



DATE: 1/14/2021

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance

BILL NO: Senate Bill 256

BILL TITLE: Arts and Entertainment Districts – Artistic Work and Arts and Entertainment Enterprise - Definitions

POSITION: Support

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

The Bromo Arts District is located in the heart of Downtown Baltimore and is home to over 30 cultural organizations and over 500 artists or those employed through the arts industry. Established in 2012, our district has continued to grow and attract talented individuals and businesses to the area. Bromo works closely with the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) and receives direct support from Steven Skerritt-Davis and their entire team. Their organization advocates for important arts projects in our area and has provided consistent financial support to Bromo, which has enabled our organization to grow our programs for the district. In 2020, their support allowed Bromo to directly support artists who had been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. MSAC initiated city-wide Arts & Entertainment District conversations that have drastically improved our coordination and programming throughout the city and state.

The Bromo Arts District strongly supports SB 256. The updates to the artistic definitions for the State will have profound effects on our district and will be more inclusive of our expanding view of artistic work. The revisions have resulted from many years of requests directly from the arts districts, cultural organizations, and artists for clarity on the tax incentive eligibility. Not only will our current artists and arts organizations be able to take advantage of this update, but these changes will help attract new artists to the area that will be vital in our continued growth and in line with our district goals. This bill would spur additional economic activity in the district and would provide artists with the necessary tools to grow their artistic practices.

We greatly appreciate the time and energy dedicated to reviewing this bill and the commitment to the expansion of arts in Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Breiter".

Emily Breiter
Executive Director

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