



02/16/2024

Chair Ben Barnes  
121 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chari Barnes—

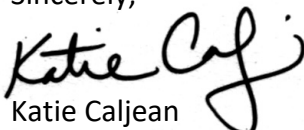
It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for HB054 and for the State of Maryland's investment in the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative.

The Maryland Center for History and Culture works with historical collecting organizations throughout the state through administration of the Thomas V. "Mike" Miller History Fund as well as through loans and technical services. We know firsthand the great need in Maryland for enhanced support for this sector which includes unique and irreplaceable organizations that make our state great and serve every county in Maryland. The need for operating support, such as that provided by SHINE, is especially acute.

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. 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,

  
Katie Caljean  
President & CEO