



## Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

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www.africanamerican.maryland.gov

March 14, 2022

### MCAAHC

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Dear Chairwoman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:


On behalf of the Maryland Commission on African American and Culture and the Banneker-Douglass Museum, we are in support of SB928, sponsored by Sen. Guzzone, which will extend the State's investment to FY24 and beyond.

Maryland Humanities' SHINE Grants Initiative is a groundbreaking 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 our 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.

The Banneker-Douglass Museum, Maryland state museum on African American history and culture, has been a recipient of Maryland Humanities program grants and COVID-relief funds to support our new and signature programs, such as our annual youth conference and symposiums. The SHINE Grant will help increase our museum's capacity to staff and operate our museum's collections department, exhibitions, and youth & public

programs. Throughout Maryland, non-profit organizations and public institutions are in critical need of operational support to accomplish mission driven initiatives to meet community needs, therefore, this proposed grant program will have tremendous impact on our museum and state.

Thank you.



Tamara E. Wilson, D. Min  
Chair



Chanel Compton  
Executive Director