



Hamilton-Lauraville Main Street, Inc.
a 501(c)(3) community organization and
a Baltimore Main Streets Initiative
3015 Hamilton Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21214
hamiltonlauraville.org

via MyMGA Tracking

Honorable Benjamin S. Barnes, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Lowe House Office Building, Room 121
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Honorable Mark S. Chang, Vice-Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Taylor House Office Building, Room 121
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 2, 2024

re: Support for HB348 (Funding for UB Schaefer Center)

Dear Chairperson Barnes, Vice-Chairperson Chang, and Committee Members:

I write in favor of HB348 because I believe that other organizations, agencies, and individuals deserve to experience the amazing capacity-building, growth, and other opportunities that my organization, Hamilton-Lauraville Main Street (HLMS),¹ and I have seen thanks to Maryland's 2022 investment in current and aspiring public leaders.

You now have the opportunity to take part in continuing this wide-ranging public good by permanently funding the Schaefer Center for Public Policy (the Center) at the University of Baltimore (UB) through a favorable recommendation of HB348.

To assist you with this decision, I briefly offer just a few examples of Schaefer Center initiatives that positively impacted our organization and community:

- UB students from the Center and the **NextGen Leaders for Public Service Internship** program (NexGen) played key roles in HLMS projects – roles that our small organization could not have afforded and, therefore, would have been unable to do without them – that will have long-lasting benefits for our entire area.

¹ HLMS is a not-for-profit community and economic development organization that works to improve the appearance, infrastructure, and overall health of our area of Northeast Baltimore by, among other activities, assisting existing businesses, encouraging new businesses, facilitating facade and other grants for business or commercial property owners and community groups, and working with community members and both business and residential associations to facilitate inclusive community-based programming. We house a Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative (HNI) program and one of Baltimore City's eight designated Main Streets programs. Our goal is to help our entire wonderfully-eclectic and diverse community thrive by creating opportunities for local businesses – the lifeblood of a community – and providing quality of life experiences that retain residents and attract new neighbors.



Chair Barnes and Vice-Chair Chang
Appropriations Committee
Testimony **in Favor** of **HB 348**
Submitted: February 2, 2024
Hearing Scheduled: February 6, 2024

These individuals and their projects include:

- A mother who returned to school as her daughter began her own college journey played a key role in expanding and transforming our long-held weekly farmers market into our now-popular Tuesday Markets that feature numerous home-based and other small entrepreneurs who are able to grow their customer base and promote their business on a small enough scale that they can continue supporting themselves and their families until their own business can do so.
- An international student whose communication and other skills allowed us to engage and obtain significantly more resident and business input into lighting and cameras in and around key parts of the commercial corridor, which we believe will address the safety concerns that led to this grant project even more effectively than if we had proceeded without her excellent work.
- I currently am a member of Cohort 15 in UB's **Maryland Certified Public Manager program (CPM)** thanks to a scholarship through your 2022 funding that has allowed me to participate in this extraordinary learning experience with a diverse group of other non-profit employees who are regularly learning valuable materials and skills that we are able to take back to our organizations and communities throughout Maryland.

HLMS and I are tremendously grateful for the opportunities that your support of the Center has provided, and I urge you to continue providing those opportunities with this bill.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Daniel P. Doty,
Executive Director

daniel@hamiltonlauravillemainstreet.org

cc (via email): Dr. Ann Cotten, Schaefer Center for Public Policy
Del. Stephanie Smith, District 45
Sen. Cory McCray, District 45 (Sponsor: SB 101)
HLMS Board Members