

410.578.1919  
5707 Smith Ave.  
Baltimore, MD 21209  
[baltimoreclayworks.org](http://baltimoreclayworks.org)



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

Thank you for your consideration of HB135. 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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cyndi Wish  
Executive Director  
1/29/2020

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