



maryland citizens for the arts

January 05, 2021

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB323 & HB310
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program

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Thank you for your consideration of SB323/HB310. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund administered by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Maryland arts organizations contribute over \$1.3 billion to the local and state economy, engage with over 8 million arts visitors a year and provide more than \$60 million towards local and state tax revenues. Many of these organizations provide safe, engaging, and welcoming arts spaces within communities throughout the state. They serve a broad range of Marylanders from toddlers to advanced ages and do so within buildings that are, many times, in dire need of capital improvements.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on many arts organizations in Maryland, especially those with venues that have been closed due to health and safety concerns. Arts organizations lack the resources and ability to divert money towards expensive capital improvements. Instead, these organizations continue to invest in necessary programming and community engagement - ensuring that dollars are spent on behalf of the arts and their communities without sacrificing opportunities and important engagement initiatives. The strain of this economic and health crisis has left organizations in desperate need of access to capital funds through a fair and transparent process.

This grant program provides an equitable path and process for hundreds of arts and culture organizations that demand critical access to capital funds. In every region of Maryland, we see vibrant arts communities - with dedicated capital arts investment, we can continue to be a leader in the nation for arts and culture and ensure that the next generation of Marylanders is afforded the same incredible access that we enjoy today.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB323/HB310.

Respectfully,

Executive Director

STAFF

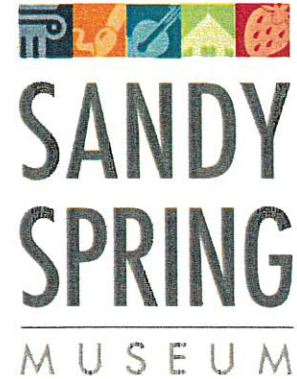
Nicholas Cohen
Executive Director

Amanda Morell
Program Manager

Morgan Brown
Program Coordinator

January 06, 2021

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB323 & HB310
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program



Thank you for your consideration of SB323/HB310. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund administered by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Maryland arts organizations contribute over \$1.3 billion to the local and state economy, engage with over 8 million arts visitors a year and provide more than \$60 million towards local and state tax revenues. Sandy Spring Museum and many other arts organizations provide safe, engaging, and welcoming arts spaces within communities throughout the state. We serve a broad range of Marylanders from toddlers to advanced ages and do so within buildings that are, many times, in dire need of capital improvements.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on Sandy Spring Museum, which has been operating at an extremely reduced capacity due to health and safety concerns. We and other arts organizations lack the resources and ability to divert money towards expensive capital improvements. Instead, our organizations continue to invest in necessary programming and community engagement - ensuring that dollars are spent on behalf of the arts and their communities without sacrificing opportunities and important engagement initiatives. The strain of this economic and health crisis has left us and other organizations in desperate need of access to capital funds through a fair and transparent process.

This grant program provides an equitable path and process for hundreds of arts and culture organizations that demand critical access to capital funds. We believe that with dedicated capital arts investment, Sandy Spring Museum can be a leader in the nation for arts and culture and ensure that the next generation of Marylanders is afforded the same incredible access that we enjoy today.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB323/HB310.

Sincerely,

Allison Weiss
Executive Director



Arena Players, Inc. 801 McCulloh Street Baltimore, MD 21201 410-728-6500 www.arenaplayerinc.com

January 11, 2021

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB323/HB310
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program

Thank you for your consideration of SB323/HB310. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program provides critical capital investment for the Maryland arts sector through a competitive grant program for mid-size to small institutions open for arts organizations supported through the Maryland State Arts Council.

As one of Baltimore oldest arts organizations, Arena Players Incorporated, supports legislation that makes accessing state funding easier for small arts organizations, particularly culturally specific organizations like Arena Players Inc. The parameters around state funding have always been prohibitive and/or the application process too arduous for the actual award. The Maryland State Arts Council has implemented several long overdue application and accessibility changes, in this regard. We support SB323/HB310 along with the revised and/ or restructuring of the application and assessment process.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB323/HB310.

David D. Mitchell

David D. Mitchell
Managing Director
Arena Players Incorporated
www.ArenaPlayersInc.com



BALTIMORE ROCK OPERA SOCIETY

Baltimore Rock Opera Society, Inc. (BROS)

EIN: 47-1406439

1/08/21

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB323/HB310 Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program

Thank you for consideration of SB323/HB310. 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 SB323/HB310.

Rock on!

Aran Keating

Executive Director

Baltimore Rock Opera Society (BROS)

aran@baltimorerockopera.org - 410-212-4473

<http://www.baltimorerockopera.org>



January 8, 2021

Testimony in Support of Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Program (SB323/HB310)

Thank you for your consideration of SB323/HB310. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. This grant program provides an equitable path and process for hundreds of arts and culture organizations that demand critical access to capital funds. With dedicated capital arts investment, we can continue to be a leader in the nation for arts and culture and ensure that the next generation of Marylanders is afforded the same incredible access that we enjoy today.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on many arts organizations in Maryland, especially those with venues that have been closed due to health and safety concerns. Arts organizations lack the resources and ability to divert money towards expensive capital improvements. Instead, these organizations continue to invest in necessary programming and community engagement - ensuring that dollars are spent on behalf of the arts and their communities without sacrificing opportunities and important engagement initiatives. The strain of this economic and health crisis has left organizations in desperate need of access to capital funds through a fair and transparent process.

Frederick County is considered one of the most art-centric communities in the state and the arts are fueling our economic vibrancy but we cannot fulfill our potential without a source of capital support that this bill would provide. The number one concern cited among our artists --and arts organizations -- is a lack of space. From the individual studio artist to the Frederick Symphony Orchestra, our arts stakeholders are not able to stabilize and grow without the infrastructure necessary to provide accessible programming. SB323/HB310 creates a program that promises equity in distribution of funds, and allows the critical arts services we provide to flourish. The Frederick Arts Council is itself in the early stages of restoring a church in downtown Frederick. The community arts center will house our public art program and serve as a community center for arts and culture. The 8000 square foot building will create a space for us to serve the people of Frederick County, our thousands of public school students, and the many visitors who come to experience the unique cultural amenities Frederick has to offer. We know this fund would help us complete this important project and would also help the nearly two dozen grantee organizations we support who are doing work in all corners of our county.

In addition, our project Sky Stage, an award-winning outdoor amphitheater and public art sculpture that has been featured by the National Governors Association as a creative way to jumpstart local economies and connect neighbors, is the type of project that would benefit from this legislation and boost not only the community but the state in drawing visitors and positive attention. For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB323/HB310.

In appreciation, 

Louise Kennelly Executive Director Frederick Arts Council 11 West Patrick St. Frederick Maryland 217



Glorystar Music Education and Cultural Foundation

15800 Crabbs Branch Way Suite 300 Rockville, MD 20855
www.glorystar.org | info@glorystar.org | 240-277-7629

January 11, 2021

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB323/HB310 Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program

Thank you for your consideration of SB323/HB310. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program provides critical capital investment for the Maryland arts sector through a competitive grant program for mid-size to small institutions open for arts organizations supported through the Maryland State Arts Council.

Maryland arts organizations contribute to a vital part of our local and state education excellence and our outstanding quality of life. Citizens young and old are enriched by the numerous arts organizations in our state who seek to provide opportunities to create life affirming and uplifting expressions of art. Benefits of excellent arts education and expression are felt in all areas of life.

The Glorystar Children's Chorus has been providing excellent music education to youth in Maryland for 25 years. We have witnessed the numerous positive effects our program has had on our students and their families. In particular, the Asian community from which most of our students are a part of.

This year has been particularly difficult for arts organizations like ours who have experienced decreased enrollment, decreased income, and smaller fundraising outcomes yet at the same time have higher expenses due to transitioning to online teaching and performances. It has been a struggle to survive but various grants have been vital to keeping our organization going. More funding for arts organizations like ours is essential to help weather the challenges of the pandemic this year and to plan for rebuilding our program in the future.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB323/HB310.

Carol L. Tseng
Executive Director
Glorystar Children's Chorus



MARYLAND FEDERATION OF ART

January 6, 2021

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB323/HB310
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program

Thank you for your consideration of SB323/HB310. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program provides critical capital investment for the Maryland arts sector through a competitive grant program for mid-size to small institutions open for arts organizations supported through the Maryland State Arts Council.

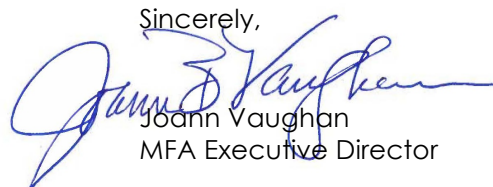
Maryland Federation of Art is a small visual arts organization whose mission is to create connections in the community through art. MFA is a small organization, according to our budget, but our program is national in reach and a vibrant part of Maryland's art environment. Currently, 636 of our 800 members are from Maryland and we work with more than 6000 Maryland artists and art patrons each year, hosting almost 40 exhibitions across the state each year.

Our program may soon require that we purchase additional space where artists can create and exhibit their work. As executive director of this 68-year-old visual arts organization I am currently seeking space where we can grow our program and expand our mission.

This will be impossible without the financial support that SB323/HB310 would provide, especially to small organizations like MFA with a budget of \$400,000 and a staff of three. Unlike large non-profits in the state that can lobby the legislature directly, organizations like MFA both need and deserve access to capital funds from the states in order to improve our communities. Funding such as SB323/HB310 will help level the playing field for those of us who work every day to make Maryland a better place to live, work and visit.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB323/HB310.

Sincerely,



Joann Vaughan
MFA Executive Director

January 12, 2021

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB323/HB310
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program**

Thank you for your consideration of SB323/HB310. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program provides critical capital investment for the Maryland arts sector through a competitive grant program for mid-size to small institutions open for arts organizations supported through the Maryland State Arts Council.

Marlow Guitar International is one of the major classical guitar non-profits serving the Washington Metropolitan area and widely known and recognized for its major programming and community engagement primarily in Montgomery County. Although a capital grant fund would not directly assist us now, I believe that it would substantially assist our partners who provide venues for our musicians to perform and showcase their talent. In addition, it would help sustain their facility to allow us to fulfill our programming for our Marlow Guitar Youth Competition and the Marlow Guitar for Veterans. As we all know, the Covid-19 pandemic has devastated the economy but much of the adversity has also affected the arts and for us, all our musicians. It's essential to provide the capital funding as soon as possible so that the resources can focus directly on programming for the arts.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB323/HB310.

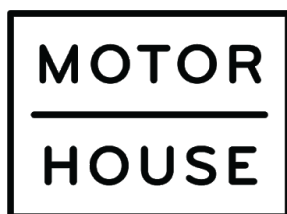
Respectfully yours,



Clifford W. Moy

President

Board of Directors



The Motor House
120 W North Ave
Baltimore, MD 21201

(410) 637 - 8307
motorhousebaltimore.com

January 11, 2021

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB323/HB310
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program**

Thank you for your consideration of SB323/HB310. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program provides critical capital investment for the Maryland arts sector through a competitive grant program for mid-size to small institutions open for arts organizations supported through the Maryland State Arts Council.

Motor House is a small arts organization that serves the emerging artist community in Baltimore City. In many ways, Motor House is a conduit that provides space, funding, and support for these artists that larger organizations can not. This bill would provide financial and political support for organizations like ours that have a huge impact on people in real, tangible ways.

It is imperative that this bill is passed this year. The long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are going to be excruciating for arts organizations in general, and small to mid-sized organizations in particular. Having an intentional funding source for these organizations ensures that we will be able to pull ourselves out of the quicksand that the pandemic has caused us.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB323/HB310.

Thank you,

Camille Kashaka
Executive Director
Motor House
camille@motorhousebaltimore.com



January 8, 2021

Thank you for consideration of SB323/HB310. 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 provides critical capital investment for the Maryland arts sector through a competitive grant program for mid-size to small institutions open for arts organizations supported through the Maryland State Arts Council.

The Kent Cultural Alliance (formerly the Kent County Arts Council) serves Maryland's smallest and most rural community. Kent County does not have access to the large corporate arts founders of Montgomery County and Baltimore City. We also do not have a large population of wealthy philanthropists who are able to make multi-million dollar gifts to nonprofits. And, as a county arts council, we receive the smallest Community Arts Development grant of all 24 jurisdictions. SB323/HB310 creates a program that promises equity in distribution of funds, and allows the small but critical arts services we provide to flourish.

The Kent Cultural Alliance is itself in the early stages of restoring a 200 year old farm house in Downtown Chestertown as its new permanent home. The Raimond Arts Building, which includes a 1799 two and a half story frame dwelling, will serve as a community center for arts and culture. It will include a 1,000 sq. ft. multipurpose room for exhibits, workshops, education, performances and more and it will house a year-round visiting Artist Residency program for national and international artists (a first of its kind in Maryland.) The historic building is an anchor building for Main Street Chestertown and the Chestertown Arts & Entertainment District, and will soon become of the Network To Freedom. It is directly connected to the narrative of escaped slave, Isaac Mason, published in Worcester, MA in 1895. He was a house slave and was severely beaten during his enslavement by Mr. and Mrs. James Mansfield (owners of this house from 1830 - 1970.)

With a budget of \$2 million (and \$1,300,000 already raised) the now 5000 square foot building will create a space for us to serve the people of Kent County, our 2000+ public school students, and the many visitors who come to experience the unique cultural ecology this beautiful county. We know this fund would help us complete this important project by December 2021, and would also help the nearly two dozen grantee organizations and dozens of artists whom we support who are doing important work in all corners of Kent County, Maryland.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB323/HB310. Thank you.

John Schratwieser, Director, Kent Cultural Alliance
john@kentculture.org - office 410-778-3700 or cell 410-708-9751
101 Spring Avenue, Chestertown, MD 21620

January 11, 2021



**Mount Vernon
Place
Conservancy**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB323 & HB310
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program**

Thank you for your consideration of SB323/HB310. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund administered by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Maryland arts organizations contribute over \$1.3 billion to the local and state economy, engage with over 8 million arts visitors each year, and provide more than \$60 million towards local and state tax revenues. Many of these organizations provide safe, engaging, and welcoming arts spaces within communities throughout the state. They serve a broad range of Marylanders from toddlers to advanced ages and do so within buildings that are, many times, in dire need of capital improvements.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on many arts organizations in Maryland, especially those with venues that have been closed due to health and safety concerns. Arts organizations lack the resources and ability to divert money towards expensive capital improvements. Instead, these organizations continue to invest in necessary programming and community engagement - ensuring that dollars are spent on behalf of the arts and their communities without sacrificing opportunities and important engagement initiatives. The strain of this economic and health crisis has left organizations in desperate need of access to capital funds through a fair and transparent process.

This grant program provides an equitable path and process for hundreds of arts and culture organizations that demand critical access to capital funds. In every region of Maryland, we see vibrant arts communities - with dedicated capital arts investment, we can continue to be a leader in the nation for arts and culture and ensure that the next generation of Marylanders is afforded the same incredible access that we enjoy today.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB323/HB310.

Respectfully,

Lance Humphries
Executive Director

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World Arts Focus
3309 Bunker Hill Road
Mount Rainier, MD 20712
301.699.1819
www.joesmovement.org

RARE. GRITTY. BRILLIANT.

January 11, 2021

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB323/HB310
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program**

Thank you for consideration of SB323/HB310. 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 provides critical capital funding for mid-size to small institutions that is open to arts organization supported through the Maryland State Arts Council.

Joe's Movement Emporium/World Arts Focus, Inc. is a mid-size organization that supports artist vitality and arts education. Located in Mt. Rainier, Prince George's County, the organization has evolved over the past 25 years from a single storefront studio into a multi-functional performance arts space. Joe's programs provide affordable, arts-based out-of-school services to students of all ages, a job training program, and artist services for hundreds of artists each year. Through this mix of programs and service, the local creative economy and immediately community benefit.

The creation of an Arts and Culture Grant Program would immediately support our efforts to address storm water issues on our property with innovative practices, including a green roof and special drainage for our parking lot. Finding resources for ongoing capital improvements are difficult for a mid-size organization in a county with minimal philanthropic foundations. Ongoing renovation needs are not that exciting to donors. It has taken significant time and resources to manage unfunded repairs and renovations. This fund would allow facilities like Joe's Movement Emporium to have options to compliment the investment in programs provided by Maryland State Arts Council.

Access to this grant program would ensure that capital projects could move forward by supporting construction and equipment costs. Having the Bill pass this year, would allow our project to meet match requirements from a regional foundation that is considering a grant request.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB323/HB310.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brooke Kidd".

Brooke Kidd,
Executive Director

brooke@joesmovement.org
301.404.9154 cell

STRATHMORE

January 11, 2021

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB323 & HB310 Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program

Thank you for consideration of SB323 & HB310. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund that will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. This grant program provides an equitable path and process for hundreds of arts and culture organizations with budgets less than \$3 million who need critical access to capital funds.

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 this 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 Bills 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 SB323/HB310.

Regards,



Monica Jeffries Hazangeles
President and CEO



January 12, 2021

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB323/HB310
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program**

Thank you for your consideration of SB323/HB310. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund administered by the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC). The Program will make grant-giving by the State of Maryland more efficient for both the arts organizations and legislators, making sure that critical capital investment for the Maryland Arts sector continues via a competitive grant program for mid-size to small institutions. The MSAC is the perfect administrator of the capital fund decision making process as leadership and staff are the team especially aware of arts organization's current initiatives and can "balance the landscape" of organization initiatives to ensure there is not a flood of requests in any given year. Putting a system like this into place will strengthen relations between MSAC and the Maryland arts organizations which benefit from operational funding each year.

I ask for favorable support this year.

Sincerely,

Olive Waxter

Olive Waxter
Executive Director
410-804-4490

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HippodromeFoundation.org

January 11, 2021

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB323/HB310
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program

Thank you for your consideration of SB323/HB310. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund administered by the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC). The Program provides critical capital investment for the Maryland arts sector through a competitive grant program for mid-size to small institutions open for arts organizations supported through the Maryland State Arts Council.

The Walters Art Museum supports SB323/HB310 because it levels the playing field for many small- to mid-sized arts institutions to apply for essential capital funds. Even in normal circumstances, arts organizations face real challenges raising funds for necessary capital infrastructure or building efforts, and, consequently, frequently forego making needed improvements to their physical plant. Overseen by MSAC, the process will be clear for applicants and transparent for the public. This process will build confidence across institutions and in the public that public tax dollars are being distributed judiciously and fairly to community arts organizations throughout the State.

The arts are a major economic sector in the State and passing this bill during the current legislative session will move this important funding forward at a critical time. The support of the State of Maryland leverages private support for capital projects, and when contractors are based in our State, helps support the local economy. While the bill would preclude the Walters Art Museum and organizations with budgets over \$3 million from applying for this capital grant funding, we wholeheartedly support this bill to ensure the overall wellbeing of our sector.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB323/HB310.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JMA', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Julia Marciari-Alexander, Ph.D.
Andrea B. & John H. Laporte Director



T. Herbert Dimmock, Founder & Music Director

Christ Lutheran Church Inner Harbor
701 S. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21230
www.BachInBaltimore.org
410-941-9262

January 9, 2021

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB323 & HB310
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program**

Thank you for your consideration of SB323/HB310. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund administered by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Maryland arts organizations contribute over \$1.3 billion to the local and state economy, engage with over 8 million arts visitors a year and provide more than \$60 million towards local and state tax revenues. Many of these organizations provide safe, engaging, and welcoming arts spaces within communities throughout the state. They serve a broad range of Marylanders from toddlers to advanced ages and do so within buildings that are, many times, in dire need of capital improvements. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on many arts organizations in Maryland, especially those with venues that have been closed due to health and safety concerns. Arts organizations lack the resources and ability to divert money towards expensive capital improvements. Instead, these organizations continue to invest in necessary programming and community engagement - ensuring that dollars are spent on behalf of the arts and their communities without sacrificing opportunities and important engagement initiatives. The strain of this economic and health crisis has left organizations in desperate need of access to capital funds through a fair and transparent process. This grant program provides an equitable path and process for hundreds of arts and culture organizations that demand critical access to capital funds. In every region of Maryland, we see vibrant arts communities - with dedicated capital arts investment, we can continue to be a leader in the nation for arts and culture and ensure that the next generation of Marylanders is afforded the same incredible access that we enjoy today.

Bach in Baltimore strongly supports this bill, as it has been the grateful recipient of MSAC grants for the past two decades.

For these reasons, we ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB323 & HB310.

T. Herbert Dimmock
Founder & Music Director

Rebecca Fanning
Administrative Manager

January 11, 2021

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB323 & HB310
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program**

Thank you for your consideration of SB323/HB310. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program provides critical capital investment for the Maryland arts sector through a competitive grant program for mid-size to small institutions open for arts organizations supported through the Maryland State Arts Council.

Children's Theatre of Annapolis supports SB323/HB310 because growing our reach has become a major goal to nurture the growth and development of the love of theatre in children age 5 to 18, through participation in all aspects of the theatrical experience, including performance, workshops, technical elements, community involvement, and apprenticeships. CTA provides a positive circle of influence through friendships that foster self-esteem, creativity, commitment, teamwork, appreciation, and dedication. CTA serves the child and the community.

Our main theatre is a 276 seat theatre that holds 3 mainstage shows a year. Our annex is a rundown building (it used to be a garage for large military trucks) that has no insulation and is still heated by propane. At this time, this annex building is our education center that we use for all of our theatre education classes year-round.

CTA's goal to make the annex into an environmentally controlled 3 room building that would allow us to build our education program and extend our outreach to underserved families. With this new annex, our students will learn dancing, acting and music in a safe and warm building. The largest space will be a black box theatre that will seat 100. This smaller theater space will allow more intimate shows to be performed and offered to CTA's community. With this fully functioning theater space, CTA plans to open it up for other community groups to use, as CTA's blackbox will be the only one available for general rental in all of Anne Arundel County. We also plan to increase our teen shows and workshops that work better in a smaller space.

SB323/HB310 will help CTA to reach this goal and reach out to the entire community. For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB323/HB310.

Sincerely,



April Forrer
Executive Director
aprilforrer@childrenstheatreofannapolis.org



January 11, 2021

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB323/HB310
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program**

Thank you for your consideration of SB323/HB310. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund administered by the Maryland State Arts Council. The Program provides critical capital investment for the Maryland arts sector through a competitive grant program for mid-size to small institutions open for arts organizations supported through the Maryland State Arts Council.

Young Artists of America at Strathmore (YAA) is a non-profit educational organization, based in North Bethesda, offering world-class musical theatre training to young performing artists in a professional and nurturing environment. Our students perform fully orchestrated works of musical theatre in state-of-the-art venues such as the Music Center at Strathmore, where we are an Affiliate. Through the creative process, we give students skills and confidence to “find their voice” on the stage and in life. Each year, we serve a diverse group of 500+ students, grades 5-12 (plus gap year students) and reach an audience of 5000+ from across the state, with 12+ performances and 1500+ hours of classes and rehearsals.

While YAA organization does not own or operate a building, our sector's continued success comes from support across the board for significant legislative initiatives like this. As YAA works to develop the next generation of performing artists and audiences, we must have a vibrant arts community for our students to experience. Against the backdrop of the challenges brought about by the pandemic, arts organizations—particularly small to mid-size arts organizations—lack the resources to divert money towards expensive but necessary capital improvements. This legislation will give them necessary support to keep the arts alive in our community and to prepare for the reopening of arts events in the near future.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB323/HB310.

Sincerely,

Lisa Larragoite