



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

WILL ANDERSON, *Director*
Department of Economic and
Workforce Development

BILL NO.: HB 127
TITLE: Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program
SPONSOR: Delegates Lierman, Boyce, Forbes, Hettleman, R. Lewis, McIntosh, and Rosenberg
COMMITTEE: House Appropriations Committee
POSITION: **SUPPORT**
DATE: January 22, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 127 – Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund that will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program has two components: (1) a competitive grant program for large institutions (those with budgets of \$3 million or greater) and (2) a grant program for institutions with under \$3 million budgets. The grant program is open to both arts organizations and cultural and historical institutions.

Baltimore County's Commission of Arts and Sciences (BCCAS) has reviewed and recommended grants of about three million dollars each year to arts organizations. BCCAS supports both organizations in this county as well as organizations in Baltimore City and other nearby counties. We believe that supporting cultural arts in the region enhances the quality of life for all our residents.

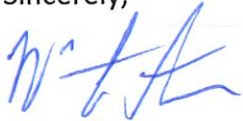
Included in the BCCAS support are grants to small organizations that might not otherwise receive funding. Financial support of organizations at various stages is crucial to incubate and nurture the next generation of artists and arts organizations. Without ongoing support of the entire eco-system, we risk creating arts deserts that will cause severe cultural, educational, and financial losses to the county. Primarily supported by the Maryland State Arts Council's funding, MSAC's program enhances our ability to serve and support organizations of all sizes. Moreover, we recognize that the program supports equitable funding for other counties in Maryland that do not have the resources that Baltimore County is privileged to have. In the past year, MSAC funding supported the following initiatives, among others:

- **Student-Teacher Art Exhibit** at Historic Hampton mansion.
- **Lurman Concert Series** in Catonsville, consisting of free outdoor concerts every weekend in the summer.

- WTMD's presentation of **live musical performances** for children and families in Towson.
- **Contemporary arts exhibits** at Goucher College.

The Maryland State Arts Council is an excellent steward of public money. The Council supports high standards of excellence for all its affiliates. For these reasons, we respectfully request your full support of this bill. Accordingly, Baltimore County requests **FAVORABLE** report on HB 127. For more information, please contact Helene Luce, Arts & Culture Coordinator, at 410-887-4808.

Sincerely,



Will Anderson
Director, Economic and Workforce Development