

Baltimore_Museum_Art_SB465

Uploaded by: bedford, chris

Position: FAV



January 2020

IN SUPPORT OF SB 465

Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

Thank you for your consideration of SB 465 Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 of 2016, this legislation removes the sunset provision and continues the distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Preservation of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies. This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

This bill provides critical investment for the Maryland arts sector. Since receiving this \$1 million POCA distribution in each of the past 5 years, MSAC has increased its granting programs and now supports almost 300 arts organizations and hundreds of artists and arts education initiatives throughout the state. Additionally, MSAC has increased its investment in County Arts Agencies and artist specific grants. This bill will not only protect these investments but help MSAC continue to grow its offerings for the Maryland arts sector.

The Baltimore Museum of Art greatly values the work that MSAC does every year. Their annual grants help not only our institution, but those around the whole state. We know that the arts impact our communities in invaluable ways. For this reason, on behalf of The Baltimore Museum of Art, I ask for your favorable support of SB465.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Bedford", is written over a horizontal line.

Christopher Bedford
Dorothy Wagner Wallis Director
The Baltimore Museum of Art

Clancy_works_sb465

Uploaded by: clancy, adrienne

Position: FAV

adrienne@clancyworks.org
www.clancyworks.org
Ph. (301) 717 - 9271

P.O. Box 3111
SILVER SPRING, MD
20918

CLANCYWORKS

January 24, 2020

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 465
Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts
Council



Thank you for your consideration of SB465. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision and continues the distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Preservation of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies. This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

ClancyWorks Dance Company would like to express support for MD SB 465. MSAC provides invaluable services to the arts organizations of Maryland. ClancyWorks, like many small arts organizations, would probably not exist without the support of MSAC.

Funding from MSAC allows us to provide arts programs to students and teachers in Maryland public schools, colleges, and universities; to seniors in nursing homes; and to the community as a whole. These programs help students to perform better in school, improve their emotional health, and teach them important skills like cooperation and communication. Our dance programs for seniors help participants to preserve their physical, cognitive, and emotional wellbeing longer than they would without access to arts programming. Finally, publicly funded arts programming like ours makes the arts accessible to more people in the community, and makes Maryland a more desirable place to live.

MSAC supports our programming through both general operating funding and programming grants available throughout the year.

ClancyWorks is just one of many organizations to receive support from the Maryland State Arts Council and the local arts councils. Guaranteeing them funding will allow them to help more organizations and improve the lives of Maryland residents.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 465.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Adrienne Clancy
Director
info@clancyworks.org
301-717-9271
PO Box 3111
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Baltimore_Concert_Opera_SB 465

Uploaded by: cooke, julia

Position: FAV



Board of Directors

John Harris
President

Dawn O'Croinin
Vice President

Susan Yager
Treasurer

Heather Lockard-
Wheeler
Secretary

Board Members

Michael Brown
Jennifer Burdick
Indra Elangovan
Heather Kniotek
DeSimone
John Shields
Joseph Zuccaro

Staff, Ex Officio

Julia Cooke
*Artistic and General
Director*

Brendan Cooke
Founder Emeritus

Nicole Steinberg
Operations Director

Courtney Kalbacker
*Director of
Community
Engagement*

Advisory Council

Suzanne Balaes-Blair
J Austin Bitner
Michael Blair
David Dimmock
Dennis Ferguson
Erika Juengst
Mimi Hatch
Hilary B. Miller
Elisabet Pujadas
Maureen Renner
Ben Schuman
Steven White

January 29, 2020

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 465

Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Thank you for your consideration of SB 465. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision from the 2016 bill and continues the \$1 million allocation for the Maryland State Arts Council from the Preservation Of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies.

This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

BCO serves Baltimore's opera lovers by offering top-level, professional opera performances in an affordable and accessible way, fostering outreach and development, and keeping the art form of opera an active part of Baltimore's artistic scene. We reach approximately 3,300 audience and community members (2,100 paid and 1,200 free) per season.

Our success is in large part due to annual support from the Maryland State Arts Council. We are deeply appreciative for this crucial support, as are the members of our community who attend our events. Baltimore is a great city which deserves great culture, and BCO is a thriving part of that.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 465.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julia Cooke".

Julia Cooke
Artistic and General Director

Bach_in_Baltimore_SB465

Uploaded by: fanning, rebecca

Position: FAV



T. Herbert Dimmock, Founder & Music Director

Christ Lutheran Church Inner Harbor
701 S. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21230
www.BachInBaltimore.org
410-941-9262

January 28, 2020

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 465
Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

Thank you for your consideration of SB465. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision from the 2016 bill and continues the \$1 million allocation for the Maryland State Arts Council from the Preservation Of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies.

This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

Bach in Baltimore strongly supports this bill, as it has been the grateful recipient of MSAC grants for the past two decades. Without this support, we would not be able to offer the 10+ First Sunday concerts featuring the music of J. S. Bach and his contemporaries across the Greater Baltimore Area. Without this support, we would not be able to offer 10+ FREE performances for seniors in retirement communities who would otherwise not be able to attend our First Sunday performances. Without this support, we would not be able to offer our newest Beyond Bach Series of 3 unique concerts featuring music beyond the Baroque era. Without this support, we would not be able to support the dozens of local Maryland musicians who comprise our orchestra, choir, and soloists. Without this support, we would not be able to sustain our Student Voice Exchange Program, a youth-in-music initiative, offering monthly opportunities for Bach in Baltimore to share the stage with these up-and-coming musicians. And without this support, we would not be able to continue to provide quality, affordable classical music experiences across the Greater Baltimore Area to our over 5,500 patrons.

For these reasons, we ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 465.

T. Herbert Dimmock
Founder & Music Director

Rebecca Fanning
Administrative Manager

Garret_Lakes_Arts_festival_SB465

Uploaded by: harvey, andrew

Position: FAV



To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your consideration of SB465. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision and continues the distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Preservation of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies. This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

The Garrett Lakes Arts Festival, now in its 34th performing season is generously supported by funding provided by the Maryland States Arts Festival, both from its operating funding and through its touring roster grants. Without these generous funding, GLAF would not be fortunate enough to complete its mission to provide quality performing arts opportunities to its community and its under reached youth population. Being in the far corners of Western Maryland, out youth are not exposed to the arts like those of the more urban areas. Without GLAF, the students would not be exposed to classical dance like Ballet, or orchestral music, or even be able to travel to see a quality performance in an area like Hagerstown. GLAF is the lifeblood of arts and arts education to this community. The arts are integral to helping develop young minds, as well as, to ensure future success.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB465.

Thank you,

Andrew H. Harvey
Board Chairman
ahharvey1@gmail.com
Garrett Lakes Arts Festival
McHenry, MD 21541

Strathmore_SB465

Uploaded by: heffries, monica

Position: FAV

STRATHMORE

January 2020

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB465 Admission and Amusement Tax – Electronic Bingo and Tip Jars – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

Thank you for consideration of SB 465. This legislation alters, beginning fiscal year 2022, the distribution of revenue from the State admissions and amusement tax on electronic bingo and electronic tip jars to require that the Maryland State Arts Council receive \$1,000,000 each fiscal year.

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.

The funding Strathmore receives through the MSAC is an investment in our community and demonstrates the value placed on creating a vibrant arts community that welcomes everyone. Through music, performances, exhibitions, and education programs, Strathmore is proud to be both a home for the arts and a vehicle for bringing the arts to people and places throughout the state. We serve more than 250,000 people annually and are home to seven other non-profit arts partners, including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, National Philharmonic, Levine Music, CityDance, interPLAY Company Orchestra, Young Artists of America, and After School Dance Fund.

Having the Bill pass this year ensures that Strathmore's outreach to the community will continue uninterrupted, and it will allow us to expand our arts education initiatives to meet increasing demand. More than 45% of Strathmore's annual programming is offered free or at a discount. We serve more than 31,000 students and provide critical supplemental programs in the arts to Montgomery County Public Schools. For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB465.

Regards,



Monica Jeffries Hazangeles
President and CEO

Arts_Humanities_Montgomery_County_SB465

Uploaded by: JENKINS, SUZAN

Position: FAV

**board of
directors**

Regina L. Oldak, Esq.
Board Chair
Chair, Executive Committee

Rose Garvin Aquilino
Montgomery College
Board Vice Chair
Chair, Grants Committee

Elaine Robnett Moore
Elaine Robnett Moore Collection
Board Secretary

Dana Pauley
Leadership Montgomery
Board Treasurer
Chair, Finance Committee

Eric L. Siegel, Esq.
Kalbhan Hagerty LLP
Chair, Governance Committee

Eleanor Choi
Bell Architects
Chair, Public Arts Trust
Steering Committee

Ruby Lopez Harper
Americans for the Arts
Chair, Advocacy Committee

Alan Heymann, Esq., ACC
Blue Drop, LLC

Suraya Mohamed
NPR Music

Denise Saunders Thompson
The International Association
of Blacks in Dance

Mamie Bittner
Executive Coach,
Communications Strategist

ex officio

Suzan E. Jenkins, MBA
Chief Executive Officer

Kenneth A. Lechter, Esq.
Legal Counsel

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB465

Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

Thank you for your consideration of SB 645. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision and continues the distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Preservation of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies. This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

These funds, augmenting MSAC's base appropriation, have been critical to our agency's success. With lead funding from MSAC, in FY20 the Arts and Humanities Council (AHC MC) launched our Advancing Equity in the Arts & Humanities initiative, which consists of three strategic programs: comprehensive training for AHC MC's entire board of directors and staff; racial equity training for Montgomery County's cultural nonprofit organizations; and a year of racial equity consulting for AHC MC provided by Race Forward.

MSAC's investment allowed AHC MC to research over 42 grant makers in the arts and humanities sector to inform our work. Our subsequent FY21 grant guideline recommendations incorporate best practices in the sector and prioritize DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access) in grant making. This work, with the intent of deepening the impact of state and county investments in our sector, is in response to historical implicit bias in cultural policymaking that continues to negatively impact Montgomery County's small and culturally ethnic/specific organizations.

Considering Montgomery County's unique position as one of the most diverse counties in America, MSAC's key support for our work in advancing equity in the arts & humanities is critical for our county's and state's continued economic growth, development and quality of life factors for all residents.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 465.

Suzan Jenkins

CEO, Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County

suzan.jenkins@creativemoco.com 301-565-3805

Arts_on_the_block_SB 465

Uploaded by: LECUYER, ANNE

Position: FAV

January 27, 2020



RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 465 Admissions
and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland
State Arts Council

Thank you for your consideration of SB465. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision and continues the distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Preservation of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies. This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

For more than a decade, Arts on the Block has been the beneficiary of the technical assistance and funding available through the Maryland State Arts Council. Our annual general operating grant is a significant source of core funding that allows the time and flexibility to reach program participants who face multiple access barriers and to grow our program in the direction of the greatest need.

In addition to resources, we appreciate and rely on the leadership provided by the Maryland State Arts Council, including gathering the arts community together in statewide and regional meetings, providing critical research and trend insights, and representing our field to other agencies and partners. Their constant, proactive presence is mission-critical to our success.

Finally, receiving an MSAC grant is a 'stamp of approval' that is an essential tool to leverage earned income and donations toward our organization. Private funders, individual philanthropists, other granting programs and corporate partners gain confidence when they know that our programs are regularly reviewed and supported by our state agency.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 465.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Anne L'Ecuyer', written in a cursive style.

Anne L'Ecuyer
Executive Director

Wide_-Angle_youth_Media_SB465

Uploaded by: malone, suzan

Position: FAV



WIDE ANGLE YOUTH MEDIA

2601 North Howard St. Suite 160 Baltimore, MD 21218 www.wideanglemedia.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB465

Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

Thank you for your consideration of SB465. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision and continues the distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Preservation of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies. This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

Through media arts education, Wide Angle Youth Media (Wide Angle) cultivates and amplifies the voices of Baltimore youth to engage audiences across generational, cultural, and social divides. Our programs inspire creativity and instill confidence in young people, empowering them with skills to navigate school, career, and life. Support from the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) has helped Wide Angle serve thousands of youth from across Baltimore City, who have produced hundreds of digital media projects about their lives and communities.

Continued funds from MSAC are a critical resource not only for Wide Angle, but for organizations throughout Maryland. Over the past year, Wide Angle has partnered with MSAC to create short documentaries highlighting all 54 county and arts and entertainment districts in our state. Our production team has documented the economic and cultural impact of the arts across the state of Maryland, and we've captured scores of testimonials from local artists and arts agencies about the importance of the arts to the local economy.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB465

Susan Malone
Executive Director
Wide Angle Youth Media

Intersection_of Change_SB465

Uploaded by: marcus, todd

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB465
Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

Thank you for your consideration of SB465. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision and continues the distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Preservation of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies. This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

Our community nonprofit organization has seen the strong work and impact of MSAC throughout our city and the state. MSAC endeavors that have directly impacted our community include the recent designation of Pennsylvania Avenue as a state arts district, funding support towards our Jubilee Arts program that serves 2,000 people annually, and grants to individual artists that beautify and enrich our city with their work.

All of these items also bring well documented returns on investment that outweigh the actual public funding invested. This makes support of MSAC not only important for enriching our communities and state through art, but also an important economic engine that spurs critical investment and revenues for individuals, the city, and state.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 465.

Sincerely,

Todd Marcus

Todd Marcus
Executive Director

Harbor_City_Music_Company_SB465

Uploaded by: myers, sueann

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB465

Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

Thank you for your consideration of SB465 Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision from the 2016 bill and continues the \$1 million allocation for the Maryland State Arts Council from the Preservation Of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies.

This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years. As a recipient of grant funding through MSAC we are dependent on this funding assist us in achieving our mission.

With over 110 active members of our community Harbor City Music Company Show Chorus (HCMC) is an affiliate of Sweet Adelines International (SAI). We are an organization formed to perpetuate and enhance the barbershop music art form through education, ultimately benefiting local communities by furthering their artistic enrichment. The mission of HCMC is (1) to provide learning, performance and competition opportunities that enable all members to develop higher music performance skills; (2) to advance the musical art form of barbershop harmony and share our music with the community; and (3) empower women through leadership opportunities and performances and promote a diverse membership base that is united through their love of a cappella music. Our audience varies, from kids to seniors, and they run the range of social economic standing and ethnic postures. Our performances are intended for anyone with the love of music or who simply wants to be entertained with the full gamut of musical styles from country to swing, all in the four-part a cappella.

The financial aspect to provide professional, exciting and heart pounding performances for our community can be a burden. We make several attempts to fundraise but the funding received through MSAC is critical to help this artform survive.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 465 to help support the future of the arts and our wonderful artform. I invite you to come and visit us at our rehearsals or one of our performance, you can find all information on our website <http://harborcitymusiccompany.org/>

Sincerely,

Sueann Myers
Team Coordinator
Harbor City Music Company Show Chorus

SB465 FAV Maryland Center For the Arts, Amanda Pugh

Uploaded by: Pugh, Amanda

Position: FAV



MARYLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

February 12, 2020

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

SENATE BILL 465- Admissions and Amusement Tax - Electronic Bingo and Tip Jars - Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council- **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairperson Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

I am the Operations Manager at the Maryland Center for the Arts, a 501(c)3 nonprofit arts organization in Harford County dedicated to providing creative and collaborative experiences in all disciplines of the arts, and building and operating a center to provide the region with enhanced access to quality space to present, exhibit, and participate in the arts. We receive annual program operating support from the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through Creativity Grants as well as through grants from the Harford County Cultural Arts Board which receives funds from MSAC.

I can attest to the great benefit and impact of arts programming in our community in Harford County. I grew up in Harford County training and performing as a ballet/contemporary dancer, actor, and cellist with various dance and music schools. 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. Arts programs benefit and positively impact youth and teens living in diverse neighborhoods in Harford County. My friends who participated in the arts programs with me came from diverse backgrounds and different neighborhoods throughout Harford County.

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. 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."

SB 465 is important because it will help the Maryland State Arts Council continue to fund arts programs that benefit youth in diverse communities throughout the State of Maryland. I request your favorable report for the Admissions and Amusement Tax - Electronic Bingo and Tip Jars - Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council, which will positively impact and benefit the lives of residents and visitors through quality arts programming.

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

Adventure_Theatre_SB465

Uploaded by: SEEMANN, LEON

Position: FAV



Glen Echo Park
7300 MacArthur Blvd
Glen Echo, MD 20812

Wintergreen Plaza
837-D Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Leon Seemann, CFRE
Executive Director

Chil Kong
Artistic Director

Margo Brenner Collins
Education Director

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 465

Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leslie Miles, *Chair*
Topside, LLC

Richard Gervase, *Vice Chair*
Attorney/Non-Profit Consultant

Trish Glowacki, *Treasurer*
Glow Media, LLC

Melissa Siegel, *Secretary*
Former MTC Board Chair

Mayra Bayonet
Communities Connect Consulting

Kay Bowman
Montgomery County Public Libraries

Christina Chang
ASB

Jeanne H. Ellinport
American Music Therapy Association

Kymerly Escobar
Pew Charitable Trusts

Gaynelle Evans
MCM

Nisreen Farhan-Schneider
International Monetary Fund

Dr. Teresa Girál
Bethesda /Chevy Chase Counseling

Roland Hawthorne
NFP

Mitchell Herman
Dana Creative Concepts Corp

Ebonie Johnson-Cooper
Young, Black, and Giving Back Institute

Carol Leahy
Former AT Artistic Director & Board Chair

Scott Loughlin
Hogan Lovells, US LLC

Lynn Parseghian
Tregaron Conservancy

Mary Slimp

Thomas Squire
TV One

Caren Weinreich

Thank you for your consideration of SB465. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision and continues the distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Preservation of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies. This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment toward hundreds of arts organizations via MSAC over the past 5 years.

Adventure Theatre MTC (ATMTC) has been a long-term beneficiary of the State of Maryland’s commitment to the Arts through the state funding administered by MSAC. This support is vital to ATMTC’s work to educate and inspire new generations of theater artists and audiences with exceptional theatrical experiences. More specifically, it brings the *benefits* of musical theatre performances and training to Maryland children and students every day: self-confidence, teamwork, creativity, problem solving, and empathy.

Making the POCA distribution to MSAC permanent this year, further, will affirm the State’s commitment to the Arts, add confidence to budget planning of Arts organizations year-to-year, and help maintain the economic benefits that come to Maryland from investment in the Arts.

ATMTC is honored to be a key organization in Montgomery County that provides young people both their first experience of live, professional theatre and high-caliber, technique-based training to future artists.

ATMTC depends on predictable State support for budgeting and planning, including plans for growth; and ATMTC is proud to contribute to the local economy through providing staff salaries, hiring artists, and preparing students and emerging artists for the workforce.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 465.

Yours,

Leon Seemann
Executive Director

Frederick_Childresn_Chorus_SB465

Uploaded by: siedor, Kathleen

Position: FAV



**FREDERICK
CHILDREN'S
CHORUS**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB465
Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council**

Thank you for your consideration of SB465. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision from the 2016 bill and continues the \$1 million allocation for the Maryland State Arts Council from the Preservation Of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies.

This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

The mission of The Frederick Children's Chorus is to bring children together for the joyful exploration and celebration of singing. This bill is important to us because our organization is focused on providing affordable music education to all children. We provide excellent music education for our families at a fraction of our cost. We also provide scholarships and financial aid to as many students as we can. We are able to provide all this at a low or no cost tuition because of the funding we receive in grants and donations. We can not do that without the help from the funds that we get from the distribution of the monies received from MSAC for the preservation of Cultural Arts.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB465.

Kathleen D. Siedor

Kathleen Siedor
Office Manager
Frederick Children's Chorus
10716 Etzler Mill Road
Woodsboro, MD 21798
Cell -240-426-2293

Academy_Art_museum_SB 465

Uploaded by: SIMONS, BEN

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB465
Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

Thank you for your consideration of SB465. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision and continues the distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Perseveration of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies. This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

As Director of the Academy Art Museum in Easton, MD on the Eastern Shore, I wholeheartedly support SB 465. Now more than 60 year old, the Academy Art Museum is the premier accredited art museum on the Eastern Shore, and as a cultural center of year-round community we serve over 50,000 visitors, 5,500 K-12 school children, and 3,500 adults with our arts educational programs and exhibitions.

As MSAC grant recipients, we are adamantly in favor of SB 465 which will provide meritocratic capital funding for arts programs from around the state of Maryland. The bill will finally make it possible for smaller and medium sized organizations like the Academy Art Museum to address critical capital needs above and beyond our annual operations. Our museum facility includes three historic houses, which have ongoing deferred maintenance needs to maintain museum conditions.

SB465 provides organizations like us with the critical tools needed to address priority issues. It is vital to pass SB 465 this year so that we can begin to address these needs as soon as possible. The capital funds and application process will be administered by the MSAC which has an intimate knowledge of the unique needs of individual organization, which we believe is another excellent feature of the bill.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 465.

Sincerely,

Benjamin T. Simons
Director
Academy Art Museum
Easton, MD
January 29, 2020

CHILDRENS_Playhouse_SB465

Uploaded by: smith, diane

Position: FAV



Children's Playhouse of MD, Inc.
In residence at CCBC Essex
7201 Rossville Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21237

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 465
Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

Thank you for your consideration of SB465. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision and continues the distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Preservation of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies. This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

This bill provides critical investment for the Maryland arts sector.

Since receiving this \$1 million POCA distribution in each of the past 5 years, MSAC has increased its granting programs and now supports almost 300 arts organizations and hundreds of artists and arts education initiatives throughout the state, just one of which is the Children's Playhouse of Maryland, Inc. Together we continue to offer low and/or no cost theatre arts training and performance opportunities for youth 18 and under in the Greater Baltimore area. Along with training, CPM provides access to quality, affordable live theatre programming for Maryland families.

Additionally, MSAC has increased its investment in County Arts Agencies and artist specific grants. This bill will not only protect these investments but help MSAC continue to grow its offerings for the Maryland arts sector.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 465.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane Smith

Managing & Artistic Director
Children's Playhouse of Maryland
7201 Rossville Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21237
443-840-2426
cpm@ccbcmd.edu
www.cpmarts.org

MD_federation_of_art_SB465

Uploaded by: vaughn, joann

Position: FAV



MARYLAND FEDERATION OF ART

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB465
Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council**

Thank you for your consideration of SB465. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision from the 2016 bill and continues the \$1 million allocation for the Maryland State Arts Council from the Preservation Of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies.

This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years and through MSAC helps fund the 24 arts councils representing each county and the city of Baltimore.

This funding is crucial to Maryland arts organizations. Over the past 57 years Maryland Federation of Art has worked with more than 2500 artists from all parts of the state to bring their work to the public.

Based in Annapolis, we are a small nonprofit that relies on funding from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Anne Arundel County Arts Council. These organizations have not only funded our ongoing operations - including the 42 exhibits we hosted across the state last year in Annapolis, Bethesda, Ocean City and Severna Park - but have also funded new initiatives we have made such as launching a studio tour for artists in Anne Arundel County and funding Paint Annapolis, a very successful plein air competition and exhibit that brings art lovers from across the mid Atlantic region to Annapolis., bringing economic development to our area.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB465.

Joann Vaughan
Executive Director
Maryland Federation of Art

Hippodrome_SB465

Uploaded by: waxter, oliver

Position: FAV



January 28, 2020

Nicholas Cohen
Executive Director
Maryland Citizens for the Arts
120 W. North Avenue, Suite 302
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Nick:

I am writing in support of SB465 and the effort to remove the sunset provision that distributes \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Preservation of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies.

MSAC, especially under the leadership of Ken Skrzysz, has become a critical instrument to fund hundreds of arts organizations and artists across our state. The distribution of the admissions and amusement tax helps to ensure that education programs in schools across Maryland will be supported by MSAC and it will protect the ability of MSAC to continue its vital grants to cultural organizations like the Hippodrome Foundation which serves thousands of youth each year.

Please add our organization to the list of supporting organizations, we ask for a favorable report on SB465. Please express our appreciation to Delegate Lierman and Senator Guzzone, we are most appreciative of their leadership and support of the state's art community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Olive", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Olive Waxter
Executive Director

HFI Board of Trustees

Brooks Amiot, Esq.
Nichole Baccala
Arthur F. Bell, Jr.
Michael E. Cryor
Herbert D. Frerichs, Jr., Esq.
Donald C. Fry, Esq.
Jonathan M. Genn, Esq.
Donald Hicken
Christie D. McMullen
Neil M. Meltzer
Robert G. Merrick III
Adam Miller
Charles J. Nabit
Jay A. Perman
Walter D. Pinkard, Jr.,
Chairman
Karen Price-Ward
J. Michael Riley
Kurt L. Schmoke, Esq.
Zachary D. Shankman, Esq.
Michele L. Whelley

416 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone: 410-727-7787
Fax: 410-727-7783

hippodrome.foundation.org

Howard_County_Arts_Council_SB465

Uploaded by: wesr, coleen

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB465
Admissions and Amusement Tax -
Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council**

OFFICERS

President
Sharonlee Vogel
Community Liaison & Visual Arts

Vice President
Brian Rosenberg
Rosenberg | Pelino, LLC

Secretary
Jordana Guzman
Davis, Agnor, Rapaport & Skalny

Treasurer
Adam Stull
Howard Bank

Past President
Julie Hughes Jenkins
Corporate Office Properties Trust

DIRECTORS

Thomas Engleman
Howard Community College & Visual Arts

Elen Flynn Giles
EFG Enterprises

Mary Kay Kenney
Maryland University of Integrative Health

Julia Kovacs
DLA Piper

Greg Lowe
Lowe Wealth Advisors

Dami Sch Schlobahn
Community Liaison & Musician

Tracey Pulio Schully
Community Liaison & Musician

Sabina Taj
Bralmayer Foundation

George Wilson
HCPSS Fine Arts Advisory Council

LEGAL COUNSEL

Jeff Agnor
Davis, Agnor, Rapaport & Skalny, LLC

STAFF

Executive Director
Coleen West

Deputy Director
Mary K. Baxter

Development Manager
Stephanie Schuster

Gallery & Programs Assistant
Elli Hernandez

Grants & Special Projects Assistant
Dana Whipkey

Visitor & Facilities Services Assistant
Kathleen Bender-O'Keefe

Community & Web Relations Director
Pamela Perna

Building Attendants
Mark Becker
Doug Newhouse
Gena O'Brien

Thank you for your consideration of SB465. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision and continues the distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Preservation of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies. This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years and has had a positive impact on the economy and creative industries statewide.

On the local level, the Howard County Arts Council receives a block grant from the State through MSAC. This grant underwrites activities that support re-grants to local arts organizations, artist-in-education residencies in our schools, and outreach programs such as Head StART in ART, which provides visiting artist programs for preschoolers from low income families. It also supports activities at the Howard County Center for the Arts, a 32,000 square foot, multi-purpose arts facility located in Ellicott City, which is operated by the Arts Council. At the 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. In FY19, the Arts Council served nearly 40,000 children and adults at the Center.

In addition, many of the local arts organizations we serve – such as Candlelight Concerts, Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, and Rep Stage - receive direct grants from MSAC to support their missions, programs and audiences. In FY19, these grantees reported serving 280,000 people. The combined total of Howard Countians who benefited from MSAC funding last year was 320,000 – a clear indicator of how important the arts are to the people living and raising their families in Howard County.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB465.

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

Baltimore_Clay_works_SB465

Uploaded by: wish, cyndi

Position: FAV

410.578.1919
5707 Smith Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21209
baltimoreclayworks.org



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 465
Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

Thank you for your consideration of SB 465. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision from the 2016 bill and continues the \$1 million allocation for the Maryland State Arts Council from the Preservation Of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies.

This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

Baltimore Clayworks supports this bill without reservation. It is through funding from the Maryland State Arts Council that Baltimore Clayworks is able to support a wide array of arts and cultural programs for citizens throughout Maryland. Baltimore Clayworks galleries see over 5000 visitors per year, and educational programs serve over 1500 adults and students. Community arts programs work in collaboration with public service agencies to utilize the arts in support of people in addiction recovery, women and children who have escaped domestic violence situations, youth awaiting adjudication, and bringing arts to those who might otherwise not have access. Clayworks has also produced multiple public arts projects throughout the City of Baltimore, most recently this past summer in partnership with Park Heights Renaissance. Baltimore Clayworks provides free arts programming to over 12,000 Maryland residents annually. Recently Baltimore Clayworks began a Workforce Development Program which serves young adults with mental disabilities.

It is crucial that this bill be passed. The arts are inherent to all aspects of humanity, and the State's investment in the arts see high return, as the arts support education, public health, economic development, community pride, healthy aging. The Maryland State Arts Council is Baltimore Clayworks largest funder, and we are proud of the impact we can have on Maryland residents because of this funding. It is our honor to utilize State funding in creative programs which serve all people. Passing this bill will increase the impact of our programs.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cyndi Wish".

Cyndi Wish
Executive Director
1/29/2020

410.578.1919
5707 Smith Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21209
baltimoreclayworks.org



Annapolis_Symphony_SB 465

Uploaded by: ZENO, PAT

Position: FAV



January 27, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today in support of SB 465 – legislation that removes the sunset provision of Chapter 145 and continues uninterrupted distribution of \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC).

I sit on the Board of the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra. Each year, the Annapolis Symphony receives significant grant money from the Maryland State Arts Council. This funding helps the Symphony bring more music to more people in our community, not just through the Symphony's onstage presence at Maryland Hall, but also through its Chamber Music series, Music Van for schools, Concerts for School Children (including Title 1 schools) and the annual free "Pops in the Park" concert at Quiet Waters Park. Most recently, the Symphony established the Annapolis Symphony Academy. Now in its second year, the Academy was established to nurture musical talent in children through high-level musical education, to promote cultural and economic diversity, and to give opportunities to less fortunate children. About half of all Academy students are of African American or Latino background. Approximately half of the students, regardless of their cultural background, receive need-based full-tuition scholarships.

The grant monies received by the Annapolis Symphony from the Maryland State Arts Council are vital to these community-outreach programs. The assurance that the passage of SB 465 would bring – removing the sunset provision in order to continue the distribution of \$1 million to MSAC – is vital to the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra's planning process. For this reason, I ask for a favorable report on SB 465.

Best regards,

Patricia Zeno
Annapolis Symphony Orchestra Board of Trustees

THIS IS *Capital Sound.*

José-Luis Novo, Music Director | The Philip Richebourg Chair

410.269.1132 | Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts | 801 Chase Street | Annapolis, Maryland 21401 | annapolissymphony.org

Member of the Strathmore Affiliate Network