



## ***Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture***

84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401 410-216-6180  
www.africanamerican.maryland.gov

Dear Chair Barnes and members of the Appropriations Committee:

As Vice-Chair of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, I am pleased to offer support on behalf of my fellow Commissioners for HB1066 to enhance the African American Heritage Preservation Program grant fund to include non-capital grant funding for African American heritage projects throughout the great state of Maryland.

Since the inception of the African American Heritage Preservation Program citizens across the state have expressed the need for non-capital funding to help sustain their historic sites, museums, churches, and cemeteries. There are too many significant places where African American history happened, that are undervalued that need to be invested in. Non-capital funding can help correct this historical disparity and will support the growth and capacity of African American cultural sites throughout Maryland. The funding to support programs, capacity building, and operations would be vital to cultivating and preserving Maryland's dynamic and under-told American history while accelerating public engagement through the state's heritage tourism economy.

Maryland's Black heritage sites are rich with educational information and greatly need the funding to implement educational offerings for the public to help us all understand the shared history of our great state and country. As a member of the leadership of the oldest statewide Black preservation organization in the United States, I am honored to serve on the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, which is committed to growing our support for more significant projects that act as cultural anchors and create healthy and culturally diverse communities. This vision epitomizes our values, and we highly support this vital legislation to support African American heritage in Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Maya Davis, Vice Chair

Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture