



***Support: House Bill 1048***

03/08/2022

Chair Maggie McIntosh  
Appropriations Committee  
121 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair McIntosh,

The Maryland Center for History and Culture (MCHC) formally supports House Bill 1048: Commission on African American History and Culture - Alterations (Senator Verda Welcome Act). We understand that this proposed investment will build the long-term operational capacity of the Banneker-Douglass Museum while supporting important capital projects.

Formerly known as the Maryland Historical Society, MCHC is the state's oldest continuously operating cultural institution and steward of its largest collection of history and culture inclusive of seven million archival works and 350,000 objects and artworks. MCHC is the only historical organization in the state dedicated to stewarding and interpreting the broader history of all Marylanders of all backgrounds.

MCHC believes that greater public investment in Maryland's larger public history sector is needed, especially for collecting institutions of statewide impact and importance such as the Commission on African American History and Culture and the Banneker-Douglass Museum. Historical collections have a unique power to transcend the physical location of the museum or archive to promote understanding and dialogue around our important history across the state. As the state's official repository of African American material culture, the Banneker-Douglass Museum is a critical part of Maryland's cultural infrastructure. We are excited for the potential of this legislation to build understanding and dialogue around Maryland's African American experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mark B. Letzer'.

Mark B. Letzer  
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