



BALTIMORE ROCK OPERA SOCIETY

Baltimore Rock Opera Society, Inc. (BROS)

EIN: 47-1406439

1/20/20

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 127 Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program

Thank you for consideration of HB127. 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 - a competitive grant program for large institutions (\$3 m+ budgets) and another one for mid-size to small institutions that is open to all kinds of essential arts organizations in Maryland. These arts organizations are completely vital to our culture, our economy and the long-term success of Maryland as a leader in the region's future.

Baltimore Rock Opera Society (BROS) is a vital organization in the Baltimore City and Baltimore regional arts environment. We are a linchpin organization that creates gigantic collaborative arts projects that bring together artists and audiences of many different age groups, demographics and abilities. We create exciting original rock theater where amateurs, experienced professionals, young artists in training and early career artists go to exchange ideas, train each other and create some of the most visionary work to ever emerge from Charm City. Although Baltimore currently has many productive and groundbreaking small arts organizations, those companies are in great danger of being priced out of the neighborhoods that they helped to establish. As Baltimore's future economic outlook improves, there is little evidence to suggest that Baltimore's arts organizations will share in that improvement. **This program is URGENT to ensure that dynamic and vital cultural organizations such as BROS are able to gain a foothold in Baltimore and to guarantee that art has a role in the city and the region's future. If the bill is passed this year, we believe it could play a vital role in helping to fund the renovations of a new, nationally recognized performance home for BROS in the Station North Arts & Entertainment District.**

Help keep Baltimore and Maryland's Arts Communities alive and vital! In order for this region to continue to attract wealth and investment we must be able to deliver nationally recognized cultural experiences. Arts organizations can't deliver their best to audiences if they can't fund the capital projects that will keep them alive. For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB 127.

Rock on!

Aran Keating

Executive Director

Baltimore Rock Opera Society (BROS)

aran@baltimorerockopera.org - 410-212-4473

<http://www.baltimorerockopera.org>