



MARYLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

January 28, 2020

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Room 120
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

HOUSE BILL 127- MARYLAND ARTS AND CULTURE CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAM: SUPPORT

Dear Chairperson McIntosh and Members of the Committee:

I am the Operations Manager at the Maryland Center for the Arts, a 501(c)3 nonprofit arts organization dedicated to providing creative and collaborative experiences in all disciplines of the arts, and building and operating a center to provide the region with enhanced access to quality space to present, exhibit, and participate in the arts.

I can attest to the great value and impact of arts participation from my years-long experience training and performing as a ballet/contemporary dancer, actor, and cellist. My dance training started when I was four years old, and I started playing the cello at age nine. I also performed in plays/musicals throughout my student life. My academic and personal achievements were shaped by my well-rounded education in dance, theater, and music, and the experience I gained performing in front of audiences instilled my self-confidence. From age 18-25, I performed professionally in dance and music, while also earning degrees in Dance and Arts Administration from Goucher College. Today I work full-time at the Maryland Center for the Arts, overseeing program/event development, fundraising, and marketing. I also teach dance and Pilates, and volunteer at my church performing my cello.

I, among many others, have personally experienced the power of the arts. Not only do the arts inspire and challenge, they also have a unique way of expanding one's intelligence and perspective. As Rep. Alma Adams once said: "The arts are a universal language that help us understand diversity, cultures and our most complex issues... Each generation has its own unique set of challenges, but it is through the arts and humanities that we learn compassion, understanding and critical thinking skills that enable us to address these problems and find solutions."

Thank you for carefully considering the Maryland Arts and Cultural Capital Grant Program to enhance arts programs and facilities in the State of Maryland to continue to positively impact the lives of residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Amanda Pugh
Operations Manager, Maryland Center for the Arts

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