



**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
GLOBAL CAMPUS**

Bill: House Bill 127 - Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program
Sponsor: Delegate Lierman, Boyce, Forbes, Hettleman, R. Lewis, et al.
Committee: House Appropriations
Hearing Date: January 28, 2020
By: Eric Key, Director of Arts Program, UMGC

The University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) **SUPPORTS HB 127 – Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program**, a plan to establish the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program which will provide funding for capital improvement projects of arts organizations and hire a coordinator to administer the plan under the Maryland State Arts Council. As an arts organization at UMGC, it is often that capital improvement dollars are hard to acquire. So I am extremely pleased to support this bill.

The UMGC collections are free and open to the public at UMGC locations and other venues in the State of Maryland. Highlights from the UMGC collections include works by Andy Warhol, Herman Maril, Grace Hartigan, Joyce Scott, Gladys Goldstein, Raoul Middleman, Joseph Sheppard, Jacob Lawrence, Sam Gilliam, Paul Reed, Alma Thomas, Samella Lewis, and David Driskell. The UMGC collections also comprise outstanding works of Asian art from virtually all Chinese dynasties.

The UMGC Arts Program goals are to:

- Develop one of the largest art collections of works by Maryland artists in various mediums, including painting, drawing, works on paper, sculpture, and mixed media.
- Present a collection of traditional and contemporary Asian art including the Art of China Collection.
- Preserve and enhance the UMGC collections.
- Promote and publicize the UMGC collections regionally, nationally, and internationally.
- Feature the works of emerging and established artists locally in UMGC exhibition spaces and other venues and globally through technology.
- Promote and interpret works of art in a variety of education settings, including K–12 classes and the community

As an arts organization in the State of Maryland that reaches approximately 75,000 individuals annually with art related projects, we truly rely on the funding support from MSAC as well as the support from private donors. Now with 3,000 works in the various collections and producing five to seven visual art exhibitions and art related activities annually, we have grown to capacity. Our

activities have add its effect on the structure and the demand for more to see more will require us to expand and/or renovate our spaces. Thus, HB 127 will be attractive in hoping us to expand or simply assist us in upgrading our current facility and exhibition spaces.

Current funds from MSAC allow us to produce educational art programs, interact with our community, provide meaningful discussions, and become a destination for visitors. Needless to say, MSAC's funding is critical to the sustainability and growth of our organization and others. With HB 127, our program will have another avenue of funding that will keep our organization in the minds of visitors, patrons, and students. Passing this bill will tremendously help MSAC to continue to support art organizations throughout the state of Maryland in another way that keeps arts spaces fresh as well as help to provide new spaces for visual art exhibitions and programs.

For these reasons, I ask for a **FAVORABLE REPORT** on House Bill 127.