



January 27, 2020

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 135  
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program**

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**STAFF**

Nicholas Cohen

*Executive Director*

Amanda Morell

*Program Manager*

Morgan Brown

*Program Coordinator*

Thank you for your consideration of HB135. This legislation continues a \$1 million distribution from the Preservation of Cultural Arts monies towards the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) by removing the sunset provision found in 2016 legislation.

Maryland arts organizations and independent artists 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.

The Maryland arts sector has greatly appreciated the continued support of MSAC. This investment has provided countless artistic and community focused events throughout towns, cities and neighborhoods across Maryland. At a time when arts organizations are investing even more in their communities, MSAC funding is of critical importance to their success!

HB 135 provides important continued funding to arts communities throughout the state. In every region of Maryland, we see vibrant arts communities - with strong funding and investment in their programs, we can continue to be a leader in the nation for the arts 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 HB 135.**

Respectfully,

Nicholas Cohen  
Executive Director