

Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition

March 15, 2022

To: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
From: Lucille W. Walker, Executive Director, Southern Maryland Heritage Area
and Chair, Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition
Re: Support of SB928

The Maryland Heritage Area Coalition (13 Heritage Areas in the State of Maryland) are in support of SB928.

This grants Initiative is an important effort by Maryland Humanities to ensure humanities organizations around the state have the operating resources they need. The SHINE Grants Initiative builds upon lessons learned from their nearly 50 years of grantmaking, including distributing \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds through the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act to 136 grantees across the state. Beginning in FY22, Maryland Humanities will exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding around the state for nearly fifty years. Over the past 18 months, they have awarded \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds to 136 organizations, reaching every county and Baltimore City with much needed operating support.

The Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition works in partnership with Maryland Humanities on a number of initiatives and grant opportunities. We work with organizations who have scarce opportunities for general operating support and would benefit greatly from being a SHINE recipient.

We ask for a favorable report for SB928.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lucille W. Walker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lucille W. Walker
Chair, Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition
Executive Director, Southern Maryland Heritage Area (Destination Southern Maryland)