



WIDE ANGLE YOUTH MEDIA

2601 North Howard St. Suite 160 Baltimore, MD 21218 www.wideanglemedia.org

1/12/21

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.

Through media arts education, Wide Angle Youth Media (Wide Angle) cultivates and amplifies the voices of Baltimore youth to engage audiences across generational, cultural, and social divides. Our programs inspire creativity and instill confidence in young people, empowering them with skills to navigate school, career, and life. Support for the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) has helped Wide Angle serve thousands of youth from across Baltimore City, who have produced hundreds of digital media projects about their lives and communities. Their continued support during COVID-19 has allowed us to keep our doors open.

Continued funds from MSAC are a critical resource not only for Wide Angle, but for organizations throughout Maryland, and capital dollars will be particularly helpful to agencies like ours to transition back to in-person programs after the pandemic. Over the past year, Wide Angle has partnered with MSAC to create short documentaries highlighting arts and entertainment districts in our state. Our production team has documented the economic and cultural impact of the arts across the state of Maryland, and we've captured scores of testimonials from local artists and arts agencies about the importance of the arts to the local economy.

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

Include your name and contact information at the bottom.

Susan Malone



WIDE ANGLE YOUTH MEDIA

2601 North Howard St. Suite 160 Baltimore, MD 21218 www.wideanglemedia.org

Executive Director

Wide Angle Youth Media