



**Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Testimony from Maryland Humanities re: SB928
March 16, 2022**

Maryland Humanities offers this testimony in support of proposed SB928, sponsored by Senator Guzzone. This bill would provide an annual appropriation of \$500,000 for our SHINE Grantmaking Initiative, which stands for Strengthening Humanities Investment in Nonprofits for Equity.

This is a groundbreaking new effort that revitalizes our grants program in our 50th anniversary year, providing for an exponential expansion of available funding to eligible cultural, arts, and educational nonprofits with a focus on offering public humanities programming.

Incorporating years of feedback from nonprofit organizations and lessons learned in distributing \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funding, Maryland Humanities will shift all of its grantmaking beginning this year from project-based to general operating support.

Nonprofit organizations have long advocated for general operating support, placing the power of determining where funds are most critically needed in the hands of recipients as opposed to funders. This is a critical step in our commitment towards creating greater equity in access to our programs and grants across the cultural sector in Maryland.

With the successful enactment of this bill, we will re-grant this funding in its entirety each fiscal year, guaranteeing at least a half-million dollar investment back into communities throughout the state. Personnel and administrative costs for running the SHINE program will be covered through other sources. This investment by the State in SHINE will allow us to:

- Focus on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits that may not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising.
- Ensure a broad geographic reach.
- Evaluate applicants and distribute funds equitably, while ensuring accountability and responsible fiscal stewardship.
- Convene annual cohorts of grantees in new networks of engagement and common purpose to amplify the state's investment, strengthening both the organizations and communities.
- Respond to the unmet needs of hundreds of organizations that may not qualify for other funding from Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, or Maryland State Arts Council.

We respectfully ask the members of the committee to approve SB928 and help ensure its passage this legislative session.

Addendum to Maryland Humanities Written Testimony In Support of SB 928

Please find enclosed letters of support from the following 34 organizations urging passage of SB928.

Adkins Arboretum	Maryland Women's Heritage Center
African American Resources Cultural & Heritage Society	Mid-Atlantic Regional Moving Image Archive
Allegany Museum	National Museum of Language
Baltimore Museum of Industry	Neighborhood Creative Arts Center
Brunswick Heritage Museum	Preservation Alliance of Baltimore County
Catoctin Furnace Historical Society	Prince George's County Memorial Library System
Cecil County Arts Council	Raymond Banks 'A Way with Words' Foundation
Chesapeake Children's Museum	Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County
Evergreen Heritage Center	Spark Media
Friends of Old Wallville School	Star-Spangled Banner Flag House
Friends of St. Mary's County Museums	Stone Soup Productions
Galesville Community Center	Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area
Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area	Sumner Hall
Historic London Town	University of Maryland, College of Arts & Humanities
Hood College	Wide Angle Youth Media
Laurel Historical Society	The Writer's Center
LEAP Forward	
Life Journeys Writers Club	



March 14, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am writing in full support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grant-making initiative into FY24 and beyond.

Hundreds of nonprofit organizations in Maryland--including Adkins Arboretum--have lost significant revenue during the pandemic due to canceled programs and events. By switching from project-based to general operating grants, Maryland Humanities will continue to grow their grantmaking program while giving nonprofits the ability to reinforce their organizations after a particularly difficult time, leading to more sustainable humanities programming for the long-term.

With passage of this bill, Maryland Humanities will be able to sustain expanded general operating grant-making for more than just one year. SHINE will focus on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits like Adkins Arboretum that do not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising, either from government programs or other private funders. This focus on under-resourced organizations will have a positive impact in many communities across the state, entrusting grantees to utilize grants where the need is greatest.

In 2021, Adkins Arboretum received a Maryland Humanities grant to develop an Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives program. The program, which explored the importance of more than 20 native plants to the food, craftwork, and medicinal traditions of indigenous peoples of the Chesapeake region, brought new interest and a new audience to the Arboretum just as we were reopening to the public. As the Arboretum continues to seek development opportunities, we recognize how scarce opportunities for general operating support are and would benefit greatly from being a future SHINE recipient. Developing new programs is beneficial, but there's also great value in supporting work that is already underway.

Maryland Humanities is a solid partner who has distributed project grant funding throughout Maryland for nearly fifty years. It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jenny Houghton
Assistant Director
Adkins Arboretum
jhoughton@adkinsarboretum.org



AARCH Society

P.O. Box 3903
Frederick, MD 21705

aarchsociety@gmail.com
www.aarchsociety.org

Senator Guy J. Guzzone

Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401 Dear Senator Guzzone,

The African American Resources-Cultural Heritage Society Inc. (AARCH) in Frederick, Maryland, is a grateful recipient of a \$10,000 CARES grant. This emergency COVID funding made a huge difference in our ability to provide “virtual” programming during the pandemic.

We urge you to support the SHINE bill (SB928). This initiative will enable humanities organizations like the AARCH Society to continue our mission of preserving artifacts and stories that tell and celebrate the history, culture and heritage of African Americans in Frederick County, Maryland.

Public support is the lifeblood of non-profit organizations like ours. It validates the importance and need for cultural institutions like ours, and it can be leveraged to match other grant and funding initiatives.

The SHINE (Strengthening Humanities Investment in Nonprofits for Equity) bill will enable non-profits like the AARCH Society to secure vital funding that will allow us to continue operations in the future.

Please be a champion for humanities organizations by supporting this legislation.

Sincerely,

Protean Gibril
AARCH Society
President of the Board of Directors

CC:

Senator Ronald Young
James Senate Office Building, Room 301
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401
ronald.young@senate.state.md.us

Delegate Karen Lewis Young
Lowe House Office Building, Room 416
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 2140
karen.young@house.state.md.us

Delegate Carol Krimm
Lowe House Office Building, Room 422
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 2140
carol.krimm@house.state.md.us

Lindsey Baker, Executive Director
Maryland Humanities
108 West Centre Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
lbaker@mdhumanities.org



3 Pershing Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502
301.777.7200
Web: AlleganyMuseum.org
Email: info@AlleganyMuseum.org

March 11, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

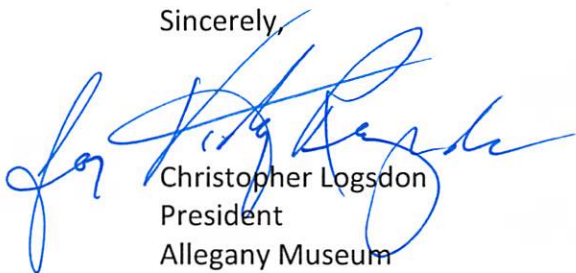
Both the Allegany Museum and the Western Maryland Heritage Association whole heartily supports the Maryland Humanities request to fund the Strengthening Humanities Investment in Nonprofits for Equity program. The Association's member organization include all the museums and heritage attractions in Allegany County. We clearly understand the need for this program in this economically challenged region of Maryland.

Nonprofit museum continually struggle to fund operating costs. Our small nonprofit museum is a case in point. We lease part of our building to commercial tenants, conduct fundraising efforts, and solicit donations from the public, we barely cover all our expenses in any given year. Without the Maryland Humanities help during the pandemic, we probably would have had to close the museum, at least temporarily.

The Maryland Humanities SHINE program will help ensure small museums, such as our, have the resources we need to keep our museum open. We are in the second poorest county in the State. With operating support, we will be able to continue our work with the Allegany County Public Schools and educate both our youth and visitors about the rich history of our region.

The Maryland Humanities has a long history of grant making and working with various museums across the state. Their programs are outstanding and have an impact in communities like ours, especially Maryland History Day, Museum on Main Street, and One Maryland One Book. The Allegany Museum has hosted three Museum on Main Street traveling Smithsonian exhibits. Each of these exhibits has helped enrich our community.

Sincerely,



Christopher Logsdon
President
Allegany Museum



Victor Rezendes
Chairman
Western Maryland Heritage Association

March 14, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

On behalf of the Baltimore Museum of Industry, it is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

Growing their grantmaking program while switching from project-based to general operating support grants enables Maryland Humanities to address an unmet need faced by hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland.

With passage of this bill, Maryland Humanities will be able to sustain this expanded general operating grantmaking for more than just one year. SHINE will focus on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits that may not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising, either from government programs or other private funders.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding throughout Maryland 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 Baltimore Museum of Industry has been a proud recipient of funding from Maryland Humanities in the past, so I know firsthand how impactful such support is. I applaud Maryland Humanities' efforts to entrust grantees to utilize grants where the need is greatest for their work and those they serve.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Anita Kassof
Executive Director

Brunswick Heritage Museum

40 West Potomac Street

Brunswick, MD 21716

301.834.7100

contact@brunswickmuseum.org

www.brunswickmuseum.org



March 11, 2020

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee—

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

Growing their grantmaking program while switching from project-based to general operating support grants enables Maryland Humanities to address an unmet need faced by hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland.

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Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding throughout Maryland 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.

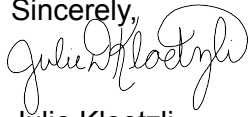
The Brunswick Potomac Foundation, owners and operators of the Brunswick Heritage Museum, received \$15,150 in COVID-relief funding in 2020/2021. With that funding we were able to stay open and pay operating costs after being closed for over a year.

The Museum has partnered with Maryland Humanities for over ten years through the display of two Smithsonian traveling exhibits. I have heard first-hand how impactful Maryland Humanities' grants/programs are for this organization, the citizens of Maryland, and visitors to our great state.

The foundation knows organizations who know how scarce opportunities for general operating support are and would benefit greatly from being a SHINE recipient.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Kloetzli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative initial "J".

Julie Kloetzli

President

Brunswick Potomac Foundation

Cc: James R. Castle, Ex.Director
MD Humanities



Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc.

12610 Catoctin Furnace Road
Thurmont, Maryland 21788

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

President,
Elizabeth
Anderson
Comer

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

Vice President,
Ken Brink

Growing their grantmaking program while switching from project-based to general operating support grants enables Maryland Humanities to address an unmet need faced by hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland.

Second Vice
President,
Beverly Hoke

With passage of this bill, Maryland Humanities will be able to sustain this expanded general operating grantmaking for more than just one year. SHINE will focus on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits that may not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising, either from government programs or other private funders. This focus on under-resourced organizations will have a positive impact in many communities across the state, entrusting grantees to utilize grants where the need is greatest for their work and those they serve.

Third Vice
President,
Stephen Dill

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding throughout Maryland 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.

Secretary,
Marilyn Smith

Treasurer,
Elizabeth
McGee

The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society (CFHS) has enjoyed a long and fruitful partnership with Maryland Humanities on multiple programs and count them as one of our strongest supporters. In addition to program funding CFHS received \$10,000 in COVID-relief funding in 2020/2021. With that funding we were able to literally "keep our lights on and doors open," which enabled us to continue to offer free, high-quality programming to the community. Time and time again we hear from our program attendees about how impactful our Maryland Humanities-funded programs are and we can attest to the dire need for operating support and the incredible impact an expanded SHINE program would have for CFHS and organizations like us.

Board Member-
at-large, Rick
Smith

Emerging
Professionals,
Alyssa Watson
Anne T. Comer

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

President
Emeritus,
Christopher
Gardiner

Elizabeth A. Comer
President

Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc.

240-288-7396

www.catoctinfurnace.org

Where History Changes Lives



Cecil County Arts Council, Inc.

March 13, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

Please accept this letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

This grantmaking program enables Maryland Humanities to address an unmet need faced by hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland.

Passing this bill will allow Maryland Humanities to sustain this expanded general operating grantmaking for more than just one year. SHINE will focus on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits that may not have the staff, capacity, or the resources to be competitive in fundraising, either from government programs or other private funders. This focus on under-resourced organizations will have a positive impact in many communities across the state, entrusting grantees to utilize grants where the need is greatest for their work and those they serve.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding throughout Maryland 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 Cecil County Arts Council received \$70,000 in COVID-relief funding in 2020/2021. We were able to offer sub-grants to public schools and individual artists for the full amount.
- My organization serves others who know how scarce opportunities for general operating support are and would benefit greatly from being a SHINE recipient.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure the continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Annmarie Hamilton
Executive Director

135 E. Main Street, Elkton, MD 21921
410-392-5740
www.cecilarts.org
info@cecilarts.org



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410-990-1993

March 11, 2022

The Hon. Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,
As a small nonprofit, highly dependent on grants these past two difficult years, we strongly support SB928 to extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

General operating support has enabled us to continue serving our audience – children and their families and the agencies / organizations that also serve them, primarily through keeping our small staff employed. Our current projects, for the most part, are not income-earning. For example, we have added elements to the park surrounding our building to encourage outdoor explorations by local families. We are becoming skilled at creating online programming and have been able to stretch our geographic reach far beyond Maryland, particularly to Girl Scouts across the country.

We look forward to passage of this bill so that Maryland Humanities can sustain the grantmaking that has helped to keep us and others going during the pandemic. We foresee needing financial support at least until the youngest children are vaccinated since they are our primary audience. It is important to keep Chesapeake Children's Museum alive for when they return. In the meantime we can have a positive impact through our strong partnerships with other nonprofits, City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County agencies, schools and childcare programs. Stable staffing allows us to collaborate to address community needs.

We are most grateful for the grant awards in 2020 and 2021. This supported a new exhibit to reflect the 1918 flu pandemic. The few visitors that have been in the building – adults and children – are taken aback by the images of 100 years ago showing families and citizens wearing facemasks, students holding class outdoors, etc. An outdoor exhibit due to be completed soon is about the role of local radio during the era of Black Pride and Protest. These exhibits will get much more exposure as schools are able to resume field trips and families with young children can once again safely return to play amongst other families.

Please vote YES for SB928 to ensure Humanities grants for FY2024 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Deborah Wood, Ph.D.
Executive Director

EVERGREEN
HERITAGE CENTER



15603 Trimble Road NW
Mount Savage, MD 21545
301-687-0664
foundation@evergreenheritagecenter.org

March 14, 2022

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

Dear Governor Hogan,

Last fall new funding for Maryland Humanities' SHINE Grants Initiative was included in the FY23 budget. We are writing to support a new bill, SB0928, sponsored by Senator Guzzone, to ensure the continuation of SHINE for the same amount in FY24 and beyond. Maryland Humanities has the capacity to administer this grant program with their current resources and have committed to putting all \$500,000 back into Maryland humanities organizations as grant awards.

As a previous recipient of a Cares Act Emergency Relief grant and a Sharp Recovery Grant, Evergreen Heritage Center can attest to the need and impact of these funds. Being a small non-profit working within the humanities, Evergreen has an annual operating budget of less than \$300,000 and a small staff consisting of contractual employees. Operating expenses are a daily concern in continuing to bring our programming to area students and the community. With limited grant opportunities for operating expenses this funding was highly impactful for Evergreen in FY22.

This grant opportunity would directly advance and support our ability to provide needed facilities, equipment, and salaries for our instructors while continuing the Foundation's mission in education, conservation, and preservation. We appreciate your continued support as well as this opportunity and look forward to a successful implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice Keene". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janice Keene
President, Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation



Friends of the
St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums
and stewards of the Drayden African American Schoolhouse & the Old Jail Museum
38370 Point Breeze Road
Colton's Point, Maryland 20626

Board of Directors

Dale G. Springer, President Paul G. Nelson, Treasurer
Judith Sterling, Secretary
Ann Davis Anne Emery Commissioner Todd Morgan
Tressa Setlak Brian Williams John F. Wood, Jr.

March 14, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

I am happy to submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

Growing their grantmaking program while switching from project-based to general operating support grants enables Maryland Humanities to address an unmet need faced by hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland, like the Friends of the Museum group I represent.

With passage of this bill, Maryland Humanities will be able to sustain this expanded general operating grantmaking for more than just one year. SHINE will focus on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits that may not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising, either from government programs or other private funders. This focus on under-resourced organizations will have a positive impact in many communities across the state, entrusting grantees to utilize grants where the need is greatest for their work and those they serve. It is always difficult to find financial support for operations so this will be a welcome addition to the grant world.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding throughout Maryland 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.

We have received a number of grants, all of which allowed us to offer wonderful programming to the community, and to keep our doors open during the recent pandemic when other fundraising opportunities fell by the wayside. Knowing that general operating support may be continuing is wonderful news for us all.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen E. Stone
Museum Division Manager
St. Mary's County

Karen Stone, *Museum Division Manager*

The mission of The Friends of The St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums is to raise funds in order to support historical interpretation, education programs and special needs of the sites managed by the Museum Division of St. Mary's County Department of Recreation and Parks.

FRIENDS OF THE OLD WALLVILLE SCHOOL, INC.
4701 PAUL HANCE ROAD
HUNTINGTOWN, MARYLAND
A Maryland Non-Profit and IRS 501(c)(3) Organization

March 15, 2022

The Honorable Guy J. Guzzone
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

On behalf of the Friends of The Old Wallville School, Inc., I wish to express our strongest possible support for SB928, which we understand extends the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into Fiscal Year 2024 and beyond. For the reasons further discussed below, we believe that enactment of this legislation will have a direct and tangible impact on our ability to continue to preserve and interpret the historic Old Wallville School—the last standing one-room school in Calvert County that was used to educate African American students during the period of segregation.

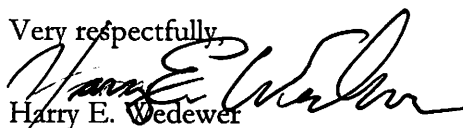
Maryland Humanities has been a key partner in our efforts to make the Old Wallville School accessible to thousands of Calvert County students. Passage of this bill will allow Maryland Humanities to address a continuing, unmet need faced by hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland, including our own, as we seek to continue to preserve a vital piece of history for future generations.

Indeed, it was through our partnership with Maryland Humanities and other organizations that we were able to develop a highly successful interpretive program for the Old Wallville School that has brought thousands of Calvert County Public Schools students to the school for an interactive learning experience. I cannot stress enough the importance of Maryland Humanities in this effort in supporting the development of signage and an interpretive guide that have helped us educate future Maryland citizens, and leaders, in a vital part of our history.

Simply put, we have found Maryland Humanities to be a highly-responsive, community-first organization, with which we look forward to partnering again. Passage of SB928 will enable us to do so.

Thank you for considering our views, and thank you for your service to this great state.

Very respectfully,



Harry E. Wedewer

President

Friends of the Old Wallville School, Inc.

cc: Maryland Humanities



Galesville Community Center Organization, Inc

P.O. Box 118, 916 West Benning Road
Galesville, MD 20765

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee—

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond. While switching from project-based to general operating support grants enables Maryland Humanities to assist and address an unmet need faced by hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland. During the pandemic our all-volunteer nonprofit organization would have had a difficult time surviving, without general operating support funding from Maryland Humanities. Because of restrictions during the pandemic we were unable to have fundraisers to meet our financial obligations and provide programming without general operating funds.

With passage of this bill, Maryland Humanities will be able to sustain this expanded general operating grantmaking for more than just one year. SHINE will focus on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits that may not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising, either from government programs or other private funders. This focus on under-resourced organizations will have a positive impact in many communities across the state, entrusting grantees to utilize grants where the need is greatest for their work and those they serve.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding throughout Maryland 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. Galesville Community Center Organization, Inc. (GCCO) received \$15,500 in COVID-relief funding in 2020/2021. With that funding we were able to continue services for the community, directly advancing our mission to continue the legacy of the Rosenwald School Program by providing educational programs and activities. GCCO has partnered with Maryland Humanities for over seven (7) years in presenting educational activities and programs primarily to minority seniors and youth of the southern Anne Arundel County community. Support of the cultural and educational needs of our Maryland communities and insuring that public funding for the humanities is a priority in the state of Maryland.

It is our hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grant making initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gertrude E. Makell
President



March 11, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee—

I am pleased to submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond. As the director of a Maryland Heritage Area, with many humanities nonprofits among the organizations my program serves, I see clearly that this bill will help all Marylanders at a critical time.

Humanities organizations faced an existential crisis in recent years, yet our communities depended on many of them to help with tourism-related economic recovery. They also served as safe and positively engaged places for individuals to grapple with all the challenges of the past few years – from political and racial turmoil to health concerns. But, if an organization can't sustain its operations, it can't contribute to the health and well being of our citizens and our economies.

With passage of this bill, Maryland Humanities will be able to sustain general operating grantmaking, that began with COVID-relief funding, for more than just one year. SHINE will focus on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits that may not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising, either from government programs or other private funders. This focus on under-resourced organizations will have a positive impact in many communities across the state, entrusting grantees to utilize grants where the need is greatest for their work and those they serve.

Recently, resources in the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area – in Carroll, Frederick and Washington counties - have received critical support through Maryland Humanities. Eleven organizations received \$5,100 each CARES COVID-relief funding and Twelve organizations received \$10,000 each in SHARP COVID-relief funding in 2020/2021. These grants supported operating costs, which allowed the recipients to focus on their mission-drive services in our communities. There are even more small and worthy organizations that struggle to meet their general operating needs. So many of our partner resources in the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area would benefit greatly from being a SHINE recipient.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Scott Shatto
Executive Director

CARROLL COUNTY
HAMPSTEAD
MANCHESTER
MOUNT AIRY
NEW WINDSOR
SYKESVILLE
TANEYTOWN
UNION BRIDGE
WESTMINSTER

FREDERICK COUNTY
BRUNSWICK
BURKITTSVILLE
EMMITSBURG
FREDERICK
MIDDLETOWN
MOUNT AIRY
MYERSVILLE
NEW MARKET
ROSEMONT
THURMONT
WOODSBORO

WASHINGTON COUNTY
BOONSBORO
CLEAR SPRING
FUNKSTOWN
HAGERSTOWN
HANCOCK
KEEDYSVILLE
SHARPSBURG
SMITHSBURG
WILLIAMSPORT



Historic
London Town
and *Gardens*

14 March 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee—

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

Growing their grantmaking program while switching from project-based to general operating support grants enables Maryland Humanities to address an unmet need faced by hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland.

With passage of this bill, Maryland Humanities will be able to sustain this expanded general operating grantmaking for more than just one year. SHINE will focus on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits that may not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising, either from government programs or other private funders. This focus on under-resourced organizations will have a positive impact in many communities across the state, entrusting grantees to utilize grants where the need is greatest for their work and those they serve.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding throughout Maryland 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.

Historic London Town and Gardens received over \$200,000 in COVID-relief funding in 2020 & 2021. That funding allowed us to stay open to the public and maintain our core operations.

London Town knows that that though there are many potential grants out there for nonprofits in Maryland, the vast majority of them are project-based. The operational support provided by SHINE grants will let nonprofits continue their already great work without having to come up with make-work projects just to get a grant. The number of operational support grants has decreased over the past couple of decades. The SHINE grant program is a welcome step back towards what the nonprofit community actually needs.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rod Cofield, Executive Director

Cc: Maryland Humanities



March 15, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee—

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

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I personally have partnered with Maryland Humanities over the past five years as a National History Day district coordinator, for Frederick County. I have found Maryland Humanities to be an extremely well-organized institution and, through my experiences, I can confidently say that they work effectively towards their goals and mission.

I am the archivist at Hood College and I am painfully aware of how scarce the opportunities for general operating support are; my department and others on campus would benefit greatly from being a SHINE recipient. Hood College is a private institution with an endowment that is largely restricted to scholarships; this makes our budget very small, and we are constantly in need of staff funding. I am the only archivist here and my position is only 50% archives related, the other half being collections development for the library.

Hood is in the process of creating a museum space in our astronomy observatory, built in 1925. The museum will be open to the campus, alumni, and the public. It will also serve as a classroom for our public history students, providing them with the opportunity to curate,

exhibit, and work a running museum on campus. We are hoping for the possibility of being a SHINE recipient for the museum.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Atwell

Mary Atwell, she/her
Archivist
Hood College
401 Rosemont Avenue
Frederick, MD 21701



817 Main Street, Laurel, MD 20707

301-725-7975

www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org

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Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee—

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Elizabeth Compton,
Co-founder

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Mike Boivin
Larry Eldridge
Lisa Everett
Marlene Frazier
Margie Hubbard
Jackie Jones
Michelle Keating
Margie McCeney
Bob Mignon
Cheryl Poulos
Denise Redmond
Marvin Rogers
Dave Singleton
Mariam Thakkar

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The Hon. Craig Moe,
Ex Officio

My organization received \$15,150 in COVID-relief funding from Maryland Humanities in 2020/2021. We gratefully used the emergency funds to cover staffing expenses, allowing us to keep the two staff members on payroll and to support the creation of a new part-time position to assist with operations and staffing the Museum open hours.

Jean Wilson,
Director Emerita

Ann Bennett,
Executive Director
Monica Sturdivant
Assistant Director
Raleigh Matson
Museum Manager

During the 15 months the Museum was closed to the public due to the pandemic, we continued to operate and serve our community. The staff developed new strategies to engage with the public, and transitioned our summer camps into virtual educational experiences in 2020 and went hybrid in 2021. This pivot to our normal operations and public offerings allow us to be a steady and reassuring presence in the community. We want the public to use the Laurel Historical Society as a resource to fulfill their needs for education, coping, stress release, and family activities.

One of the biggest lessons that LHS learned in 2020 was that we have a responsibility to collect items and stories related to the events as they happen. The tagline for the Laurel Historical Society, found in our logo, is *Preserving Laurel's Past for the Future*. But with the national and international events of 2020-21, a more accurate representation of our work would be *preserving Laurel's past – and present – for the future*.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann Bennett

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A".

Executive Director

March 15, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

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Launching Educational Assistance Programs (LEAP) Forward, Inc., received a Maryland Heritage Area Authority grant for \$7,500 with matching which allowed us to expand our traveling Black History and Art Exhibit. The exhibit is designed to provide opportunities for exposure to the rich history of African Americans and their outstanding contributions to American life and culture to students, teachers, parents, and the general public in Southern Maryland and beyond. The grant also supported the addition of 60 posters and maintenance of the exhibit. We are truly in need of general operating support funds.

We know how scarce opportunities for general operating support are, and we would benefit greatly from being a SHINE recipient. Our mission is to prepare underrepresented and underprivileged students for their future.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Trayonna Hutchins, Vice President

cc: Rhonda Thomas, President, LEAP Forward, Inc.

Life Journeys Writers Club, Inc. DBA Life Journeys Writers Guild

www.lifejourneyswritersguild.org *Plug in—And Create!*

Yvonne J. Medley © 2007 A nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization. info@lifejourneyswritersguild.org

March 14, 2022

To The Honorable Guy J. Guzzone, Chairman; and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond. Growing its grantmaking program while switching from project-based to general operating support grants enables Maryland Humanities to address an unmet need faced by hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland.

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

The Life Journeys Writers Club (LJWC) specializes in serving the underserved, being the bridge of access to the literary arts—not also for safe and creative self-expression, but also to maintain vital mental health. I can tell you that our success is largely due to the support/lifeline of Maryland Humanities.

The LJWC received \$10,000 in COVID-relief funding for the 2021/2022 grant period. With that funding we employed key staff and facilitators to conduct our *Life Journeys Writing and Mentoring Project* workshops, mentor participants of all ages (in the public, behind bars and returning citizens) and sustain other literary projects such as our *Publishing Project*, volunteering in schools, and to continue our outreach.

My organization has a longstanding partnership/relationship with Maryland Humanities, dating back to 2010, to uplift, inform and empower the public via the literary arts. The funding that the LJWC has received from Maryland Humanities in recent years has been transformative. It has strengthened our mantra to BE that bridge of access to all those who wish to and need to engage via the written word in multiple mediums. As a SHINE recipient, I know, firsthand, the impact that Maryland Humanities' grants and programs have on the communities that the LJWC serves.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Yvonne J. Medley, Executive Director of the LJWC

Cc: Lindsey Baker, Executive Director, *Maryland Humanities*

******A Place Where Writers Come for Information and Inspiration******
LJWG***Yvonne J. Medley, Founder of the *Life Journeys Writers Club / / LJWG (DBA) ***LJWG*
LJWG*****LJWG*****LJWG*****240.427.LJWG (5594)*****LJWG*****LJWG
1282 Smallwood Dr., W.
Suite # 107
Waldorf, MD. 20603



March 15, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

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The Maryland Women's Heritage Center has several times been a recipient of MD Humanities Funds:

- My organization received **\$10,000** in Dec. 2021 from COVID-relief funding in 2020/2021. With that funding, we were able to support some operations in of monthly expenses, converting programs to virtual platforms as well as adapting more materials development for website usage. Much of this work is done by volunteers. We also received a smaller amount early in COVID under CARES act in 6/20 for **\$5050**. That also helped us in the early days of operations soon after our move into the new location at Marian House/ Women's Industrial, 333 N. Charles St in Baltimore. We were also granted **\$7250** in June of 2021.
- We were granted **\$2000** in Jan. 2021 to provide a program related to the importance of Voting rights and in history. In our case we covered new research involving women in MD in the suffrage movement.
- With additional funds (6/21), we developed the **Valiant Maryland Women: The Fight for the Vote** APP. We provided the volunteers to develop the content, research and script for the tech developer. The **\$7500** was used to pay Timelooper to develop this unique APP that will be distributed to schools and around the state in the Spring 2022.
- My organization has partnered with Maryland Humanities for 8+ (?) years in presenting Women's history events and activities. The MWHC has provided a Women's History Award/scholarship to a student annually as part of the MD History Day. During the following year, we present a program with the winning student and their research.
- I have heard first-hand how impactful Maryland Humanities' grants/programs are for local grantee supports like the MWHC; portable exhibits, the Chautauqua events like the one we participated in Summer of 2021 as well as the comprehensive MD History Day.
- Our organization knows other organizations who know how scarce opportunities for general operating support are and would benefit greatly from being a SHINE recipient. Like many small non-profits, our donations continue to be down and there are limited other grants for us to apply for in the past, especially those that are eligible for operational supports. We are very bare bones, and we are very concerned where else to cut. We are leasing from another non-profit and have a very reasonable rent, but in the long run it too may have hard to sustain. Our type of work is difficult to only operate virtually, and our space is critical to Maryland visitors and students. We do have, however, our goal to still be operation to provide educational opportunities, programs and resources in our case, Maryland Women's History.

Without these critical funds over the past two years, we may NOT have been able to stay operational and productive for MD citizens. Looking at both program support and CARES/SHARP operational support, MD Humanities granted MWHC over **\$24,000**. **We are so appreciative of the federal and state legislative and funding support.**

It is my hope that you will vote **YES** for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

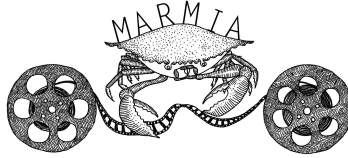
If you would like more information or to contact me, please use mwhcdiana@gmail.com or 443-996-1788. Thank you for your positive response to this request

Sincerely,

Diana M. Bailey

Diana M. Bailey
Executive Director

Cc: Lindsey Baker
Aaron Heinsman
Theresa Worden



*Mid-Atlantic Regional Moving Image Archive
10 E. North Ave Suite 5 Baltimore, MD 21202*

March 14, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee—

I am thrilled to submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

Maryland Humanities' switch from project-based to general operating support grants addresses an unmet and dire need faced by hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland: to build a solid infrastructure to more effectively conduct our missions now and into the future. With passage of this bill, Maryland Humanities will be able to sustain this expanded general operating grantmaking for more than just one year. SHINE will focus on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits that may not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising, either from government programs or other private funders. This focus on under-resourced organizations will have a positive impact in many communities across the state, entrusting grantees to utilize grants where the need is greatest for their work and those they serve.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding throughout Maryland 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. My organization received both CARES and SHARP COVID-relief funding in 2020 and 2021 from the Maryland Humanities. With that funding we were able to continue to pay our rent despite the inability to hold fundraising events and to perform in-person programming and outreach. By not having this operating cost hanging over our head, we were able to focus on writing additional grants and fundraising to cover the cost of a part-time employee to help further our mission.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this sorely needed grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Siobhan C. Hagan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Siobhan C. Hagan

MARMIA CEO

siobhan@marmia.org

The National Museum of Language
P.O. Box 453
Greenbelt, MD 20768

www.languagemuseum.org
(301) 864-7071
info@languagemuseum.org



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March 11, 2022

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Marc Okrand, Ph.D.

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My organization, the all-virtual National Museum of Language, was very fortunate to receive \$10,000 from Maryland Humanities under the federally funded Supporting Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) grant program. These funds enabled us to pay for increased IT and social media support, fund student internships, and enhance development of new exhibits and educational programs which will be freely available on our website to educators, students, and the public throughout the state. We are currently working on partnering with local schools to provide virtual tours of our exhibits to students in their classrooms. Being a SHINE recipient would greatly benefit our organization by enabling us to expand our programs in support of language education.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

President

Cc: Jill Robbins, Ph.D. Vice President; Lindsey Baker, Aaron Heinsman

Neighborhood Creative Arts Center
206 Washington Avenue
La Plata, MD 20646



March 11, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzonne and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee—

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

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The Neighborhood Creative Arts Center received \$10,000 in SHARP funds in 2020-2021. With that funding, we were able to help cover lease expenses left unpaid due to COVID-19. Subsequently, we were able to keep functioning and serving the community with humanities-based activities that continue to enrich the lives of Charles County families and students. NCAC has partnered with the Maryland Humanities for two years, working together to encourage homeschoolers and private schooler to participate in the National History Day program and reaching out to all students with mind-broadening humanities-based programs. Though many of our students have never left Maryland, or even Charles County, they have been exposed to a variety of cultures and belief systems and eras in history, and they have been inspired by the life stories of great people throughout history- all because the Maryland Humanities helped us survive. Thousands of students have experienced NCAC virtual fieldtrips, National History Day events, and a diverse classes and clubs. Because of this, these students will be more

empathetic world citizens- embracing differences and admiring diversity. Only exposure will break down the walls of ignorance and racism in our communities.

My organization knows from experience how scarce opportunities for general operating support are and would benefit greatly from being a SHINE recipient. Please fund this bill, as it will pay in spades in the future as we help the young to become strong and compassionate community leaders.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georgia Ypma Bonney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Georgia Ypma Bonney
Executive Director, NCAC



8013 Bellona Ave, Riderwood, MD 21204 410-832-1812 www.preservationabc.org

March 15, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

We, at Preservation Alliance of Baltimore County, are pleased to submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

The Baltimore County Historical Trust / Preservation Alliance of Baltimore County (PABC) is a non-profit dedicated to preserving Baltimore County's unique architectural heritage of buildings, sites, landscapes, towns and neighborhoods. We were created for the purpose of preserving and maintaining historic properties, interior, and exterior architectural fabric, cultural items and art forms, and landscape architecture through, but not limited to, outreach and education. PABC, originally called the Baltimore County Historical Trust (which is still our legal name), was formed in the 1970s, and incorporated in 1981, by a group of citizens who grew concerned seeing their community's historic buildings being torn-down. PABC is the only Baltimore County-wide organization solely dedicated to protecting our County's historic architectural resources.

Historic preservation is the living embodiment, and convergence of, human history, art and culture. One of the most expressive forms of human culture is the built environment. Whether a structure is created for shelter, or an edifice dedicated to art and ideas; buildings, and their connected human-altered landscapes, they are the one of the most meaningful forms of human cultural expression, and a direct link between the past and future.

With passage of this bill, Maryland Humanities will be able to sustain this expanded general operating grantmaking for more than just one year. SHINE will focus on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits, like ours at PABC, that may not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising, either from government programs or other private funders. This focus on under-resourced organizations will have a positive impact in many communities across the state, entrusting grantees to utilize grants where the need is greatest for their work and those they serve.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding throughout Maryland for nearly fifty years. Over the past 18 months, they have awarded \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds to 136 organizations,

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Growing their grantmaking program while switching from project-based to general operating support grants enables Maryland Humanities to address an unmet need faced by hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland.

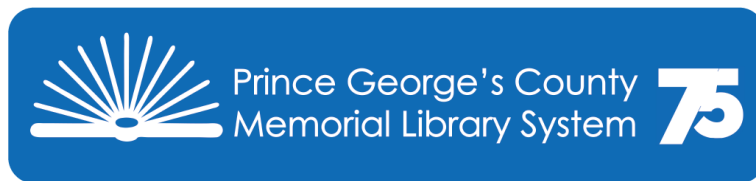
PABC is very grateful and proud to have been a recipient of Maryland Humanities funding. We have twice received Maryland Humanities grants and, without them, it would have been very hard for us to have survived the COVID pandemic; during which we lost 1/2 of our regular funding. With the Maryland Humanities funds, we were able to continue our programming, including our educational programs and our mini-grant fund to help other smaller non-profits and low-income Seniors with repairing their historic buildings.

We at PABC know how scarce opportunities for general operating support are and would benefit greatly from being a SHINE recipient.

We hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet very needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let us know if you need more information or have any questions.

With regards,
Anne Gryczon
Executive Director
Preservation Alliance of Baltimore County



March 11, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee—

Prince George's County has the privilege to submit this letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

Maryland Humanities SHINE initiative is able to assist, innumerable small to mid sized nonprofit organizations in the Maryland area, sustain their social impact efforts. Notably, grantmaking for general operating enables nonprofit organizations to not only have the needed fundraising assistance, systems, processes and marketing for promoting meaningful projects, programs, and resources but also to keep their invaluable staff in order to continue serving their communities amidst the continued uncertainty.

In the past 18 months alone, they have awarded \$1.425 million in federal COVID-19 relief funds to 136 organizations, reaching every county and Baltimore City with much-needed operating support. Imagine how fundamental of a partner Maryland Humanities has been in the roughly fifty years of existence. In our case we are grateful for the ways in which Maryland Humanities have helped us sustain and expand our programs.

- PGCMLS partnered with Maryland Humanities annually for the One Maryland One Book initiative where Maryland Humanities provided us with free books and events featuring the author.
- Maryland Humanities awarded PGCMLS a \$2,000 grant for Voting: Democracy in Action programs, co-presented with the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights in FY21.

The SHINE initiative commits to Strengthening Humanities Investment in Nonprofits for Equity. During a time where the ethical fiber of our communities are under constant attack, a program with a focus on equity means that every dollar will have a positive multiplier effect.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Roberta Phillips, Chief Executive Officer



The Raymond Banks 'A Way With Words' Foundation

Email: contact@raymondbanksfoundation.org

Phone: 667.351.6925

"Self-Expression Equals Self-Empowerment"

March 14, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee—

It is my sincere honor to submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond. Expanding their grant program including switching from project-based to general operating support grants enables Maryland Humanities to address a very critical and an unmet need faced by hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland.

With passage of this bill, Maryland Humanities will be able to sustain this expanded general operating grantmaking for more than just one year. SHINE will focus on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits, like mine, that may not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising, either from government programs or other private funders. This focus on under-resourced organizations will have a positive impact in many communities across the state, entrusting grantees to utilize grants where the need is greatest for their work and those they serve.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid community stakeholder, one who has distributed project grant funding throughout Maryland 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. On a personal level, my non-profit organization received approximately \$15,000 in COVID-relief funding in 2020 and 2021. Without that funding to support operating costs, we would not have been able to provide valuable programming in our community and likely would have had to close our doors.

My grassroots organization knows first-hand how scarce opportunities for general operating support are and would benefit greatly from being a SHINE recipient. Funding for programs simply don't matter if we can't afford to keep the light on to host them or hire a person to manage them. As a small non-profit something as "small" as being able to pay for a business phone for people to reach us in the community or maintain a quality website to highlight our impact or showcase the services we provide is instrumental in getting buy-in from the community as well as potential funders for programming.

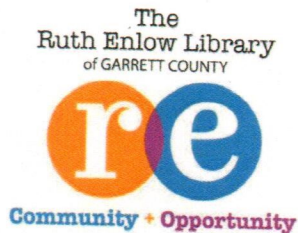
To that end, it is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Rae Myers'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Dr. Jennifer Rae Myers

Founder & President



Budget and Taxation Committee
SB 847: Libraries – Capital Projects – State Share Adjustments
March 10, 2022
Support

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express support for SB 928, which would extend the SHINE grant program conducted by Maryland Humanities into FY 24 and beyond.

In the difficult times faced by community nonprofits in the age of COVID, many have needed support simply to keep the doors open and serving their clients. While MD Humanities has been able to provide support for projects, the SHINE project has enabled them to provide critical operating support to agencies as well, which has made all the difference for many of them. This bill would enable Maryland Humanities to extend the program past its initial year, focusing on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits that may not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising, either from government programs or other private funders.

Over the years, Maryland Humanities has been a wonderful partner for many agencies, including the Library, particularly with its "One Maryland, One Book" program, in which the Library is proud to participate annually. Lately, however, they have distinguished themselves with the responsive and proactive role they have played for smaller and underfunded nonprofits dealing with COVID-based losses.

Grants such as this make a huge difference to libraries and similar institutions doing their best to help their communities, and I hope you will vote to support SB 928 and give those grants a future in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Thomas Vose
Director
Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County

SPARK | MEDIA

[igniting social change]

March 11, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

Growing their grantmaking program while switching from project-based to general operating support grants enables Maryland Humanities to address an unmet need faced by hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland.

With passage of this bill, Maryland Humanities will be able to sustain this expanded general operating grantmaking for more than just one year. SHINE will focus on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits that may not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising, either from government programs or other private funders. This focus on under-resourced organizations will have a positive impact in many communities across the state, entrusting grantees to utilize grants where the need is greatest for their work and those they serve.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding throughout Maryland 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.

Spark Media has partnered with Maryland Humanities on several projects. They were one of the early supporters of our documentary *Partners of the Heart*, which eventually received full funding from the NEH and CPB and was broadcast on PBS American Experience in 2003 and 2005. The film received the prestigious Erik Barnouw Award for Best History Documentary from the Organization of American Historians and was selected to be one of the NEH50, a list of the 50 most culturally significant projects supported by the NEH in its history. We have continued our educational outreach for *Partners of the Heart*, working with Maryland Humanities and Stone Soup Productions on a series of mentoring events for students at the Vivien Thomas Medical Arts Academy in Baltimore.

We also worked with Maryland Humanities on the documentary *Soul of a People: Writing America's Story* about the Federal Writer's Project in the 1930s. That project included a bonus featurette about Zora Neale Hurston and her time in Maryland and an interactive web portal that taught students about historic locations along Route One.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Mirabello". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

James Mirabello
Producer/Production Manager
Spark Media, Inc.



THE STAR
SPANGLED
BANNER
FLAG HOUSE



WHERE INSPIRATION WAS SEWN, AND HISTORY COMES ALIVE

844 E. PRATT STREET March 11, 2022
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

P 410.837.1793
F 410.837.1812
WWW.FLAGHOUSE.ORG

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee—

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SECRETARY
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James Schaub
Wayne Schaumburg
Cole Snyder
Holly Atherton Taylor
EX-OFFICIO
Shauntee Daniels
Jackson Gilman-Forlini
Mary Woodfill Park
Halcott Mebane Turner
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Amanda Shores Davis

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

Growing their grantmaking program while switching from project-based to general operating support grants enables Maryland Humanities to address an unmet need faced by hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland.

With passage of this bill, Maryland Humanities will be able to sustain this expanded general operating grantmaking for more than just one year. SHINE will focus on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits that may not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising, either from government programs or other private funders. This focus on under-resourced organizations will have a positive impact in many communities across the state, entrusting grantees to utilize grants where the need is greatest for their work and those they serve.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding throughout Maryland 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 Star-Spangled Banner Flag House received \$15,000 in COVID-relief funding in 2020/2021. With that funding we were able to retain critical museum staff, provide support to educators and families adapting to virtual and hybrid learning, and committed to providing all virtual programming to educators for free through 2023. The Flag House and our network of museum and nonprofit humanities organizations know how scarce opportunities for general operating support are and would benefit greatly from being a SHINE recipient.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Shores Davis
Executive Director



March 11, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

My name is Andrea Kalin and I am the President of Stone Soup Productions. Our mission is to spotlight worthy causes, sing about unsung heroes and heroines, champion human rights and women's health, and promote cultural diversity and celebrations of the arts and humanities. It has been our honor to work with Maryland Humanities on several projects related to our humanities initiatives.

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

Growing their grantmaking program while switching from project-based to general operating support grants enables Maryland Humanities to address an unmet need faced by hundreds of nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland.

With passage of this bill, Maryland Humanities will be able to sustain this expanded general operating grantmaking for more than just one year. SHINE will focus on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits that may not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising, either from government programs or other private funders. This focus on under-resourced organizations will have a positive impact in many communities across the state, entrusting grantees to utilize grants where the need is greatest for their work and those they serve.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding throughout Maryland 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.

Among other projects, we most recently partnered with Maryland Humanities from 2017 to 2019 on a program called *The Celebration of Excellence*, which used our NEH-funded documentary *Partners of the Heart* as the centerpiece of a recurring program at the Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy in Baltimore. In addition to screening the film for students, the event included mentorship sessions with the Maryland historians, filmmakers and physicians from Johns Hopkins Hospital (including then Chief of the Department of Surgery Robert Higgins). To date, we have organized three Celebration events, and hope to coordinate more events soon. You can learn more about the program at <https://www.stonetosoup.org/the-celebration-of-excellence>.

Without support from Maryland Humanities, we would not have been able to create such an impactful event for these students in Baltimore. It was a privilege working with the team at Maryland Humanities, and we welcome any opportunity to work with them again in the future.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kalin

Andrea Kalin
President, Stone Soup Productions



Testimony to the Budget and Taxation Committee

Name: Gail Webb Owings, Executive Director
Organization: Eastern Shore Heritage, Inc. - Stories of the Chesapeake: The Heritage Area of Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties
Issue: Senate Bill 928 Appropriation for the Strengthening Humanities Investment in Nonprofits for Equity (SHINE) Grantmaking Initiative
Position: Support

As an organization dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and interpretation of the cultural, historic, and natural resources of Maryland's Eastern Shore, it gives Eastern Shore Heritage, Inc. immense pleasure to support Senate Bill 928 which will extend the State of Maryland's Investment in Maryland Humanities with a new "SHINE" grant initiative to support small non-profits working in the humanities.

As the Executive Director of the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, I work with multiple small nonprofit organizations many of which are entirely run by volunteers or by one full or part time staff. As I am working with these organizations to make projects happen, I am often asked if I know of funding sources to assist heritage organizations with operating cost. These small organizations provide vital activities for tourism, education, and overall quality of life on the Eastern Shore.

With the passage of SB928, Maryland Humanities can build upon their successful grant making program. The bills focus on small organizations will have a lasting impact on our rural communities and entrust them to use grants where the need is greatest for both the organization and those that they serve.

Maryland Humanities has been a strong partner in the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, delivering funding and technical assistance to a wide variety of programs. In the last 18 months, they have awarded \$1.425 million in federal COVID relief funds to 136 organizations in every county and Baltimore City providing much needed funding to keep the humanities in Maryland strong.

Please support SB928. Let Maryland's small humanities organizations continue to excel, stimulate the states economy, and enhance our community's quality of life through place based programing. Thank You.



206 South Queen Street

Chestertown, Maryland 21620

www.sumnerball.org

443-282-0023

March 15, 2022

Senator Guy J. Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
Maryland State Senate
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Guzzone,

On behalf of the Board of Director and Stakeholders of Sumner Hall (G.A.R. Post #25, Inc.), I wish to submit this letter in support of SB928, a critical bill that will power SHINE, the new grantmaking initiative of Maryland Humanities.

Since our historic building was saved from the wrecking ball and re-opened to the public in 2015, our hard -working volunteer Board of Directors has been dedicated to making Sumner Hall a viable, self-sustaining organization. We are proud of our specific programs and initiatives funded by targeted donations and that our membership is increasing. However, we have not yet been able to raise enough non-targeted funding to reliability cover all of our operating costs and the part time paid person we need to be fully sustainable.

The funds that Sumner Hall received from Maryland Humanities' CARES and SHARP programs (\$15,000), along with a similar grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (\$20,000), allowed us to survive during the pandemic because we could use those funds to pay operating costs, including part-time staff.

That investment in our organization allowed us to continue to run our grant-funded and specially funded projects. These included: (1) raising \$100,000 in community donations to feed the poor elderly and children in Kent County; (2) adding to our children's library of texts on African American History and Culture and organizing our nearly 1,000 volumes into themed book boxes that we loan to classroom teachers; and (3) completing our three-year research project on African American veterans from Kent County.

Grants that organizations can spend on general operating costs are very important. We endorse this bill that will enable Maryland Humanities to provide the funding outlined in the SHINE grantmaking initiative. It is a solid formula for investing in Maryland's non-profit organizations in a way that will help them become sustainable entities.

Sumner Hall has appreciated its relationship with Maryland Humanities throughout the years. In addition to the CARES and SHARP grants, we were awarded a Smithsonian Museum on Main Street project in 2017 which came with many hours of Maryland Humanities' staff support that contributed to our very successful community-wide celebration of *The Way We Worked in Kent County*. Maryland Humanities is really in tune with the needs of small nonprofits across the state.

We believe that the proposed SHINE initiative will pay big dividends in our State. Helping small nonprofits cover their basic operating costs, freeing them to spend their volunteer time and energies on programs that directly serve their stakeholders, clients and communities. When an organization's initiatives, programs and projects are deemed valuable, it can raise its profile and broaden its funding base that, in turn, will lead to its sustainability.

Senator Guzzone: We urge you other members of the Budget and Taxation Committee vote YES for SB928!

Sincerely,

Larry Wilson

Larry Wilson, President
Sumner Hall (G.A.R. Post #25)



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
Office of the Dean

March 11, 2022

Chairman Guy J. Guzzone
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I write this letter to express my strong support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Strengthening Humanities Investment in Nonprofits for Equity (SHINE) Grantmaking Initiative of the Maryland Humanities Council. The bill will include in the annual budget an appropriation of \$500,000 to be used in FY24 and every year thereafter.

The passage of this bill will allow Maryland Humanities to support a critical, unmet need of many nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland. SHINE focuses on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits that often do not have staff or resources to be competitive in fundraising and grant development. Supporting SB928 will give Maryland Humanities' the capacity to fund these under-resourced organizations with operating and infrastructure dollars. This will allow grantees to re-focus their efforts where need is greatest and will subsequently have a positive impact in many communities across the state.

As Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, I have partnered with Maryland Humanities for over ten years and know that it is a staunch advocate for the role of the humanities in civic life and education. It has distributed project grant funding throughout Maryland for nearly fifty years. Over the past 18 months, it has awarded \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds to 136 organizations, reaching every county and Baltimore City with much-needed operating support.

The College of Arts and Humanities has almost 3,000 undergraduate and graduate majors. Our students work with 520 teachers, artists and humanists to study, create, and to contribute to these fields and provide leadership within them. Please see the College of Arts and Humanities' recent *Year in Review* for examples of teaching, research and community engagement: <https://arhu.umd.edu/news/arhu-2020-21-year-review>. We are one of 12 colleges at the University of Maryland College Park, the flagship institution in the State of Maryland, and the only research-intensive public university in the DMV.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of SHINE, an ambitious, and sorely needed grantmaking initiative. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Thornton Dill, Ph.D.
Professor and Dean



WIDE ANGLE YOUTH MEDIA

2601 North Howard St. Suite 160 Baltimore, MD 21218 www.wideanglemedia.org

March 11, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee—

As a staff member of Wide Angle Youth Media, it is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond. Growing their grantmaking program while switching from project-based to general operating support grants enables Maryland Humanities to address an unmet need faced by hundreds of nonprofit organizations, like Wide Angle, throughout Maryland.

With passage of this bill, Maryland Humanities will be able to sustain this expanded general operating grantmaking for more than just one year. SHINE will focus on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits that may not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising, either from government programs or other private funders. This focus on under-resourced organizations will have a positive impact in many communities across the state, entrusting grantees to utilize grants where the need is greatest for their work and those they serve.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding throughout Maryland 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.

Reflecting on our experiences at Wide Angle, it has been incredibly impactful to have several of our foundational and public agency supporters transition from programmatic to general operating funding during the pandemic. This shift was a key factor in allowing our organization to continue providing high quality programming to youth in Baltimore despite the challenges presented by COVID-19. Enabling Maryland Humanities to sustain its expanded general operating grantmaking and will extend that same flexibility to other organizations who would benefit greatly from being a SHINE recipient.

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Moira Fratantuono
Development & Communications Director
Wide Angle Youth Media
moira@wideanglemedia.org



March 15, 2022

Re: Senate Bill 928

To: Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

Greetings! I'm writing to you on behalf of The Writer's Center, the area's premier literary arts nonprofit, supporting thousands of writers, and those who want to write. We are deeply grateful for your long-time support of the arts and humanities in our County. We, along with representatives from other arts organizations, are reaching out to express our support for SB928, which will extend the State of Maryland's investment in Maryland Humanities' new SHINE grantmaking initiative into FY24 and beyond.

Maryland Humanities has been a pivotal support for our work. Their funding of our "Through a Literary Lens" series brought autistic writers and caregivers of autistic family members together for a powerful set of writing workshops and a discussion panel, focusing on the impact of the written word, through novels, memoir, and on the screen, in portrayals of autism.

As a small to mid-sized nonprofit, we, along with our fellow arts and humanities organizations, have struggled terribly during the pandemic. General operating support is scarce in a good year! Passage of this bill will help sustain our community for years to come, improving the lives of countless Marylanders for whom creative outlets are a vital part of self-expression

It is my hope that you will vote YES for SB928 to ensure continuation of this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in FY2024 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Meloney".

Margaret Meloney
Executive Director

USE YOUR WORDS.

The Writer's Center is a 501(c)3 literary arts nonprofit.
writer.org | 4508 Walsh St, Bethesda, MD 20815 |
301.654.8664

POET
LORE
poetlore.com