



January 25, 2023

**Testimony in Favor of SB0167
Maryland State Arts Council - Funding**

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and honorable members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

As the Executive Director of Maryland Citizens for the Arts, a statewide advocacy group for public investment in the arts, I am honored to speak in favor of Senate Bill 167. Our organization represents the interests of over 300 arts organizations, 24 county arts councils, 27 Arts & Entertainment Districts, and thousands of independent artists across Maryland.

The Maryland State Arts Council is a vital source of funding for the arts in our state, providing much-needed investment to hundreds of arts organizations and artists each year. This investment has helped produce thousands of cultural experiences across hundreds of communities in Maryland and provided thousands of arts-related jobs, helping to build a thriving arts-based economy that benefits all Marylanders.

Codifying the annual calculation for the Maryland State Arts Council, as proposed in SB0167, will ensure the continued strong investment in the arts sector, allowing every corner of the state to enjoy incredible artistic experiences. I urge you to vote in favor of this bill and support the arts in Maryland.

Respectfully,

Nicholas Cohen, Executive Director

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