

MARYLAND
INSTITUTE
COLLEGE
OF ART



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

On behalf of the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), I would like to thank you for your consideration of HB135. 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 Preservation of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies. This \$1 million distribution has ensured continued investment towards important statewide programs supported by MSAC over the past five years and is critical to arts organization throughout Maryland.

MICA has benefitted from MSAC's support for decades. The positive impact of that support is evident throughout Baltimore City and the State of Maryland. The public art exhibitions and events made possible through funding from MSAC enrich and engage public awareness, interest, and understanding of the arts and culture, the creative process, and the broad application of creativity and creative entrepreneurship. Through public programming and community education, MICA is able to provide a space for Marylanders to actively participate in meaningful dialogues and hands-on experiences relating to art and design. Because of MICA's deep commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, the College ensures outreach to diverse audiences.

MICA applauds MSAC's dedication to the equitable allocation of state funding. It is with pride that MICA endorses the ever-evolving mission of MSAC to become a model arts council in the nation. We are grateful for MSAC's efforts to serve a broad and diverse population of Marylanders in thoughtfully conceived programming.

With your continued investment in MSAC, which funds hundreds of arts organizations and artists and directly serves numerous citizens across Maryland, the lives of many will continue to be enriched through the arts.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB135.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hoi', with a small dot at the end.

Samuel Hoi
President, Maryland Institute College of Art