



## House Appropriations Committee

### Testimony from Maryland Humanities re: SB0596

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Maryland Humanities offers this testimony supporting SB0596, a bill for the Marilyn Hatza Memorial Strengthening the Humanities Investment in Nonprofits for Equity (SHINE) Grantmaking Initiative. I appreciate the support this program has received from this committee over the last two years, including an increase in FY23.

Maryland Humanities' SHINE Grants program is a groundbreaking effort by Maryland Humanities to ensure humanities organizations around the state have the operating resources they need. This new initiative is intended to let the vibrant network of humanities nonprofits throughout Maryland pursue their vital work, shining a light on stories both well-known and previously hidden of the communities they serve. SHINE declares our commitment to Strengthening Humanities Investment in Nonprofits for Equity. It will join Maryland History Day, Museum on Main Street, and One Maryland One Book as one of the bedrock programs that allow us to serve and reach more than a quarter-million people annually in dozens of communities statewide.

The launch of our SHINE program in FY23 allowed us to grow our grantmaking program and switch from project-based to general operating support grants as well as address an unmet need for nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland. We are thankful to have built the program incorporating input and lessons learned from \$1.5 million in operating grant support that we distributed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The input from those grantees was central to building the SHINE program.

Beginning in FY23, we have used this investment to exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits. This effort makes us one of the first nonprofit state humanities councils nationally to do so with their grantmaking.

Our hope is that this bill will allow us to continue this effort by providing an ongoing \$1,000,000 appropriation. This will allow us to:

- Continue and expand general operating support funding with a minimum award amount of \$10,000.
- 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, similar to what we were able to realize from our first two rounds of SHINE grants, which funded organizations in 22 of Maryland's counties, plus Baltimore City.

- Continue to refine lessons learned on how to 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 need of organizations that may not qualify for other funding from Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, or Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

Attached are lists from the first two funding rounds in FY23 and FY24. The FY24 round awarded 95 grants in 23 jurisdictions, including Baltimore City. The applicant list, which totaled 140 organizations (above and beyond the 95 we will be able to fund), is representative of every jurisdiction in the state and speaks to the great need of small humanities focused nonprofits.

I am attaching list of our grantees, letters of support, and some interesting data on the FY24 grantees.

Thank you for your consideration of this important program!



Lindsey Baker  
Chief Executive Officer  
Maryland Humanities  
[lbaker@mdhumanities.org](mailto:lbaker@mdhumanities.org)  
410.699.3130



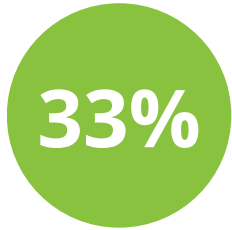
Strengthening the Humanities  
Investment in Nonprofits for Equity

# 2024 Grantee Summary

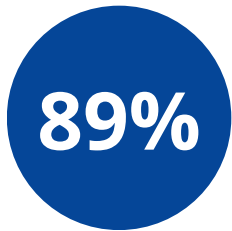
With seed money from the State of Maryland through the Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Humanities awarded 95 grants of \$10,000 through the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE Grant in 2024. Grantees are small nonprofits doing humanities work in Maryland, with Maryland residents as their primary constituents.



of grantees are first time recipients of a Maryland Humanities grant.



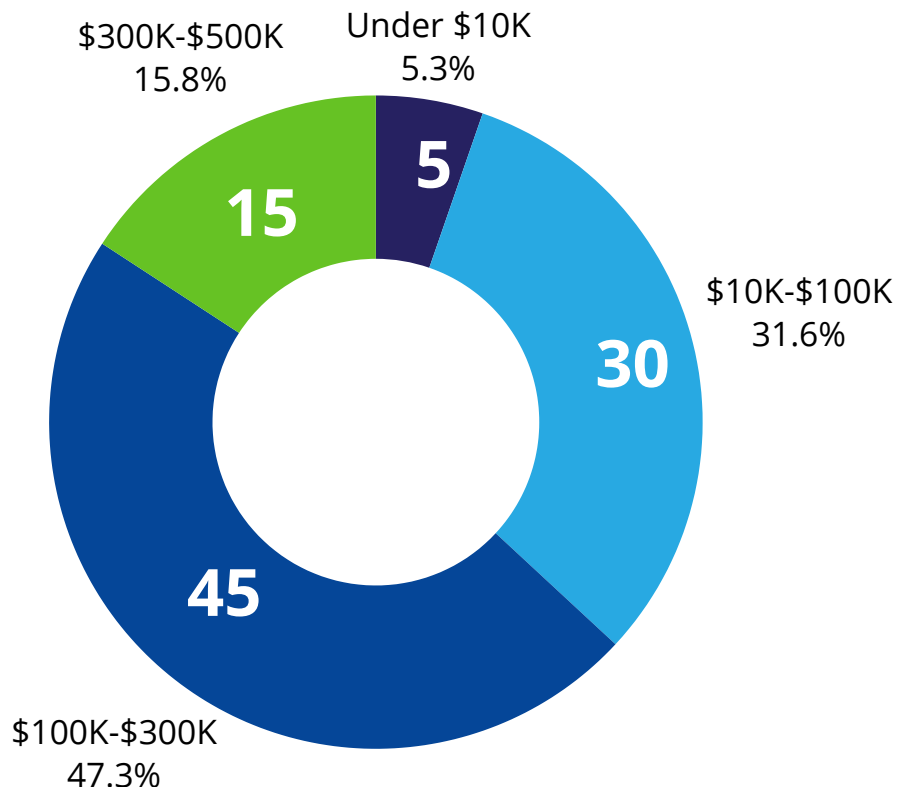
of applicants were first time applicants to a Maryland Humanities grant.



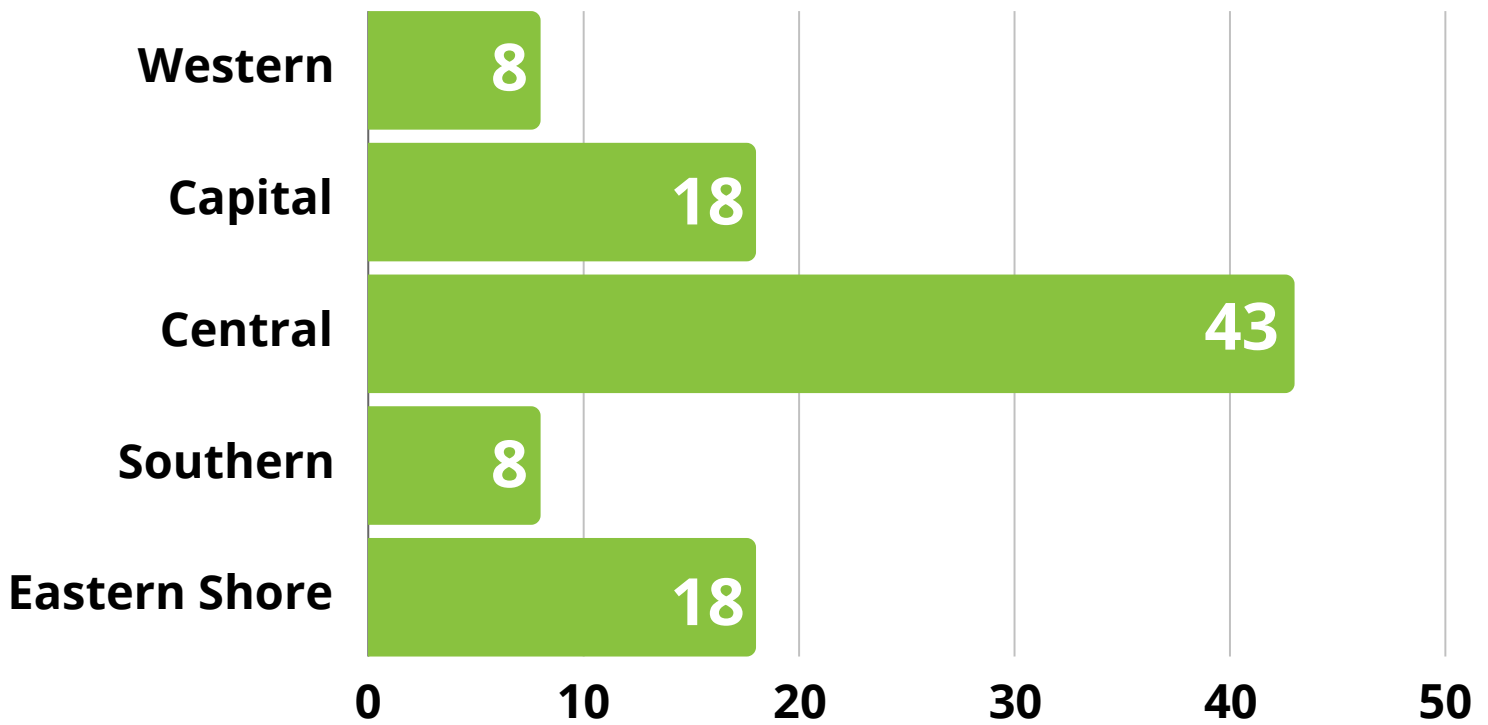
of first time applicants are first time recipients of a Maryland Humanities grant.

## Grantees Annual Budget Size

- Grantees must have an annual operating budget of \$500,000 or less to be eligible.
- The Hatza SHINE Grant focuses on small and mid-size nonprofits doing humanities work that may not have staff capacity or resources to be competitive in fundraising.
- Grant funds are used for general operating expenses.



# Grantees by Maryland Region



Western counties: Garrett, Allegany, Washington

Capital counties: Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's

Central counties: Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll, Harford, Howard

Southern counties: Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's

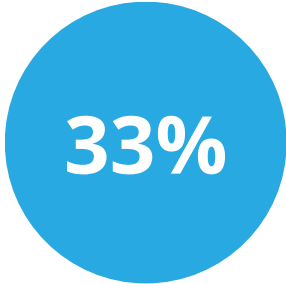
Eastern Shore counties: Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester, Cecil

**2024 grantees represent 22 Maryland counties and Baltimore City.**

## Comparison of Hatza SHINE Grantees' Region by Year

	2023	2024
<b>Western</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Capital</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Central</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>Southern</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Eastern Shore</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>20%</b>

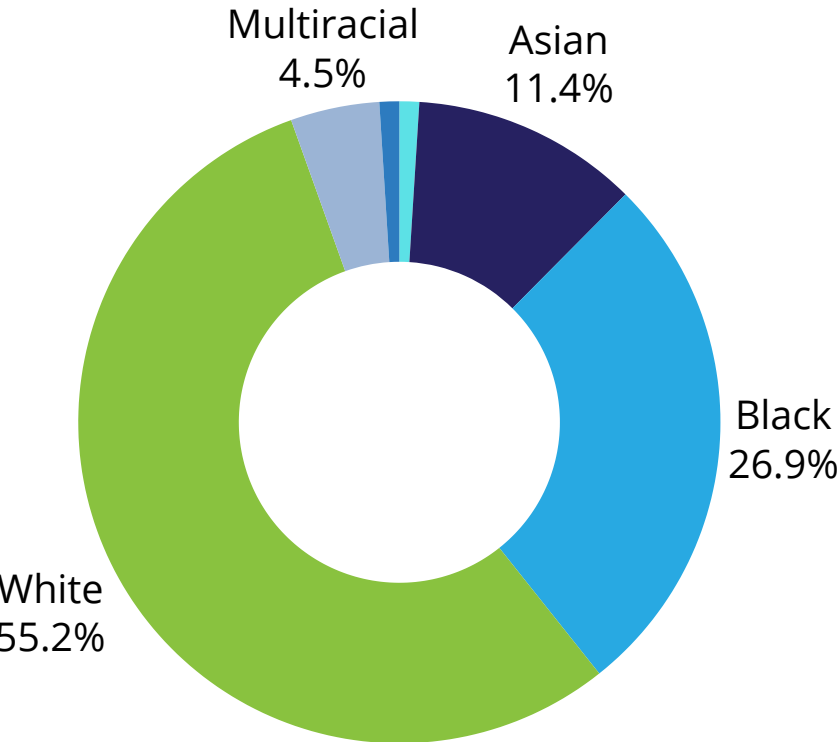




of grantees have mission statements dedicated to serving audiences from or sharing the culture of an underrepresented race or ethnicity identity.

# Applicants' Organization Demographics

Maryland Humanities conducted an anonymous organizational demographic profile survey of Hatza SHINE applicants. 109 out of 140 applicant organizations responded.



# Leadership Staff Race and Ethnicity Composition

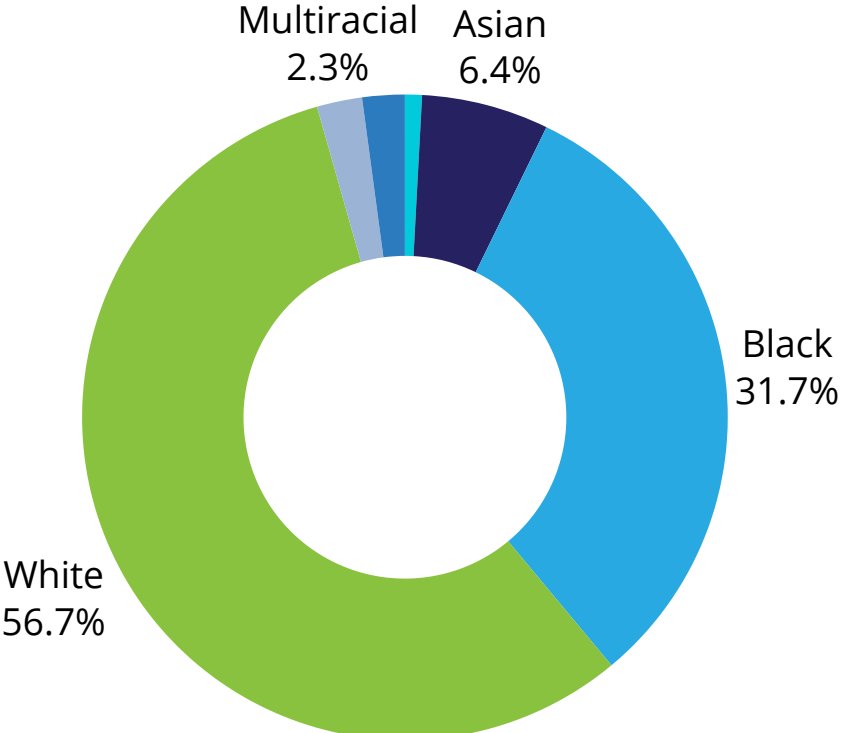
71 organizations answered this question. 38 organizations either skipped or reported they do not collect this information.

Less than 1% reported Hispanic, Latin(o)(a), American Indian, Native Alaskan, Pacific Islander, or Native Hawaiian.

# Board Member Race and Ethnicity Composition

77 organizations answered this question. 32 organizations either skipped or reported they do not collect this information.

2.1% reported Hispanic, Latin(o)(a). Less than 1% reported American Indian, Native Alaskan, Pacific Islander, or Native Hawaiian.



# Hatza Memorial SHINE Grant Awardees

With seed money from the State of Maryland through the Maryland Historical Trust, we awarded 95 grants of \$10,000 through the Marilyn Hatza Memorial Strengthening the Humanities Investment in Nonprofits for Equity (SHINE) Grant Program. Eligible applicants needed to be small nonprofits doing humanities work, located in Maryland, with Maryland residents as their primary constituents, and have an annual operating budget of \$500,000 or less. Evaluators looked at each applicant's organizational culture, programming, audiences and community impact, and budget and financial impact of grant funds. The following organizations are this year's award recipients, representing 22 Maryland counties and Baltimore City.

## Allegany

Allegany Museum  
Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
Evergreen Heritage Center  
Foundation  
Historic Frostburg, a Maryland  
Main Street Community, Inc

## Anne Arundel

Blacks of the Chesapeake  
Foundation  
Captain Avery Museum  
Chesapeake Children's  
Museum  
Lost Towns Project, Inc

## Baltimore

Baltimore Association of  
Nepalese in America Inc  
Baltimore County Historical  
Society, Inc.  
Maryland Lynching Memorial  
Project  
NeighborSpace of Baltimore  
County, Inc.  
Sisterhood Agenda, Inc.  
Todd's Inheritance Historic  
Site, Inc.

## Baltimore City

Baltimore Architecture  
Foundation  
Baltimore Heritage  
CHARM: Voices of Baltimore  
Youth  
CityLit Project  
Eubie Blake National Jazz  
Institute and Cultural Center  
Friends of 612-614 S. Wolfe  
Street, Inc.  
Friends of President Street  
Station  
Greenmount Senior Center  
Komite Ayiti, Inc  
Makeup Museum

Maryland Museums  
Association  
Maryland Women's Heritage  
Center  
Mount Clare Museum House  
Moving History, Inc.  
Writers in Baltimore Schools  
Muse 360 Arts  
Raymond Banks 'A Way With  
Words' Foundation  
Sankofa Children's Museum of  
African Cultures, Inc.  
Yellow Arrow Publishing Co.

## Calvert

Bayside History Museum  
Launching Educational  
Assistance Program Forward  
LEAP Forward Inc

## Carroll

Downtown Sykesville  
Connection, Inc.  
Historical Society of Carroll  
County Maryland  
The Union Mills Homestead

## Cecil

Historical Society of Cecil  
County

## Charles

Farm Heritage Conservancy  
The Historical Society of  
Charles County, Inc.  
Life Journeys Writers Club

## Dorchester

Dorchester County Historical  
Society  
Groove City Black Heritage &  
Culture Group Inc  
Harrisville Malone Cemetery  
Maintenance Fund Inc  
Nanticoke Historic  
Preservation Alliance, Inc.  
(NHPA)

## Frederick

African-American Resources  
Cultural Heritage Society  
(AARCH)  
Catoctin Furnace Historical  
Society  
City Youth Matrix  
Global Z Recording Project  
Heart of the Civil War Heritage  
Area Inc  
Maryland Foreign Language  
Association  
Women Solve

## Garrett

Garrett County Historical  
Society  
Mountain Lake Park Historical  
Association

## Harford

Harmer's Town Art Center, Inc.  
The Havre de Grace Colored  
School Museum and Cultural  
Center, Inc.  
The Havre Grace Maritime  
Museum, Inc.  
Hosanna Community House,  
Inc. (dba Hosanna School  
Museum)  
Lower Susquehanna Heritage  
Greenway

## Howard

Chinese American Parent  
Association of Howard  
County  
Cultura Plenera  
Howard County Historical  
Society  
Indian Cultural Association of  
Howard County, Inc.  
Korean Culture and Art of MD  
League of Korean Americans

### Kent

G.A.R. Post #25, Inc. (Sumner Hall)

### Montgomery

Bethesda Historical Society  
The Civic Circle  
Docs In Progress  
The Giving Square  
Sugarland Ethno History Project, Inc.

### Prince George's

Bold Beautiful Brilliant Girls Youth Empowerment Group  
Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts, Inc.  
EducArte, Incorporated  
Fuel Incorporated  
National Capital Radio and Television Museum  
National Museum of Language

### Queen Anne's

Grasonville Community Center, Inc.  
Kennard Alumni Association Inc  
Touchstones Discussion Project

### Somerset

Somerset County Historical Society

### St. Mary's

Friends of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums  
Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions

### Talbot

Chesapeake Film Festival  
Mid-Shore Community Foundation - Bellevue Passage Museum  
St. Michaels Museum  
The Water's Edge Museum

### Washington

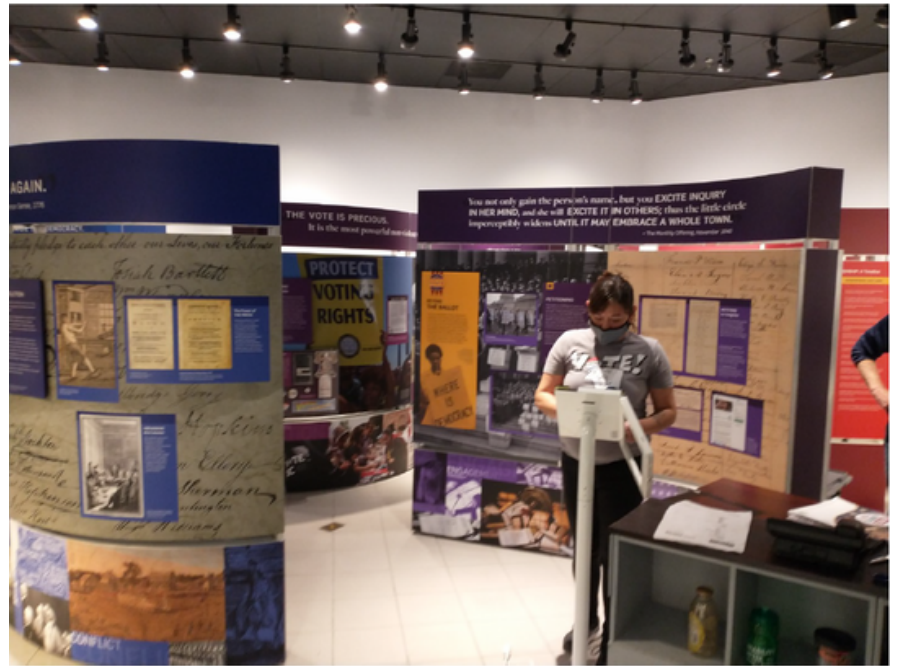
Camp Ritchie Museum, Inc.  
Urban Rural Action

### Wicomico

Eleven 21 Inc., d/b/a Epoch Dream Center

### Worcester

Beach to Bay Heritage Area, Inc  
Berlin Heritage Foundation, Inc  
Delmarva Discovery Center & Museum, Inc.  
Furnace Town Foundation



*Photo courtesy of Baltimore County Historical Society. "Co-hosting the Smithsonian Voices and Votes exhibit with the Community College of Baltimore County, Dundalk campus."*

## Criteria for Selection Learn More



To view the Hatza SHINE Grant scoring rubric, scan the QR code or visit:

[https://www.mdhumanities.org/wp-content/uploads/SHINE-2023\\_FY24\\_-7.17.2023Comm-Eval.pdf](https://www.mdhumanities.org/wp-content/uploads/SHINE-2023_FY24_-7.17.2023Comm-Eval.pdf)

# Hatza Memorial SHINE Grant Applicants

Through the Hatza Memorial SHINE Grant Program, we had the opportunity to make \$950,000 available in general operating support funds to small nonprofits doing humanities work. We received 140 applications from organizations across 22 counties and Baltimore City. The following is a list of applicants who applied for a Hatza Memorial SHINE Grant. Of these, 10 were ineligible for evaluation and 35 were not awarded after evaluation.

## Allegany

Allegany Museum  
Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
Evergreen Heritage Center  
Foundation  
Frostburg Museum Association  
Historic Frostburg, a Maryland  
Main Street Community

## Anne Arundel

Blacks of the Chesapeake  
Foundation  
Captain Avery Museum  
Chesapeake Children's  
Museum  
John Wesley United Methodist  
Church  
Lost Towns Project, Inc  
Severn Crossroads Foundation  
(Baldwin Hall)

## Baltimore

Alston for Athletes  
Baltimore Association of  
Nepalese in America Inc  
Baltimore County Historical  
Society  
Community 247 Inc  
Maryland Lynching Memorial  
Project  
NeighborSpace of Baltimore  
County, Inc.  
Preservation Alliance of  
Baltimore County  
Sisterhood Agenda, Inc.  
Todd's Inheritance Historic  
Site, Inc.  
Writing Hearts, Inc.

## Baltimore City

Baltimore Architecture  
Foundation  
Baltimore Heritage  
Baltimore Playwrights Festival  
Inc.  
CHARM: Voices of Baltimore  
Youth



*Photo courtesy of Kristin Bowl, Skipjack Web Services. "Our 49th Annual fundraiser, Boonsborough Days."*

CityLit Project  
DewMore Baltimore (Fusion  
Partnerships)  
Eubie Blake National Jazz  
Institute and Cultural Center  
Friends of 612-614 S. Wolfe  
Street, Inc.  
Friends of President Street  
Station  
Greenmount Senior Center  
Komite Ayiti, Inc  
Makeup Museum  
Maryland Museums  
Association  
Maryland Women's Heritage  
Center  
Mount Clare Museum House  
Moving History, Inc.  
Muse 360 Arts  
The National Great Blacks In  
Wax Museum, Inc.  
Raymond Banks 'A Way With  
Words' Foundation  
Sankofa Children's Museum of  
African Cultures, Inc.  
Star-Spangled Banner Flag  
House Association, Inc.  
Writers in Baltimore Schools  
Yellow Arrow Publishing Co.

## Calvert

Bayside History Museum  
Friends of Jefferson Patterson  
Park and Museum  
Launching Educational  
Assistance Program Forward  
LEAP Inc.

## Carroll

Downtown Sykesville  
Connection, Inc.  
Historical Society of Carroll  
County Maryland  
The Union Mills Homestead

## Cecil

Cecil County Arts Council  
Historical Society of Cecil  
County  
Port Deposit Heritage  
Corporation  
Womens Civic League of North  
East

## Charles

Farm Heritage Conservancy  
The Historical Society of  
Charles County, Inc.  
Life Journeys Writers Club  
Maryland Veterans Museum at  
Patriot Park  
Washington-Rochambeau  
Revolutionary Route  
Maryland dba W3R-MD

## Dorchester

Dorchester County Historical  
Society  
Groove City Black Heritage &  
Culture Group Inc  
Harrisville Malone Cemetery  
Maintenance Fund Inc  
Nanticoke Historic  
Preservation Alliance, Inc.  
(NHPA)



## **Frederick**

African-American Resources  
Cultural Heritage Society  
(AARCH)  
Brunswick Potomac  
Foundation, Inc.  
Catoctin Furnace Historical  
Society  
City Youth Matrix  
Global Z Recording Project  
Heart of the Civil War Heritage  
Area Inc  
Maryland Foreign Language  
Association  
Women Solve

## **Garrett**

Garrett County Historical  
Society  
Garrett Lakes Arts Festival  
Mountain Lake Park Historical  
Association

## **Harford**

Harmer's Town Art Center, Inc.  
The Havre de Grace Colored  
School Museum and Cultural  
Center, Inc.  
The Havre Grace Maritime  
Museum, Inc.  
Hosanna Community House,  
Inc. (dba Hosanna School  
Museum)  
Lower Susquehanna Heritage  
Greenway  
Susquehanna Museum of  
Havre de Grace, Inc.

## **Howard**

Chinese American Parent  
Association of Howard  
County  
Cultura Plenera  
Howard County Historical  
Society  
Indian Cultural Association of  
Howard County, Inc.  
Korean Culture and Art of MD  
League of Korean Americans  
Luminus Network

## **Kent**

G.A.R. Post #25, Inc. (Sumner  
Hall)  
Minary's Dream Alliance,  
Incorporated  
Thomas H Kiah Lodge 101 Inc

## **Montgomery**

Bethesda Historical Society  
The Civic Circle  
Docs In Progress  
The Giving Square  
Interethnic Community  
Empowerment Outreach INC  
Justice Arts Coalition  
Peerless Rockville Historic  
Preservation, Ltd.  
Smithville School Museum and  
Education Center  
Sugarland Ethno History  
Project, Inc.  
Washington Metro Oasis

## **Prince George's**

Bold Beautiful Brilliant Girls  
Youth Empowerment Group  
Coalition for African Americans  
in the Performing Arts, Inc.  
EducArte, Incorporated  
Freedome Enterprises  
Worldwide  
Fuel Incorporated  
Money Champion Club  
National Capital Radio and  
Television Museum  
National Museum of Language  
White Marsh Historical Society

## **Queen Anne's**

Bryan's UM Church  
Restoration Project  
Grasonville Community  
Center, Inc.  
Kennard Alumni Association  
Inc  
Male & Female Beneficial  
Association #3  
Touchstones Discussion  
Project

## **Somerset**

Somerset County Historical  
Society

## **St. Mary's**

Friends of the St. Clement's  
Island and Piney Point  
Museums  
St. Mary's County Historical  
Society  
Unified Committee for Afro-  
American Contributions

## **Talbot**

Bailey-Groce Family  
Foundation  
Chesapeake Film Festival  
Mid-Shore Community  
Foundation - Bellevue  
Passage Museum  
The Oxford Museum  
St. Michaels Museum  
The Water's Edge Museum

## **Washington**

Camp Ritchie Museum, Inc.  
Doleman Black Heritage  
Museum, Inc.  
Hagerstown Roundhouse  
Museum, Inc.  
National Road Heritage  
Foundation  
Urban Rural Action  
Washington County Historical  
Society

## **Wicomico**

Eleven 21 Inc., d/b/a Epoch  
Dream Center  
Lower Shore Cemetery  
Preservation Organization  
Inc.  
Preservation Trust of  
Wicomico  
Westside Historical Society

## **Worcester**

Beach to Bay Heritage Area,  
Inc  
Berlin Heritage Foundation, Inc  
Delmarva Discovery Center &  
Museum, Inc.  
Furnace Town Foundation  
Rackliffe House Trust, Inc.

# Bethesda Historical Society

4424 Montgomery Avenue, Suite 307, Bethesda, MD 20814  
bethesdahistory@gmail.com

February 2, 2024

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
3 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

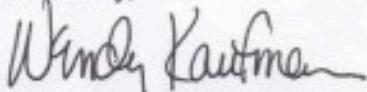
Dear Senator Guzzone,

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB0596 and for the State of Maryland's investment in the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative.

The Bethesda Historical Society has just been awarded its second SHINE grant. The first grant we received allowed us to open our first office and equip it with shelving for our collections. In December we celebrated this with an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony conducted by the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce. Because of the SHINE grant, we are now integrated into the community in a way that would not have been possible without this funding. Our second SHINE grant will help us build on our recent accomplishments by supporting our office operations so we can help the community learn Bethesda's special history as we also work to preserve its memorabilia within our collections.

Thank you for your consideration of our advocacy for the SHINE grant program.

Sincerely,



Wendy Kaufman

President, Bethesda Historical Society

# EVERGREEN

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## HERITAGE CENTER



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

January 31, 2024

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

Dear Senator Guzzone,

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB0596 and for the State of Maryland's investment in the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative.

Our organization has received \$10,000 in SHINE funding for which we are very grateful. As a previous recipient of a Sharp Recovery Grant and the SHINE grant program, 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 in enabling us to preserve jobs, disseminate information about our programming, and engage the community.

If Maryland Humanities is able to secure funding for FY25, they will continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. They will continue 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, either from government programs or other private funders. Many may not qualify for other funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Secured funding will allow Maryland Humanities to continue to refine lessons learned on how to evaluate applicants and distribute funds equitably, while ensuring accountability and responsible fiscal stewardship.

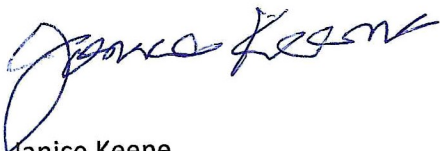
Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding around the state for nearly fifty years. This included distributing \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds through the CARES Act and American



Rescue Plan Act to 136 grantees across the state. In response to the lessons learned during COVID, Maryland Humanities incorporated grantees' input about how to more equitably serve them. Beginning in FY22, Maryland Humanities used the state's investment in SHINE to exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits. This effort made Maryland Humanities one of the first nonprofit state humanities councils nationally to do so with their grantmaking.

It is my hope that you will include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Janice Keene  
President  
Evergreen Heritage Center

Cc:  
Emily Ross, Program Officer Grants  
Maryland Humanities





P.O. Box 226 | FARM HERITAGE CONSERVANCY

Benedict, MD 20612 | *Reconnecting people to the land through preservation, cultivation, and education.*

30 January 2024

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Senator  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Guzzone,

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB0596 and for the State of Maryland's investment in the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative.

- My organization received \$10,000 in SHINE funding. With that funding we plan to increase our outreach to underserved communities and the community at large.
- My organization knows/serves organizations who know how scarce opportunities for general operating support are and would benefit greatly from being a SHINE recipient.
- With SHINE funding, my organization was able to preserve jobs.

If Maryland Humanities is able to secure funding for FY25, they will continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. They will continue 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, either from government programs or other private funders. Many may not qualify for other funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Secured funding will allow Maryland Humanities to continue to refine lessons learned on how to evaluate applicants and distribute funds equitably, while ensuring accountability and responsible fiscal stewardship.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.  
Daniel T. Callis, Jr.  
A. Theresa Robinson  
Lucille Ward Walker  
Theresa A. Worden

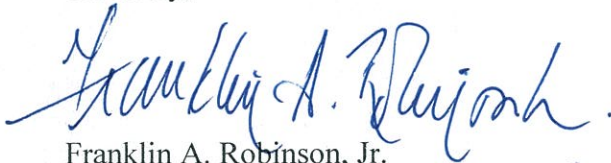
(240) 681-9292

FarmHeritageConservancy.org

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding around the state for nearly fifty years. This included distributing \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds through the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act to 136 grantees across the state. In response to the lessons learned during COVID, Maryland Humanities incorporated grantees' input about how to more equitably serve them. Beginning in FY22, Maryland Humanities used the state's investment in SHINE to exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits. This effort made Maryland Humanities one of the first nonprofit state humanities councils nationally to do so with their grantmaking.

It is my hope that you will include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Franklin A. Robinson, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.  
Board Member  
Farm Heritage Conservancy

Cc:

Fagan Harris, Chief of Staff  
Eric Luedtke, Chief Legislative Officer  
Jonny Dorsey, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Helene T. Grady, Secretary of Budget Management  
Rebecca Flora, Secretary of Planning



February 2, 2024

Senator Guy Guzzone  
3 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Guzzone,

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB0596 and for the State of Maryland's investment in the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative.

My organization received \$10,000 in SHINE Funding in FY23 and FY24. These funds have been instrumental in FrostburgFirst's ability to sustain operations and continue our programs into 2024. FrostburgFirst is a nationally accredited and designated Maryland Main Street Program and a designated Maryland Arts & Entertainment District. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit economic development and revitalization organization formed and operated exclusively to promote and advance downtown Frostburg. Specifically, FrostburgFirst engages the community, enhances streetscape aesthetics, supports and promotes small businesses, and organizes programs and events to make Frostburg a wonderful place to live, work, and visit. Among other projects, in the past year, we have created a sustainable Pop-Up program for local artists and entrepreneurs, implemented three new public art projects, welcomed UPTV's Small Town Christmas for a featured episode on Frostburg's annual Storybook Holiday, and spearheaded a historical research project on the displaced Black community of Brownsville to include in future cultural projects for the county. FrostburgFirst catalyzes economic development and facilitates collaboration and cooperation throughout the community.

With SHINE funding, my organization was able to maintain operations and add a new part-time Social Media Manager position to streamline our efforts and improve our services to the community. Sourcing funding to support operational expenses is always a challenge, which makes MD Humanities' investment in our organization through the SHINE grant essential to our mission. If Maryland Humanities is able to secure funding for FY25, they will continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. They will continue 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, either from government programs or other private funders. Many may not qualify for other funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Secured funding will allow Maryland Humanities to continue to refine lessons learned on how to evaluate applicants and distribute funds equitably, while ensuring accountability and responsible fiscal stewardship.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding around the state for nearly fifty years. This included distributing \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds through the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act to 136 grantees across the state. In response to the lessons learned during COVID, Maryland Humanities incorporated grantees' input about how to more equitably serve them. Beginning in FY22, Maryland Humanities used the state's investment in SHINE to exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits. This effort made Maryland Humanities one of the first nonprofit state humanities councils nationally to do so with their grantmaking.

I hope that you will include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Deirdre Robertson  
Executive Director

(301) 689-6900  
41 E. Main St.  
Frostburg, MD 21532



January 31, 2024

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

Dear Senator Guzzone:

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB0596 and for the State of Maryland's investment in the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative.

Our organization received \$10,000 in SHINE funding. With that funding we plan to pay for utilities, building/liability insurance and other ongoing costs associated with having a physical building that is open to the public. SHINE funding is important for small non-profits like the Frostburg Museum because we can use the funds to pay for general operating expenses. I know first-hand how impactful Maryland Humanities' grants/programs are for the Frostburg Museum and other non-profits in our area. Even though the Frostburg Museum is an all-volunteer organization, with SHINE funding, we were able to preserve jobs and support the local economy by remaining open to the public. By providing an educational experience for the many tourists that visit Frostburg, we add another "stop" to our business/historical district's many other attractions. Many of our visitors this past year have been people traveling the scenic National Road, and visiting small towns and other Western Maryland points of interest that are close to their home.

If Maryland Humanities is able to secure funding for FY25, they will continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. They will continue 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, either from government programs or other private funders. Many may not qualify for other funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Secured funding will allow Maryland Humanities to continue to refine lessons learned on how to evaluate applicants and distribute funds equitably, while ensuring accountability and responsible fiscal stewardship.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding around the state for nearly fifty years. This included distributing \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds through the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act to 136 grantees across the state. In response to the lessons learned during COVID, Maryland Humanities incorporated grantees' input about how to more equitably serve them. Beginning in FY22, Maryland Humanities used the state's investment in SHINE to exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits. This effort made Maryland Humanities one of the first nonprofit state humanities councils nationally to do so with their grantmaking.

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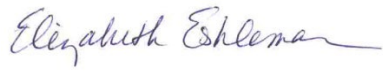
50 E. Main St, PO Box 92, Frostburg, MD 21532 | (301) 689-1195 | [frostburgmuseum@verizon.net](mailto:frostburgmuseum@verizon.net) |

[thefrostburgmuseum.org](http://thefrostburgmuseum.org)

VIEWING THE PAST • EMBRACING THE FUTURE

It is my hope that you will include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Eshleman  
President, Board of Directors

Cc:

Fagan Harris, Chief of Staff

Eric Luedtke, Chief Legislative Officer

Jonny Dorsey, Deputy Chief of Staff

Helene T. Grady, Secretary of Budget Management

Rebecca Flora, Secretary of Planning

# THE GLOBAL Z RECORDING PROJECT

---

Dr. Bill Lord, Executive Director  
www.globalzrecording.org

February 1, 2024

TO: Senator Guy Guzzone  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Guzzone,

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB0596 and for the State of Maryland's investment in the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative. **The Global Z Recording Project** is 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Urbana, Maryland. Per our mission statement, *we unite culturally diverse student musicians through virtual audio production experiences*. Specifically, we discover talented student musicians from around the world and bring them together using Internet-based technologies to produce world-class music. Through the music-making experience, scholars facilitate discussions pertaining to civility, appreciation and value of diverse others, and peace-mindedness. By building cross-cultural global friendships, *we give peace a chance through music*.

We are incredibly grateful to have been a recipient of a \$10,000 SHINE grant. These funds have been crucial to our organization by allowing us to partially fund the gear and related expenses to conduct an incredibly exciting educational international collaboration experience between students in Frederick County, and students from the educational arm of world-famous Abbey Road Studios, the *Abbey Road institute*. This project – the **Frederick Circle of Musical Unity** - brings the world-class resources associated with Abbey Road to the audio engineering, musician, and songwriting students of Frederick County. Participants will collaborate in a hybrid project environment while recording an original composition using commercial-quality audio production equipment and cutting-edge remote recording technologies. This is a truly transformational project generating highly marketable skills and knowledge our students can carry with them as they continue their education or enter a related workplace.

The most valuable grants an organization may receive provides for flexibility. Our organization knows first-hand how challenging it is to request and receive general operating support. Since January 2023, I have applied for well over 50 grants and have been declined by the vast majority of foundations. Less than 10% of those grants allow for general operating support. These types of grants are the life-blood of a nonprofit, as they can be used to pay for salaries, keep a roof over the head of the organization, and pay for necessary less tangible items such as insurance. We depend on grants such as these to allow us to keep serving our communities and request your continued support of SHINE funding.

Wishing you peace through music,



Bill Lord, EdD  
Founder & Executive Director





**HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
of BALTIMORE  
COUNTY**

9811 VAN BUREN LANE  
COCKEYSVILLE, MD  
21030-5099  
www.hsobc.org  
(410) 666-1878  
info@hsobc.org

*HSoBC is tax exempt under  
section 501(c)(3) of the  
Internal Revenue Code and  
is a qualified organization  
for contribution purposes.*

January 31, 2024

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

Dear Senator Guzzone,

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB0596 and for the State of Maryland's investment in the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative.

My organization received \$10,000 in SHINE funding this past year. It cannot be overstated how hard it is to find general operating support and how much of a difference that type of funding can make for a small nonprofit like us. With SHINE funding, the Historical Society of Baltimore County (HSBC) was able to maintain our staff, create a stipend for a new paid internship, and supplement general expenses that allow us to provide programming to the public.

If Maryland Humanities is able to secure funding for FY25, they will continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. They will continue 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, either from government programs or other private funders. Many may not qualify for other funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Secured funding will allow Maryland Humanities to continue to refine lessons learned on how to evaluate applicants and distribute funds equitably, while ensuring accountability and responsible fiscal stewardship.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding around the state for nearly fifty years. This included distributing \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds through the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act to 136 grantees across the state, including my organization. This support was crucial for HSBC. In response to the lessons learned during COVID, Maryland Humanities incorporated grantees' input about how to more equitably serve them. Beginning in FY22, Maryland Humanities used the state's investment in SHINE to exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits. This

effort made Maryland Humanities one of the first nonprofit state humanities councils nationally to do so with their grant making.

It is my hope that you will include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grant making initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

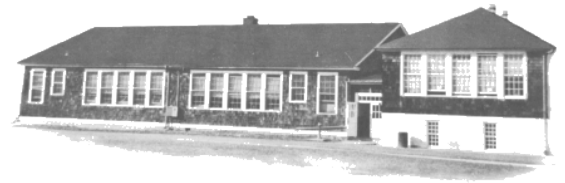
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Keffer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

James Keffer  
Executive Director  
jkeffer@hsobc.org



***Kennard Alumni Association, Inc.***  
***P.O. Box 213***  
***Centreville, MD 21617***  
***443-239-2110***  
***www.kennardheritage.com***  
***kennardalumniassociation@gmail.com***



January 31, 2024

Senator Guy J. Guzzone  
Miller Senate Building  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Guzzone,

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB0596 and for the State of Maryland's investment in the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative. Kennard Alumni association, Inc. was pleased to receive \$10,000 in 2024 SHINE funding. We were able to, not only, cover some of our operating expenses, but also create some additional exhibits for our African American History Museum. Kennard knows, first hand, how impactful Maryland Humanities grants and programs are for small non-profit organizations. As part of our local Heritage Area, we, like many other local organizations know how scarce opportunities for general operating support are, and would benefit greatly from being a SHINE recipient. With SHINE funding, Kennard was able to continue to provide, and create additional programs and resources to assist the local community.

If Maryland Humanities is able to secure funding for FY25, they will continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. They will continue 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, either from government programs or other private funders. Many may not qualify for other funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Secured funding will allow Maryland Humanities to continue to refine lessons learned on how to evaluate applicants and distribute funds equitably, while ensuring accountability and responsible fiscal stewardship.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding around the state for nearly fifty years. This included distributing \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds through the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act to 136 grantees across the state. In response to the lessons learned during COVID, Maryland Humanities incorporated grantees' input about how to more equitably serve them. Beginning in FY22, Maryland Humanities used the state's investment in SHINE to exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits. This effort made Maryland Humanities one of the first nonprofit state humanities councils nationally to do so with their grantmaking.

***"Caretakers of the Past, Guardians of the Future"***

It is my hope that this bill, through your efforts, will continue the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Clayton Washington*

Clayton “Clay” Washington, President

Cc:

Fagan Harris, Chief of Staff

Eric Luedtke, Chief Legislative Officer

Jonny Dorsey, Deputy Chief of Staff

Helene T. Grady, Secretary of Budget Management

Rebecca Flora, Secretary of



# Emmanuel Parish of the Episcopal Church

January 31, 2024

Senator Michael W McKay  
James Senate Office Building, Room 416  
11 Bladen St  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator McKay:

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB0593 and for the State of Maryland's investment in the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church – Cumberland has received \$10,000 in SHINE funding for FY 2024. We are using these funds to support operating expenses during the development of our Wills Creek Museum, dedicated to the history of Cumberland and Allegany County.

If Maryland Humanities is able to secure funding for FY25, they will continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. They will continue 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, either from government programs or other private funders. Most funders do not provide money for operations, a problem for many smaller nonprofits.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding around the state for nearly fifty years. This included distributing \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds through the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act to 136 grantees across the state. In response to the lessons learned during COVID, Maryland Humanities incorporated grantees' input about how to more equitably serve them. Beginning in FY22, Maryland Humanities used the state's investment in SHINE to exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits. This effort made Maryland Humanities one of the first nonprofit state humanities councils nationally to do so with their grantmaking.

It is my hope that you will include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara W. Crane  
Senior Warden, Emmanuel Episcopal Church

[16 Washington St \\* Cumberland, MD 21502 \\* 301.777.3364 \\* emmanuelparishofmd.org](mailto:16 Washington St * Cumberland, MD 21502 * 301.777.3364 * emmanuelparishofmd.org)

Priest in Charge: The Rev. Dr. John P. Reardon \* Bishop in Residence: The Rt. Rev. Martin G. Townsend

February 1, 2024

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

Dear Senator Guzzone—

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for SB0593 and for the State of Maryland's investment in the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative.

I serve as Executive Director for Yellow Arrow Publishing, an independent press based in Baltimore committed to supporting and inspiring writers and artists identifying as women through publication and access to the literary arts. Women's voices have historically been underrepresented in literature, and we aim to elevate those voices and stories through our programs and publications. Yellow Arrow received \$10,000 in SHINE funding for 2024, which will enable us to make our programs more accessible by offering scholarships to Baltimore-area creatives, funding our Writers-in-Residence program that provides support to emerging writers living and working in Baltimore, and offering free community-based workshops on the craft of writing as well as tools for emerging writers. In addition, we are able to create several Baltimore-based job opportunities for individuals wishing to develop their skills in editing and publishing roles. A small organization like ours relies heavily on donations and grants to sustain our mission, and the impact this grant will have on women-identifying writers is profound.

If Maryland Humanities is able to secure funding for FY25, they will continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. They will continue 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, either from government programs or other private funders. Many may not qualify for other funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Secured funding will allow Maryland Humanities to continue to refine lessons learned on how to evaluate applicants and distribute funds equitably, while ensuring accountability and responsible fiscal stewardship.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding around the state for nearly fifty years. This included distributing \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds through the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act to 136 grantees across the state. In response to the lessons learned during COVID, Maryland Humanities incorporated grantees' input about how to more equitably serve them. Beginning in FY22, Maryland Humanities used the state's investment in SHINE to exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits. This effort made Maryland Humanities one of the first nonprofit state humanities councils nationally to do so with their grantmaking.

It is my hope that you will include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Annie Marhefka  
Executive Director  
Yellow Arrow Publishing



14 South Main Street  
Berlin, MD 21811  
BeachesBaysWaterWays.com  
info@BeachtoBayHeritage.org  
410-251-3163

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Lisa Challenger

October 18, 2023

The Honorable Wes Moore  
Maryland State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore,

I am writing today to enthusiastically support the Maryland Humanities' Fiscal Year 2025 request for the State of Maryland's investment in their Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative.

The Beach to Bay Heritage Area has received \$10,000 in SHINE funding in the past. With that funding we were able to offer free public workshops, develop additional African American heritage products including interpretive signs and a mural in downtown Berlin. The funds also help us with much needed operating support.

The Beach to Bay Heritage Area is proud to support and partner with the Maryland Humanities.

Our heritage area supports roughly 3,100 jobs and the Maryland Humanities helps to make this possible.

If Maryland Humanities is able to secure funding for FY25, they will continue to:

- Provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants
- 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.
- Allow Maryland Humanities to continue to refine lessons learned on how to evaluate applicants and distribute funds equitably, while ensuring accountability and responsible fiscal stewardship.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding around the state for nearly fifty years. This included distributing \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds through the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act to 136 grantees across the state. Beginning in FY22, Maryland Humanities used the state's investment in SHINE to exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits. This effort made Maryland Humanities one of the first nonprofit state humanities councils nationally to do so with their grantmaking.

I implore you to include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Challenger".

Lisa Challenger  
Executive Director

Cc:

- Fagan Harris, Chief of Staff
- Eric Luedtke, Chief Legislative Officer
- Jonny Dorsey, Deputy Chief of Staff
- Helene T. Grady, Secretary of Budget Management
- Rebecca Flora, Secretary of Planning



November 1, 2023

The Honorable Wes Moore  
Maryland State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore:

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for Maryland Humanities' Fiscal Year 2025 request for the State of Maryland's investment in their Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grant making initiative.

The Delmarva Discovery Museum has been extremely fortunate to receive \$10,000 from SHINE funding and it has made a huge difference in our ability to continue our mission of fostering an appreciation of Delmarva's unique natural and cultural heritage through education, exploration and enjoyment.

This is one of the few grants available to us for general operating support and the Museum has been able to use the entire amount to continue to care for our many live animals which include two North American River otters, turtles, snakes, etc. and numerous improvements to the tanks which hold our marine life.

If Maryland Humanities is able to secure funding for FY25, they will continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. They will continue 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, either from government programs or other private funders. Many may not qualify for other funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Secured funding will allow Maryland Humanities to continue to refine lessons learned on how to evaluate applicants and distribute funds equitably, while ensuring accountability and responsible fiscal stewardship.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding around the state for nearly fifty years. This included distributing \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds through the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act to 136 grantees across the state. In response to the lessons learned during COVID, Maryland Humanities incorporated grantees' input about how to more equitably serve them. Beginning in FY22, Maryland Humanities used the state's investment in SHINE to exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits. This effort made Maryland Humanities one of the first nonprofit state humanities councils nationally to do so with their grant making.

It is my hope that you will include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grant making initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine Gordon  
Executive Director

cc: Fagan Haris, Chief of Staff  
Eric Luedtke, Chief Legislative Officer  
Jonny Dorsey, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Helene T. Grady, Secretary of Budget Management.







the beginning of a better story

October 30, 2023

The Honorable Wes Moore  
Maryland State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore—

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for Maryland Humanities' Fiscal Year 2025 request for the State of Maryland's investment in their Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative.

In 2022, the Epoch Dream Center received \$10,000 in SHINE funding. With that funding we were able to support a full-time, on-site therapeutic mentor whose sole job is to support the emotional and mental wellness needs of our students. This professional provides both individual and group counseling services to students. Epoch's therapeutic mentor receives professional oversight and clinical recommendations from a licensed counselor concerning each student at the program. I have seen first-hand how impactful Maryland Humanities' grants are for improving the opportunities and available resources for low-income students, particularly those living in rural poverty in Western Wicomico County. My organization understands how scarce opportunities for general operating support are and would benefit greatly from being a SHINE recipient again. Our organization thrives because of our hardworking and dedicated staff, and we are appreciative of any opportunity to receive funding to continue our mission.

If Maryland Humanities is able to secure funding for FY25, they will continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. They will continue 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, either from government programs or other private funders. Many may not qualify for other funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Secured funding will allow Maryland Humanities to continue to refine lessons learned on how to evaluate applicants and distribute funds equitably, while ensuring accountability and responsible fiscal stewardship.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding around the state for nearly fifty years. This included distributing \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds through the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act to 136 grantees across the state. In response to the lessons learned during COVID, Maryland Humanities incorporated grantees' input about how to more equitably serve them. Beginning in FY22, Maryland Humanities used the state's investment in SHINE to exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits. This effort made Maryland Humanities one of the first nonprofit state humanities councils nationally to do so with their grantmaking.

It is my hope that you will include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



JoAnn Blackmon  
Executive Director  
Eleven 21, Inc., d/b/a Epoch Dream Center

Cc:

Fagan Harris, Chief of Staff  
Eric Luedtke, Chief Legislative Officer  
Jonny Dorsey, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Helene T. Grady, Secretary of Budget Management  
Rebecca Flora, Secretary of Planning

[www.epochdreamcenter.com](http://www.epochdreamcenter.com)

443.783.3683 [mail@epochdreamcenter.com](mailto:mail@epochdreamcenter.com)



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

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Tressa Setlak Brian Williams John F. Wood, Jr.

---

10/26/2023

The Honorable Wes Moore  
Governor of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore,

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for Maryland Humanities' Fiscal Year 2025 request for the State of Maryland's investment in their Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grant making initiative.

My organization received \$10,000 in SHINE funding and with that funding we were able to expand our existing programs in order to include free events. These helped us reach a new demographic group and introduced our museums to people who thought they could not afford to visit them. This was an important move for us as we make our plans for America's 250<sup>th</sup> and Maryland's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversaries during which we want to be as inclusive as possible in our programming.

If Maryland Humanities is able to secure funding for FY25, they will continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. They will continue 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, either from government programs or other private funders. And this is one of the few sources available for general operating support.

It is my hope that you will include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grant making initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen E. Stone  
Museum Division Manager  
St. Mary's County Government  
Friends of the St. Clement's & Piney Point Museums

Cc:  
Fagan Harris, Chief of Staff  
Eric Luedtke, Chief Legislative Officer  
Jonny Dorsey, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Helene T. Grady, Secretary of Budget Management  
Rebecca Flora, Secretary of Planning

---

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.



2512 Westwind Blvd  
Cambridge, MD 21613  
443-225-0819 (office)

[www.groovecityheritageculturegrp.org](http://www.groovecityheritageculturegrp.org) (website)

October 18, 2023

The Honorable Wes Moore  
Maryland State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore—

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for Maryland Humanities' Fiscal Year 2025 request for the State of Maryland's investment in their Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative.

My organization received \$10,000 in SHINE funding. With that funding we were able to secure general operating support to preserve the Executive Director position and during the summer we created job opportunities for three college students. This fiscal year 2023, we implemented a 5-week summer program for middle school students called I.K.E. Program which stands for Inspire Knowledge and Empower. During the five weeks students went on four field trips; one field trip was to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Department of Science and Technology where they learned about career opportunities. We had presentations by three community business leaders and entrepreneurs that discussed entrepreneurship, dreaming big, setting goals, and identifying and creating their own list of dos and don'ts to achieving their goals. At the end of the program, students were given a Dream Big journal to write their own personal career interest, set goals and created a roadmap to achieving their goals.

If Maryland Humanities can secure funding for FY25, they will continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. They will continue 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, either from government programs or other private funders. Many may not qualify for other funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Secured funding will allow Maryland Humanities to continue to refine lessons learned on how to evaluate applicants and distribute funds equitably, while ensuring accountability and responsible fiscal stewardship.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding around the state for nearly fifty years. This included distributing \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds through the CARES Act and American

Rescue Plan Act to 136 grantees across the state. In response to the lessons learned during COVID, Maryland Humanities incorporated grantees' input about how to more equitably serve them. Beginning in FY22, Maryland Humanities used the state's investment in SHINE to exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits. This effort made Maryland Humanities one of the first nonprofit state humanities councils nationally to do so with their grantmaking.

It is my hope that you will include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Veronica Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Veronica Taylor  
Executive Director

Cc:

Fagan Harris, Chief of Staff  
Eric Luedtke, Chief Legislative Officer  
Jonny Dorsey, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Helene T. Grady, Secretary of Budget Management  
Rebecca Flora, Secretary of Planning





TELEPHONE: 301-739-4665

FAX: 301-739-5598

P.O. Box 2858 • HAGERSTOWN, MD 21741

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Nov. 1, 2023

The Honorable Wes Moore  
Maryland State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore—

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for Maryland Humanities' Fiscal Year 2025 request for the State of Maryland's investment in their Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative.

My organization received \$10,000 in SHINE funding. With that funding we plan to use it for general operating expenses. We are a 501 (C3) non-profit all volunteer organization and since the pandemic affected us in March of 2020, our income has been drastically reduced. Our income is mainly from admissions and some small monetary donations. We plan to try to get some corporate sponsorships to assist with operating expenses and expansion of our exhibits. Until we are successful in that endeavor, the grants provided by Md. Humanities allow us to preserve our rapidly depleting investment accounts.

We focus on education and preserving the railroad heritage of Hagerstown and Washington County and the effects the six railroads had on the residents over the past 190 years. Children, with their families or with local schools, both public and parochial, are our main targets and we attempt to tailor our exhibits to them for both entertainment and learning. We strive to keep our costs low so that young families can afford to visit. We turn no one away if admissions are a problem, We also attempt to give a great experience for anyone that may have handicap issues. The grants that we have received from Md. Humanities have been a blessing and we hope the programs can be extended in the future.

If Maryland Humanities can secure funding for FY25, they will continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. They will continue 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, either from government programs or other private funders. Many may not qualify for other funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Secured funding will allow Maryland Humanities to continue to refine

lessons learned on how to evaluate applicants and distribute funds equitably, while ensuring accountability and responsible fiscal stewardship.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding around the state for nearly fifty years. This included distributing \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds through the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act to 136 grantees across the state. In response to the lessons learned during COVID, Maryland Humanities incorporated grantees' input about how to more equitably serve them. Beginning in FY22, Maryland Humanities used the state's investment in SHINE to exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits. This effort made Maryland Humanities one of the first nonprofit state humanities councils nationally to do so with their grantmaking.

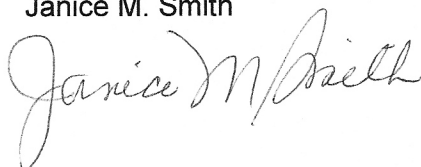
It is my hope that you will include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Gerald L. Smith, Sr.



HRM Chairman of the BoD.

Janice M. Smith



Treasurer HRM.

Cc:

Fagan Harris, Chief of Staff  
Eric Luedtke, Chief Legislative Officer  
Jonny Dorsey, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Helene T. Grady, Secretary of Budget Management  
Rebecca Flora, Secretary of Planning





October 23, 2023

The Honorable Wes Moore  
Maryland State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore,

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for Maryland Humanities' Fiscal Year 2025 request for the State of Maryland's investment in their Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grant-making initiative.

The Howard County Historical Society received a SHINE grant in 2023, which we used to improve the grounds around our museums and added flower and herb gardens to enhance the visitor experience at our Children's Museum. In addition to our own work, I have heard first-hand how impactful Maryland Humanities' grants/programs are for promoting the humanities across the state. At a time when art, history, architecture, and many other humanities disciplines have been marginalized, these grants breath much needed life into programming like those that the Howard County Historical Society promotes.

If Maryland Humanities is able to secure funding for FY25, they will continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. They will continue 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, either from government programs or other private funders. Many may not qualify for other funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Secured funding will allow Maryland Humanities to continue to refine lessons learned on how to evaluate applicants and distribute funds equitably, while ensuring accountability and responsible fiscal stewardship.

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Rescue Plan Act to 136 grantees across the state. In response to the lessons learned during COVID, Maryland Humanities incorporated grantees' input about how to more equitably serve them. Beginning in FY22, Maryland Humanities used the state's investment in SHINE to exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits. This effort made Maryland Humanities one of the first nonprofit state humanities councils nationally to do so with their grant-making.

It is my hope that you will include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grant-making initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Mark J. Stout, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, Howard County Historical Society

Cc:  
Fagan Harris, Chief of Staff  
Eric Luedtke, Chief Legislative Officer  
Jonny Dorsey, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Helene T. Grady, Secretary of Budget Management  
Rebecca Flora, Secretary of Planning



THE NATIONAL  
GREAT BLACKS  
IN WAX MUSEUM<sup>INC</sup>

October 24, 2023

The Honorable Wes Moore  
Maryland State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore:

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for Maryland Humanities' Fiscal Year 2025 request for the State of Maryland's investment in their Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative.

At the core of Museum programming is our belief that Museums can play a vital role in seeing that those children and their families affected by poverty, violence, and cultural disadvantage are offered effective informal educational and cultural experiences that support community and family learning. A \$10,000 SHINE Grant helped sustain our work.

This grant funding will support the Museum's Public Engagement Initiative. An array of in-person and virtual events including (but not limited to) film/video screenings, speaker series, panel discussions, and book signings are intended to deepen our audience's understanding of the role and transformative power of history, art, and culture to shape the world and how people live in it. Such topics as racism, gender bias, voter suppression, health and income disparity, and a host of other "isms" will be addressed.

If Maryland Humanities is able to secure funding for FY25, they will continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. They will continue 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, either from government programs or other private funders. Many may not qualify for other funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Secured funding will allow Maryland Humanities to continue to refine lessons learned on how to evaluate applicants and distribute funds equitably, while ensuring accountability and responsible fiscal stewardship.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding around the state for nearly fifty years. This included

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It is my hope that you will include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Joanne M. Martin*

Dr. Joanne M. Martin  
Founder and President

Museum: 1601-03 E. North Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21213  
Phone: 410-563-3404 • Fax: 410-675-5040 Fax: 410-563-7806 • Website: [www.greatblacksinwax.org](http://www.greatblacksinwax.org)  
The National Great Blacks In Wax Museum was founded in 1983 by Drs. Elmer P. and Joanne M. Martin





THE HAVRE DE GRACE COLORED SCHOOL  
MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER, INC.



February 19, 2024

**Officers:**

Patricia Cole  
*President*

Leslie Williams  
*Vice President*

Jordan Dodson  
*Secretary*

June Conley  
*Treasurer*

**Board Members:**

Iris Barnes

Turshandah Cole

Sheryl Coleman

Emil Cromwell

Corey Erby

Yulonda Gravette-  
Jackson

Janice Grant

Bobby Parker

Brittany Powell

Lenora Robinson

Delegate Ben Barnes  
Lowe House Office Building, Room 121  
6 Bladen St  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Barnes:

On behalf of the Havre de Grace Colored School Museum and Cultural Center (HCSMCC), it is with great pleasure that we provide written testimony in support of HB0504 and for the State of Maryland’s investment in the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative.

The historic Havre de Grace Colored School serves as a vital platform for exploring and recognizing the substantial contributions made by African Americans to American society and values. This year, my organization received \$10,000 in SHINE funding. With this funding we will be able to hire a part-time employees in order to create weekend hours. This financial assistance will enable us to expand our services, enhance the visitor experience, and contribute to the cultural growth of our community. The availability of weekend hours will create more opportunities for people to experience the exhibits and take part in the educational and cultural programs we offer.

My organization knows how scarce opportunities for general operating support are and have greatly benefited from being a SHINE recipient. With the support of the SHINE funding, we can continue our mission to safeguard this treasured 112-year-old piece of American history for future generations.

If HB0504 passes, Maryland Humanities will continue 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, either from government programs or other private funders. Many may not qualify for other funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

As stewards of cultural heritage, it is paramount that funding, such as the SHINE grant, remains accessible to preserve these invaluable pieces of our history for future generations. By securing support for these efforts, we not only safeguard existing treasures but also ensure that the stories, traditions, and legacies encapsulated within these institutions continue to inspire and educate for generations to come.

It is my hope that you authorize the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$1,000,000 each year for this ambitious, yet sorely needed funding. Thank you for your consideration.

*Patricia D. Cole*

Patricia D. Cole  
President, Board of Directors  
Havre de Grace Colored School,  
Museum and Cultural Center, Inc.



February 16, 2024

Delegate Ben Barnes  
Lowe House Office Building, Room 121  
6 Bladen St  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Barnes—

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for HB0504 and for the State of Maryland's investment in the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative.

It is the mission of the Chesapeake Film Festival, founded in 2008 to entertain, empower, educate and inspire diverse audiences of all ages by presenting exceptional independent films and events. We offer outstanding filmmakers, experienced and emerging, a forum to showcase and discuss stories of compelling interest to our local and global community. Because of our location on the Chesapeake Bay and our diverse population, we prioritize films that focus on the environment, women's achievement and social justice issues. The Festival also strives to be an economic engine for the Eastern Shore by engaging visitors to experience exceptional films, world-famous seafood, art, and the beauty of our waterways.

This year, my organization received \$10,000 in SHINE funding. With that funding we hope to initiate the following **strategic goals**:

1. **Expand Educational Programming** by developing and implementing a series of workshops, seminars or masterclasses aimed at educating aspiring filmmakers, students, and community members about various aspects of filmmaking, storytelling, and media literacy.
2. **Enhance Youth Outreach and Mentorship** by establishing a robust youth outreach and mentorship program to engage and empower young filmmakers from diverse backgrounds. Provide them with access to resources, mentorship opportunities, and hands-on training in various aspects of filmmaking.
3. **Curate Empowerment Film Series**: Curate and present an empowerment film series showcasing thought-provoking documentaries, narratives, and shorts that address important social issues and promote dialogue, empathy, and social change.
4. **Strengthen Community Engagement Initiatives** by organizing community engagement events, such as panel discussions, Q & A sessions with filmmakers, and

collaborative events to foster connections, understanding, and cultural exchange among diverse audiences.

5. **Continue to Foster Partnerships and Collaborations** by forging strategic partnerships with local organizations, educational institutions, and cultural initiatives to amplify the impact of the festival and extend its reach within the community.
6. **Empower Emerging Filmmakers** by continuing to provide platforms for emerging talent to showcase their work and connect with industry professionals. Offer opportunities for networking, distribution, and career development to support their artistic growth and success.
7. **Evaluate and Measure Impact:** Develop evaluation metrics to assess the effectiveness and impact of the festival's programs and initiatives. Gather feedback from participants, stakeholders and community members to inform future planning and decision-making.

If we can even achieve a portion of these important strategic goals this year we will be delighted, but it is through having received this funding that more initiatives like the ones I have listed will become possible.

Our organization knows how scarce opportunities for general operating support are and we will benefit greatly from being a SHINE recipient. Receiving funding like the MD Humanities Marilyn Hatza SHINE Grant are extremely rare and competitive. Reaching this point, in terms of the excellence of our current programming has taken many years of hard work to achieve and we are at once humbled and proud to be recipients. This significant grant will allow us to expand our educational and community engagement initiatives in profound ways. This grant will enable us to deepen our impact and reach as a film festival dedicated to celebrating the power of storytelling and fostering cultural exchange. We are grateful for this opportunity and look forward to bringing this exciting programming to life with the support of our community.

With SHINE funding, my organization was able to preserve jobs with the prospect of creating new jobs such as much needed support in every aspect of our organization. As small as we currently are, we have already shown we are capable of great things, but there is much more to do to create a cultural foundation that will continue to nurture, thrive and provide our community with hope, endurance and excellence as we continue to build programs and opportunities of lasting value.

If Maryland Humanities is able to secure funding for FY25, they will continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. They will continue 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, either from government programs or other private funders. Many may not qualify for other funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland

Heritage Areas Authority. Secured funding will allow Maryland Humanities to continue to refine lessons learned on how to evaluate applicants and distribute funds equitably, while ensuring accountability and responsible fiscal stewardship.

Maryland Humanities is known in the humanities community as a solid partner, one who has distributed project grant funding around the state for nearly fifty years. This included distributing \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds through the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act to 136 grantees across the state. In response to the lessons learned during COVID, Maryland Humanities incorporated grantees' input about how to more equitably serve them. Beginning in FY22, Maryland Humanities used the state's investment in SHINE to exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits. This effort made Maryland Humanities one of the first nonprofit state humanities councils nationally to do so with their grantmaking.

It is my hope that you will include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia Collins Walker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cynthia Collins Walker  
Executive Director  
Chesapeake Film Festival  
127 N. West Street  
Easton, MD 21601



February 16, 2024

Delegate Ben Barnes  
Lowe House Office Building, Room 121  
6 Bladen St  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Barnes,

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for HB0504 and for the State of Maryland's investment in the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grant-making initiative.

Cultura Plenera is a small nonprofit based in Howard County that serves the nearly 60 thousand Puerto Ricans living in Maryland and anyone in the community at large interested in knowing and experiencing our culture and traditions. We host public events that provide us a sense of community, and provide our non-Puerto Rican guests a welcoming introduction to our community.

Our most popular community event is called Plena Fridays, with Plena being a musical tradition central to Puerto Rican communities. In Plena Fridays we teach community members how to play Plena and we also lead Plena jam sessions with the community.

For 2024, we received \$10,000 in SHINE funding that we are using to:

- Purchase twenty artisanal hand-made Plena hand-drums that we will lend community members during Plena Fridays.
- Hire American Sign Language interpreters to serve the growing number of deaf community members attending Plena Fridays.
- Hire a photographer/videographer to document Plena Fridays so we can more effectively promote this program to the communities we serve.

Please note that SHINE funding is being reinvested right here in Maryland. Our hand-drums are made in Maryland and their raw material is being purchased locally, our ASL interpreters are Maryland residents that reinvest their income in Maryland, and our photographer/videographer is also a Maryland resident that will reinvest their income in Maryland.

I have so far used the term "community" but communities are comprised of individuals, and many of them have confided in us that our program has pulled them out of dark emotional corners. So please know that your support will have a positive impact on the quality of life of many Marylanders.

We understand that resources are limited and public funding is competitive. As an organization that fundraises through musical performance, we are extremely appreciative of

SHINE funding because it allows us to do less fundraising and more community events. Before SHINE we would host two or three events a year and now we are hosting one every month.

I am hopeful you will support the full appropriation of \$1,000,000 each year in HB0504 so Maryland Humanities can continue to support worthy nonprofits that cannot easily fundraise or may not qualify for funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, or the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

If Maryland Humanities is able to secure funding for FY25, they will be able to continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. Secured funding will allow Maryland Humanities to continue to refine lessons learned on how to evaluate applicants and distribute funds equitably, while ensuring accountability and responsible fiscal stewardship.

We know Maryland Humanities to be a solid partner in the humanities community. Maryland Humanities has distributed project grant funding around the state for nearly fifty years. This included distributing \$1.425 million in federal COVID-relief funds through the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act to 136 grantees across the state. In response to the lessons learned during COVID, Maryland Humanities incorporated grantees' input about how to more equitably serve them. Beginning in FY22, Maryland Humanities used the state's investment in SHINE to exclusively award general operating support grants to Maryland nonprofits. This effort made Maryland Humanities one of the first nonprofit state humanities councils nationally to do so with their grantmaking.

It is my hope that you will include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grant-making initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Angel Rivera  
President, Cultura Plenera  
[www.CulturaPlenera.org](http://www.CulturaPlenera.org)  
410-428-8383