



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

OFFICERS

President
Sharonlee Vogel
Community Liaison & Visual Arts

Vice President
Brian Rosenberg
Rosenberg | Pelino, LLC

Secretary
Jordana Guzman
Davis, Agnor, Rapaport & Skalny

Treasurer
Aclam Stull
Howard Bank

Past President
Julie Hughes Jenkins
Corporate Office Properties Trust

DIRECTORS

Thomas Engleman
Howard Community College & Visual Arts

Ellen Flynn Giles
EFG Enterprises

Mary Kay Kenney
Maryland University of Integrative Health

Julia Kovacs
DLA Piper

Greg Lowe
Lowe Wealth Advisors

Dami Soh Schlobohm
Community Liaison & Musician

Tracey Pullo Schutty
Community Liaison & Musician

Sabina Taj
Braitmayer Foundation

George Wilson
HCPSS Fine Arts Advisory Council

LEGAL COUNSEL

Jeff Agnor
Davis, Agnor, Rapaport & Skalny, LLC

STAFF

Executive Director
Coleen West

Deputy Director
Mary K. Baxter

Development Manager
Stephanie Schuster

Gallery & Programs Assistant
Elli Hernandez

Grants & Special Projects Assistant
Dana Whipkey

Visitor & Facilities Services Assistant
Kathleen Bender-O'Keefe

Community & Web Relations Director
Pamela Perna

Building Attendants
Mark Becker
Doug Newhouse
Gena O'Brien

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 both arts supported through the Maryland State Arts Council.

The Howard County Arts Council serves a vibrant and growing arts community which will require greater capital resources to meet the demand of our growing audiences. Last fall, the Howard County Arts Council, at the request of our County State Delegation drafted **The Capital Arts Projects Request Application (CAPRA) Pre-Submission Guidelines for the Downtown Columbia Arts District**. The purpose of CAPRA is to establish an annual, pre-submission review process for Downtown Columbia capital arts funding requests and present prioritized projects to the Howard County State Delegation for further consideration. The process can also be expanded to other areas of Howard County as needed.

The Howard County Arts Council also operates the Howard County Center for the Arts, a 32,000 square foot, multi-purpose arts facility located in Ellicott City. The Arts Center features two professional galleries, an intimate black box theatre, three classrooms, meeting and office spaces, a dance studio, and individual artists' studios. At the Art Center, we present 10-12 exhibitions, provide low-cost meeting and studio space for artists, and offer year-round classes in the visual arts, music, theater and dance for people of all ages. Each year, nearly 40,000 visitors browse through the galleries, take a class or attend an event at the Center.

The Center is a valuable community resource, where people of all ages and skill levels can develop and learn, artists can work and teach, and community arts organizations can establish themselves and grow. It is also an important venue for the work of both emerging and professional artists and provides a supportive, creative environment for the production and appreciation of artwork in all disciplines. The Center is located in a former elementary school built in 1961, which is in need of capital improvements.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB127.

Coleen West, Executive Director, Howard County Arts Council
8510 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043
410.313.ARTS(2787)
coleen@hocoarts.org