy and, in the FY 2021 Budget, has set aside \$1.3 billion in reserves. The Rainy Day Fund balance is equal to 6.25% of revenues, \$48 million more than recommended by the Spending Affordability Committee (SAC). Moody's Analytics has recently advised of a slowdown in employment growth in the latter part of FY 2021, which DLS estimates would add \$241 million to the structural budget gap in FY 2021 and \$419 million in FY 2022. Historic increases in funding for both K-12 education, as proposed by the Kirwan Commission, and school construction will further aggravate the budget gap.

The 2019 SAC commentary encourages a cautious fiscal approach -- **“Out-year fiscal stress is anticipated despite the expectation that personal income and employment will continue to grow steadily, and entitlement and prison caseloads will hold steady or decline. An imbalance is forecast before accounting for any recommendations from the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education.”**

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at
(410) 260-6371 or barbara.wilkins1@maryland.gov**