



Support: House Bill 1088

03/04/2022

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 1088: African American Heritage Preservation Program – Annual Appropriation and Alterations.

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 non-profit in the state dedicated to collecting and sharing the broader history of all Marylanders of all backgrounds. From the only surviving journal of Benjamin Banneker, to the sheet music of Eubie Blake, to thousands of photographs documenting the Civil Rights Movement, MCHC cares for one of the most significant collections of Maryland's nationally significant and inspiring African American history.

MCHC believes that greater state investment in Maryland's larger public history sector is needed, especially for traditionally disinvested and underrepresented cultural resources such as those targeted by the African American Heritage Preservation Program. MCHC is a collecting institution focused on artworks, material culture, and archival works and does not currently steward historic buildings or sites that would benefit from this program. However, we are thrilled by the potential of this increased annual allocation to enhance stewardship of African American architectural and landscape heritage around the state. We thank Speaker Jones and Delegates Brooks and Sample-Hughes for their leadership in introducing this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark B. Letzer'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark B. Letzer
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