



January 18, 2021

Senate Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB256, Arts & Entertainment Districts

Madame Chair, and distinguished members of the committee,

The Baltimore County Arts Guild enthusiastically supports Senate Bill 256 to expand definitions related to state-designated Arts & Entertainment Districts.

The Baltimore County Arts Guild, a 501c3, is the managing entity of Baltimore County's Arts & Entertainment Districts, which include the first and newly designated Catonsville A&E. We work closely with the Maryland State Arts Council and with Baltimore County Government to encourage arts and culture as a driver for economic development in these commercial revitalization zones.

Despite a difficult economic picture in the last year, the town of Catonsville has gained three new arts related businesses. Additionally, several existing businesses have moved forward with plans to add arts and music spaces or artist studio spaces to their business model.

We believe that the Arts & Entertainment model works for revitalization while at the same time supporting local artists and businesses and providing creative opportunity for visitors, therefore, we appreciate your consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Catherine Cochran", written in a cursive style.

Mary Catherine Cochran  
Director, Baltimore County Arts Guild