



Hippodrome Foundation

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 HB 135 and the effort to remove the sunset provision that distributes \$1 million to the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) through the Perseveration of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies.

MSAC, especially under the leadership of Ken Skyrzesz, 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 HB-135. 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,

Olive Waxter
Executive Director

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