



January 2020

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 of 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.

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 HB135.

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