

February 14, 2022

To whom it may concern:

The Hippodrome Foundation Board is fully supportive of **HB 641** and grateful to Delegate Atterbeary for sponsoring the bill.

Implementing a theatrical tax credit will create weeks of additional work for the unions that rely on the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center for labor and implementing the credit will generate economic impact with the additional hotel rooms, restaurant and food needs, supplies and more.

But one of the most important reasons the Hippodrome Foundation is in favor is because with the tax credit in place, Broadway tours will potentially be built here in the Hippodrome Theatre and in the M&T Bank Exchange, the new ancillary space. Having tours built on location will provide an opportunity for the Hippodrome Foundation to invite students to observe and learn the huge process of building all of the props, lighting, costumes and more. The building of these shows provides an educational opportunity for the Hippodrome Foundation to share with Maryland young people.

As the non-profit partner of the Hippodrome Theatre, HFI provided free outreach and education virtual programming for well over 12,000 students over the past year and many of these programs shed light on possible careers in the industry. We look forward to providing more in-person learning to students of all ages and allowing Maryland young people to have front-row seats to the building of a Broadway tour is a truly exciting possibility which we hope House Members will consider seriously.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this bill. We might just build the next HAMILTON in Baltimore! The foundation is ever-committed to sharing the assets of the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center with the community and the prospect here is truly exciting!

Sincerely,



Olive Waxter
Executive Director



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