



March 4, 2022

Maryland State Appropriations Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen St., Annapolis

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In Memoriam
May 1, 1960 – January 3, 2022

Dear Chair McIntosh and Appropriations Committee Members:

On behalf of the Baltimore NAACP, I am writing in favor of the African American Heritage Preservation Program - Annual Appropriation and Alterations - House Bill 1088 to increase the grant program from \$1 million to \$5million per year.

For over 50 years, the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) has authentically preserved and presented Black history and culture as a tool for racial equity, community empowerment, and social change. Their work includes operating the Banneker-Douglass Museum, the State's official Museum on African American History and Culture, and the African American Heritage Preservation Program grant (AAHPP), the State's one-million-dollar capital grant. The African American Heritage Preservation Program (AAHPP) provides grants to assist in preserving buildings, sites, and communities of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland.

The AAHPP is administered as a partnership between the Maryland Historical Trust and the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture. The program typically receives an annual appropriation of \$1 million for grants per year. Applications for the AAHPP are generally available in early April and due July 1, with decisions made by December every year.

Since 2010, MCAAHC has awarded up to \$12 million dollars to over 150 preservation projects in the State of Maryland. In the past five years, MCAAHC has received on average \$3.4 million in urgent requests but can only award \$1 million to meet urgent capital needs. It is critical to increase the African American Heritage Preservation Grant from \$1 million to \$5 million to address inflation and meet the statewide African American heritage sites' capital and non-capital funding needs.

Our goal is to strengthen the capacities of African American heritage sites (museums, historic homes, schools, community centers, and more) to help economic revitalization, historic preservation, and community development throughout the state. We hope the Maryland State Appropriations Committee will join us in investing in this effort.

Best regards,

REVEREND KOBI LITTLE
President