

STRATHMORE

January 22, 2020

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 287 Maryland Arts Capital Grant Program

Thank you for consideration of SB 287. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts 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+MM budgets) and another one for mid-size to small institutions that is open to arts organizations.

Strathmore presents and produces exemplary visual and performing arts programs for diverse audiences; creates dynamic arts education experiences; and nurtures creative ideas and conversations that advance the future of the arts. The organization's hallmark is the Music Center at Strathmore, with a 1,976-seat concert hall and education complex. Its core campus also includes the historic Mansion at Strathmore, which features an intimate Music Room and art galleries. Most recently, Strathmore opened AMP, a 230-seat cabaret-style venue located just up Rockville Pike from the core campus in the burgeoning Pike District of Montgomery County. Strathmore's signature mission-driven programs include the Strathmore Student Concerts, the Artist in Residence program, and Bloom, a community outreach initiative to expand arts access to every corner of Montgomery County.

Constructed with public funding, The Music Center at Strathmore stands as an extraordinary example of what can be accomplished with state and county capital support. The creation of an Arts Capital Grant Program would ensure that arts organizations of all sizes can pursue their dreams to expand, renovate, repair, and construct facilities that will enhance their service to their patrons. This additional option for capital support makes it possible for organizations to plan for and implement projects more strategically and efficiently. The State of Maryland has made significant investments in arts facilities around the state. This important capital support will help organizations maintain, update, and expand them so that they may serve generations to come. Having the Bill pass this year enables organizations to take advantage of local tax credits, matching support by local agencies, and to plan for maximum support from private sector partners.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 287.

Regards,



Monica Jeffries
Hazangeles President and
CEO