



Salisbury Arts and Entertainment District, Inc.
110 N. Division Street, Salisbury, MD 21801

January 18, 2020

Maryland General Assembly
Attn: Senate Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To: Senate Finance Committee
RE: Senate Bill 256

I am writing to you on behalf of the Salisbury Arts & Entertainment District, located on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Salisbury Arts & Entertainment District received its State designation as an Arts & Entertainment District in 2007 and has been using the program ever since to bring vibrancy, revitalization, arts and culture to Downtown Salisbury. Our signature events, like 3rd Fridays and the Downtown Salisbury Festival, draw thousands of local citizens into the heart of our city each year, instilling a sense of community into the very fabric of our Downtown.

The Maryland State Arts Council's guidance, and support with this program is invaluable, with Stephen Skerritt-Davis spearheading the connections between MSAC and the local arts district managers. District managers have access to operating support, technical assistance, responsive counsel and professional development. Without access to this leadership, professionalism, and the framework that the Maryland State Arts Council provides - Salisbury Arts & Entertainment District would not have thrived.

On behalf of the Salisbury Arts & Entertainment District, I am writing to express my support of the SB256 and the adoption of a clarified definition of "artistic works" and "arts and entertainment enterprise". The existing terms are too broad to be functional in the diverse settings that the arts contain. The compiled changes are fair, descriptive and have been made with very careful consideration. Updated definitions will allow more artists and artistic enterprises to find themselves within the bill's language, and confidently use the programs so graciously enacted by the State of Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jamie Heater".

Jamie Heater
Executive Director, Salisbury Arts & Entertainment District, Inc.