



WIDE ANGLE YOUTH MEDIA

2601 North Howard St. Suite 160 Baltimore, MD 21218 www.wideanglemedia.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 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 helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years.

Through media arts education, Wide Angle Youth Media (Wide Angle) cultivates and amplifies the voices of Baltimore youth to engage audiences across generational, cultural, and social divides. Our programs inspire creativity and instill confidence in young people, empowering them with skills to navigate school, career, and life. Support from the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) has helped Wide Angle serve thousands of youth from across Baltimore City, who have produced hundreds of digital media projects about their lives and communities.

Continued funds from MSAC are a critical resource not only for Wide Angle, but for organizations throughout Maryland. Over the past year, Wide Angle has partnered with MSAC to create short documentaries highlighting all 54 county and arts and entertainment districts in our state. Our production team has documented the economic and cultural impact of the arts across the state of Maryland, and we've captured scores of testimonials from local artists and arts agencies about the importance of the arts to the local economy.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB 135.

Susan Malone
Executive Director
Wide Angle Youth Media