



PRESERVATION MARYLAND

March 5, 2024

Hon. Ben Barnes
Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, 6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: HB1066 FAVORABLE

Chairperson Barnes,

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Preservation Maryland and our thousands of statewide supporters, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **SUPPORT of HB1066** which would enhance the African American Heritage Preservation Program grant fund to include non-capital grant funding for African American heritage projects and organizations throughout the great state of Maryland.

Preservation Maryland is the nonprofit, statewide voice for historic preservation that harnesses the power of historic places by revitalizing and reinvesting in communities, advocating, and building the historic trades workforce for the benefit of all Marylanders. (Learn more at: presmd.org)

Why We Support This Legislation: Places, where significant African American history happened, are too often underrecognized and undervalued for their essential role in the fabric of American society. Non-capital funding can help correct this historical issue and will support the growth and capacity of hundreds of African American cultural sites throughout Maryland. The funding to support programs, capacity building, and operations would be vital to cultivating and preserving Maryland's dynamic African American history while accelerating public engagement through the state's heritage tourism economy.

HB1066 is an important piece of legislation, and we urge a favorable report.

Favorable

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Redding, President & CEO