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WE ARE **ARTS**  
FOR ANNE ARUNDEL

January 27, 2020

Thank you for consideration of HB127. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Cultural Capital Grant Program, a new capital fund that will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program has two components – a competitive grant program for large institutions (\$3 m+ budgets) and another one for mid-size to small institutions that is open for arts organizations supported through the Maryland State Arts Council.

As the Director for the Arts Council of Anne Arundel for over 12 years I work with 50 arts non-profits in Anne Arundel County. Many of these groups own or seek to own their facilities. This important legislation will provide a way for organizations to achieve this goal without individually approaching their Legislator. Having a regulated process will ensure several things:

1. It ensures that access the funds are available for all arts non-profits throughout the State.
2. The application is available and administered by a known leader to arts organization – The Maryland State Arts Council.
3. Ensures that the funds are distributed in an equitable manner.
4. Provides Transparency

I have also had the opportunity to be a part of CAAM (County Arts Agencies of Maryland) during my tenure. The topic of Capital funding is a re-occurring topic each year, as most of the County Arts Councils do not have access to funding for this type of expenditures. I know that we would all welcome and support the process laid out in HB127.

Please consider this important legislation to support the Arts and non-profits throughout Maryland.

Respectfully,

April Nyman  
Executive Director