



March 15, 2022

House Appropriations Committee

FAVORABLE TESTIMONY FOR HB 1469

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Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA) serves as the advocacy organization representing the advancement of public policy and investment in the arts. To that end, **we urge the committee to support HB 1469, given the persistent gaps in access to the arts in Baltimore City Public Schools.** The bill provides **\$250,000 annually** to support the purchase of art equipment, instruments, supplies, and arts experiences for Baltimore City Public Schools. MCA also supports the fund administrator identified in HB1469, Arts Every Day, who would collaborate with BCPSS leadership to identify schools in need of support. AED is a trusted and valued partner in the arts education sector in and around Baltimore and Maryland.

MCA believes in equity and access to the arts regardless of zip code. Studies have shown that Black, indigenous, and other communities of color are at a significant disadvantage regarding arts education access. This bill helps address this issue in Baltimore City, and MCA believes it will further the work being done in the school district.

MCA applauds the committee's work around education and **asks the committee to give HB 1469 a favorable report.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Nicholas Cohen, Executive Director