



4314 Farragut Street • Hyattsville, MD 20781 • (301) 683-8267 (O) • www.hycdc.org

Board of Directors:

Lisa Jordan, Chairman
Gloria Felix-Thompson, Vice Chairman
Mark G. L. Ferguson, Treasurer, Secretary
Mike Franklin
Lynda Lynn

Chris Hatcher
Lawrence N. Taub, Esq.
Todd Dengel
Cliff Mayo
Jerome Shulman

Executive Director: Stuart W. Eisenberg

January 30, 2020

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 135
Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

Thank you for your consideration of HB135 – Admissions and Amusement Tax – Electronic Bingo and Tip Jars – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council. 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) funds. This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

The Hyattsville Community Development Corporation (HCDC) supports HB135 as a nonprofit organization, founded in 2001, dedicated to community and economic development in Hyattsville and greater Prince George's County. Our organization recognizes the central role of the arts in economic development and community revitalization. We seek to integrate revitalization and promotion of the arts in our programming whenever possible.

MSAC supports HCDC's arts programming goals through various grant opportunities. Specifically, HCDC has utilized MSAC's grant funds to commission public art works; implement our Traffic Box Art Wrap Program; advance the Stream Valley Artway along the Northwest Anacostia Branch Trail; and grown the Annual Downtown Hyattsville Arts Festival. None of the programs would be possible without the support of the MSAC.

Since receiving the annual \$1 million POCA allocation over the past five years, MSAC has been able expand its grant funding and provide further support of arts programming to organizations like HCDC. Additionally, this funding has been able to bolster MSAC's Arts & Entertainment Districts around the state, including the Gateway Arts & Entertainment District here in Prince George's County. HB135 will protect these new investments, and ensure that MSAC can continue to improve its offerings to the Maryland arts community.

For these reasons, HCDC respectfully requests a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB135.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart W. Eisenberg", is written over a light blue grid background.

Stuart Eisenberg, Executive Director
Hyattsville CDC