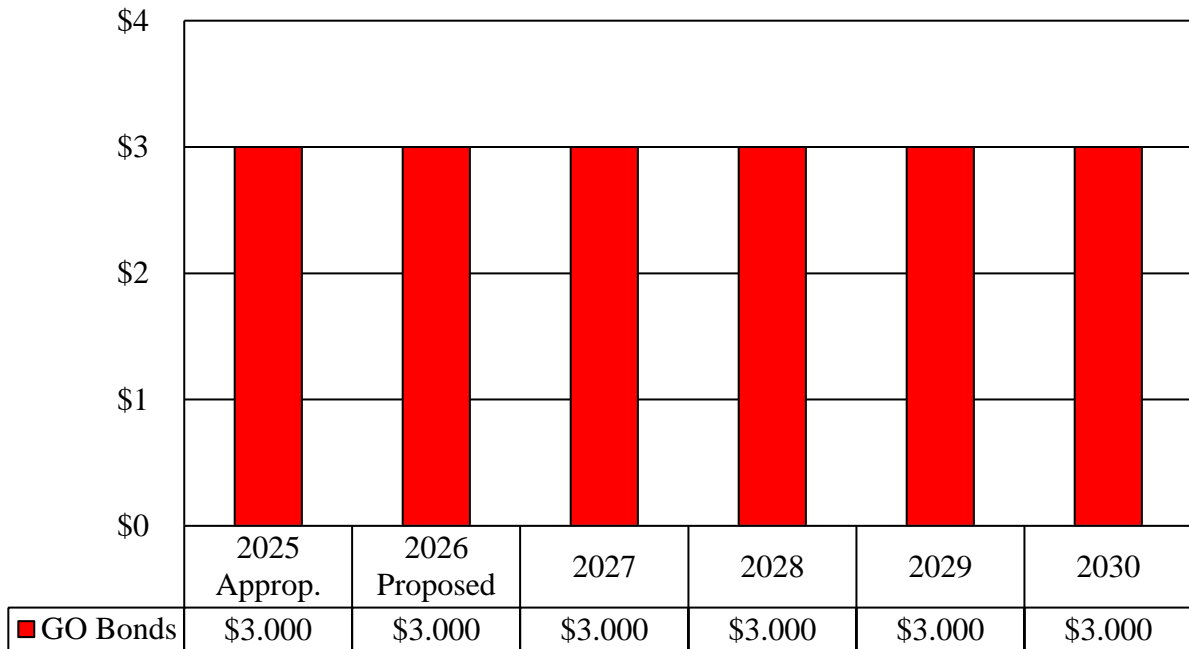


**TG00**  
**Department of Commerce – Capital**

***Capital Budget Summary***

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**Grant and Loan *Capital Improvement Program***  
**(\$ in Millions)**



GO: general obligation

***Key Observations***

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- ***Capital Grants for Arts Organizations:*** Chapters 394 and 395 of 2021 established the Maryland Arts Capital Grant Program and mandated \$3 million of funding annually for fiscal 2024 through 2029. The program provides grant funding for capital projects to nonprofit arts and cultural organizations. In the first two years of operation, the program has awarded \$6 million to 27 organizations.
- ***Funding in the Out-years:*** The *Capital Improvement Program* (CIP) includes \$3 million annual funding through fiscal 2030.

## ***GO Bond Recommended Actions***

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1. Approve the general obligation bond authorization for the Department of Commerce.

## ***Budget Overview of Grant and Loan Programs***

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Chapters 394 and 395 established the Maryland Arts Capital Grant Program, administered by the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) in the Department of Commerce (Commerce). From fiscal 2024 through 2029, the Governor must include \$3.0 million in the State operating or capital budget for the program. This mandate is met with general obligation (GO) bonds in fiscal 2026, and the CIP also plans \$3.0 million in GO bonds annually through the end of the planning period in fiscal 2030.

MSAC must award grants to organizations with an operating budget under \$3.0 million that participate in the council’s Grants for Organizations Program or Community Arts Development Program or are open to the public and provide cultural education or experiences. Per Chapters 394 and 395, a grant may be awarded for the acquisition of, expansion of, renovation of, or major repairs to a facility or other infrastructure that is operated by an eligible recipient. Under the statute, an organization may not receive a grant of more than \$1.0 million for a single project in a fiscal year.

Fiscal 2024 was the first year of funding, and Commerce has awarded two rounds of grants through this program: 14 grants totaling \$3 million in fiscal 2024; and 13 grants totaling \$3 million in fiscal 2025. Grant amounts have been between \$50,000 and \$450,000. A list of grantees is included in **Appendix 1**.

Applications are scored by outside reviewers using a rubric developed by MSAC. Commerce reports that interest in the program has been high; the program received a total of 53 eligible applications requesting approximately \$9 million in fiscal 2024 and 51 eligible applications requesting \$13.3 million in fiscal 2025. Grantees have two years to obligate the funds and must submit a report at the end of the performance period. Although fiscal 2024 was the first year of funding for MSAC capital grants, MSAC awards operating grants totaling more than \$25 million annually.

While the funding mandate for this program ends with fiscal 2029, the 2025 CIP includes \$3 million in planned funding for fiscal 2030, past the end of the funding mandate. As grantees complete their funding cycles and submit reports, the Department of Legislative Services recommends that Commerce continue to track the outcomes and effectiveness of the program to aid in determining whether funding should continue beyond the mandated funding period.

**Appendix 1**  
**Maryland Arts Capital Grant Program Awards**  
**(Fiscal 2024-2025)**

<b>Fiscal 2024</b>		
<b><u>Organization</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Central Baltimore Partnership, Inc.	Baltimore City	\$300,000
Sandy Spring Museum, Inc.	Montgomery	300,000
Intersection of Change, Inc.	Baltimore City	300,000
Maryland Art Place	Baltimore City	300,000
Wide Angle Youth Media	Baltimore City	300,000
Howard County Arts Council	Howard	300,000
Dorchester Center for the Arts	Dorchester	300,000
Le Mondo, Inc.	Baltimore City	270,000
Open Works, Inc.	Baltimore City	200,000
The Peale Center for History and Architecture, Inc.	Baltimore City	110,000
Urban Oasis, Inc.	Baltimore City	110,000
Writers Center, Inc.	Montgomery	80,000
Theater Consortium of Silver Spring	Montgomery	80,000
The Delaplaine Arts Center, Inc.	Frederick	50,000

<b>Fiscal 2025</b>		
<b><u>Organization</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Pennsylvania Avenue Black Arts and Entertainment District, Inc.	Baltimore City	\$450,000
St. Mary’s County Arts Council	St. Mary’s	450,000
Dancemakers, Inc.	Prince George’s	360,000
Nanticoke Historic Preservation Alliance, Inc.	Dorchester	315,000
Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center, Inc.	Baltimore City	295,000
Germantown Cultural Arts Center, Inc.	Montgomery	288,000
Crisfield Arts Syndicate, LLC.	Somerset	218,000
Audrey Herman Spotlighters Theatre, Inc.	Baltimore City	160,000
Garrett County Arts Council, Inc.	Garrett	136,000
Baltimore Improv Group Inc.	Baltimore City	100,000
Maryland Ensemble Theatre, Inc.	Frederick	95,000
Art League of Ocean City, Inc.	Worcester	83,000
Strand Theater Company, Inc.	Baltimore City	50,000

Source: Department of Commerce