

SB0596 Shatto-HCWHA written testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Shatto

Position: FAV

Testimony to the Budget and Taxation Committee
Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Name: Elizabeth Shatto, Executive Director
Organization: Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (HCWHA),
22 S. Market Street, Suite 215, Frederick, MD 21701
Issue: SB0956 Appropriation to the Marilyn Hatza Memorial Strengthening the Humanities Investment in
Nonprofits for Equity (SHINE) Grantmaking Initiative
Position: FAV

As a small, nonprofit organization, our organization has received essential operating funds in the form of what is now known as the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grant program. In my role as director of a Maryland Heritage Area, I can speak about how important this funding has been to our ability to serve more partners and generate more impact than ever before. I also have a unique view of the small nonprofits in Carroll, Frederick and Washington counties who need this funding to be able to focus on fulfillment of their missions, which in turn contributes to the tourism economy.

One thing the pandemic taught those of us who work in the intersection of humanities and tourism: our museums, historic sites and other visitor-serving humanities organizations must EXIST to be able to serve the public while contributing to the tourism economy. The pandemic brought about an existential crisis for many, perhaps most, of Maryland's small nonprofit humanities organizations. Some did not survive. Others scaled back mission-based programming because organizational focus was centered on cash flow deficiencies and the basic operating costs. The Hazta Memorial Shine grants have been a lifeline for the recipients, and allowing recipient organizations to do the real work for which they are created, and in which the public trust resides.

Please vote in favor of SB0956. Thank you.

**CARROLL
COUNTY**

Hampstead
Manchester
Mount Airy
New Windsor
Sykesville
Taneytown
Union Bridge
Westminster

**FREDERICK
COUNTY**

Brunswick
Burkittsville
Emmitsburg
Frederick
Middletown
Mount Airy
Myersville
New Market
Rosemont
Thurmont
Woodsboro

**WASHINGTON
COUNTY**

Boonsboro
Clear Spring
Funkstown
Hagerstown
Hancock
Keedysville
Sharpsburg
Smithsburg
Williamsport

22 S. Market Street, Suite 215
Frederick, MD 21701
info@heartofthecivilwar.org
heartofthecivilwar.org



Testimony of Jennifer Ruffner SB596 - HB504.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Ruffner

Position: FAV

Testimony of Jennifer Ruffner
Greenbelt, MD 20770

February 5, 2024


In Favor Of: S.B. 596 / H.B. 504 – Department of Planning - Maryland Humanities Council - Appropriation to the Marilyn Hatza Memorial Strengthening the Humanities Investment in Nonprofits for Equity (SHINE) Grantmaking Initiative

My name is Jen Ruffner, and I am a resident of Greenbelt, MD. I have spent the majority of my career working for and with nonprofit humanities organizations, including serving as the administrator of the Maryland Heritage Areas Program, which supports many heritage-related humanities organizations across the state. I am writing in enthusiastic support of S.B. 596 / H.B. 504.

The State of Maryland has always generously support nonprofit organizations with project and program support in the fields of the arts, history and the humanities. These funds, from programs such as the Maryland Heritage Areas Program, support discreet projects. They do not, however, support general operating support, something that all nonprofits need more than anything else. As the Chronicle of Philanthropy detailed in their [April 12, 2022 article](#), general operating support is a critical element to ensuring equity in funding, and strengthening nonprofits. The Marilyn Hatza Memorial Strengthening Humanities Investment in Nonprofits for Equity (SHINE) Grant program operated by Maryland Humanities does exactly that for Maryland's humanities nonprofits. All of the funds go to small nonprofits working directly in communities across the state. Including \$1 million in the Maryland General Assembly's budget will allow this program to grow, and indeed, shine, filling a critical need that is currently underfunded.

General operating support (GOS) allows organizations to hire the staff and build the infrastructure they need to more effectively complete the projects that are more frequently funded by government grants and private funders. GOS provides stability and certainty to small organizations, giving them the breathing room they need to plan, expand and grow with an eye to the future, instead of spending all their time and effort raising money to keep the lights on. GOS gives organizations the ability to react to situations as they arise (as evidenced by the pandemic), and to develop and execute a vision for their organization, rather than just piecing together isolated projects without cohesion. GOS is critical to ensure Maryland's small, humanities nonprofits can thrive and grow, and increase equity.

I encourage you to vote favorably for S.B. 596 and H.B. 504 to ensure Maryland humanities nonprofits receive the GOS support they deserve and need.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ruffner

SB0596 Maryland Humanities Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Lindsey Baker

Position: FAV



Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Testimony from Maryland Humanities re: SB0596

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation 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!



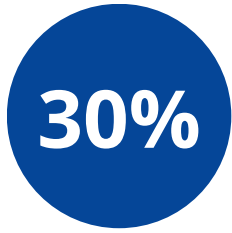
Lindsey Baker
Chief Executive Officer
Maryland Humanities
lbaker@mdhumanities.org
410.699.3130



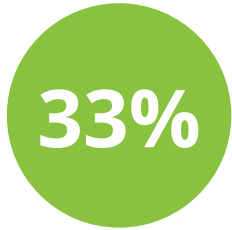
Strengthening the Humanities
Investment in Nonprofits for Equity

2024 Grantee Summary

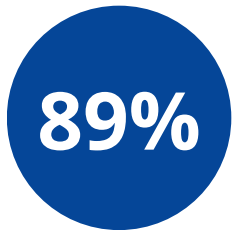
With seed money from the State of Maryland through the Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Humanities awarded 95 grants of \$10,000 through the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE Grant in 2024. Grantees are small nonprofits doing humanities work in Maryland, with Maryland residents as their primary constituents.



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



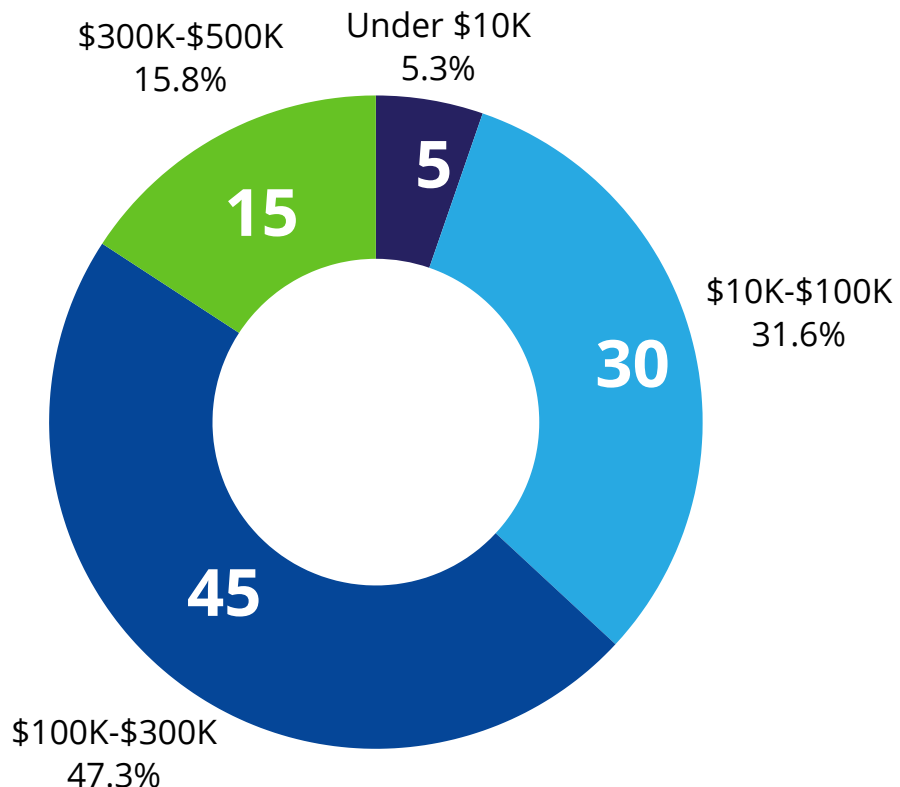
of applicants were first time applicants to a Maryland Humanities grant.



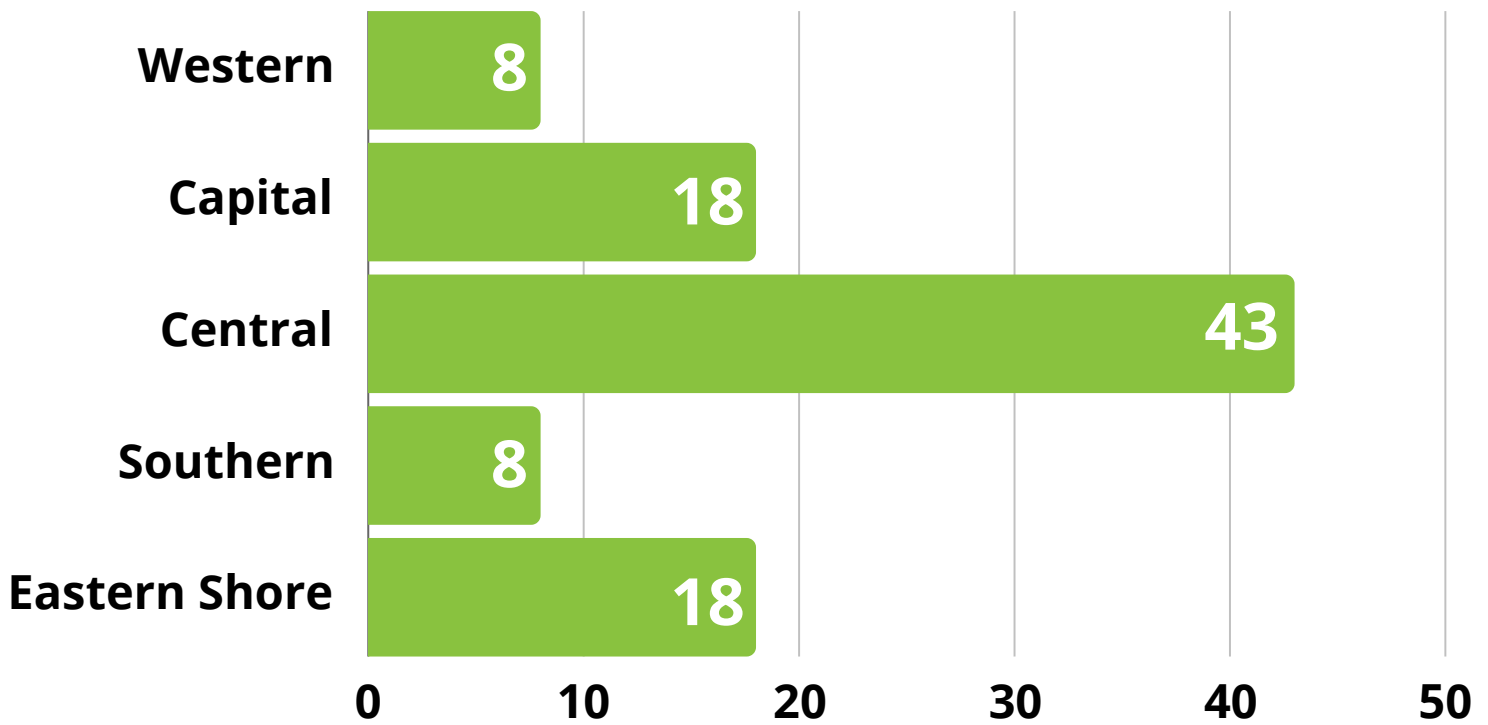
of first time applicants are first time recipients of a Maryland Humanities grant.

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

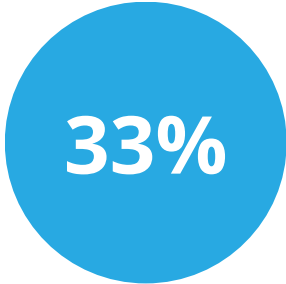


Western counties: Garrett, Allegany, Washington
 Capital counties: Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's
 Central counties: Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll, Harford, Howard
 Southern counties: Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's
 Eastern Shore counties: Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester, Cecil

2024 grantees represent 22 Maryland counties and Baltimore City.

Comparison of Hatza SHINE Grantees' Region by Year

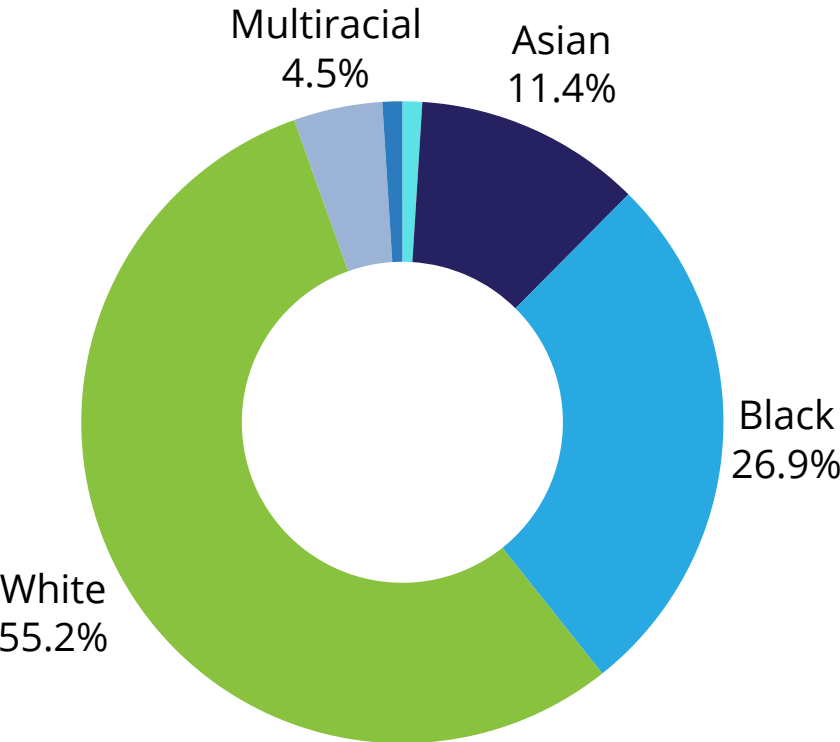
	2023	2024
Western	16%	8%
Capital	18%	20%
Central	38%	44%
Southern	10%	8%
Eastern Shore	18%	20%



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

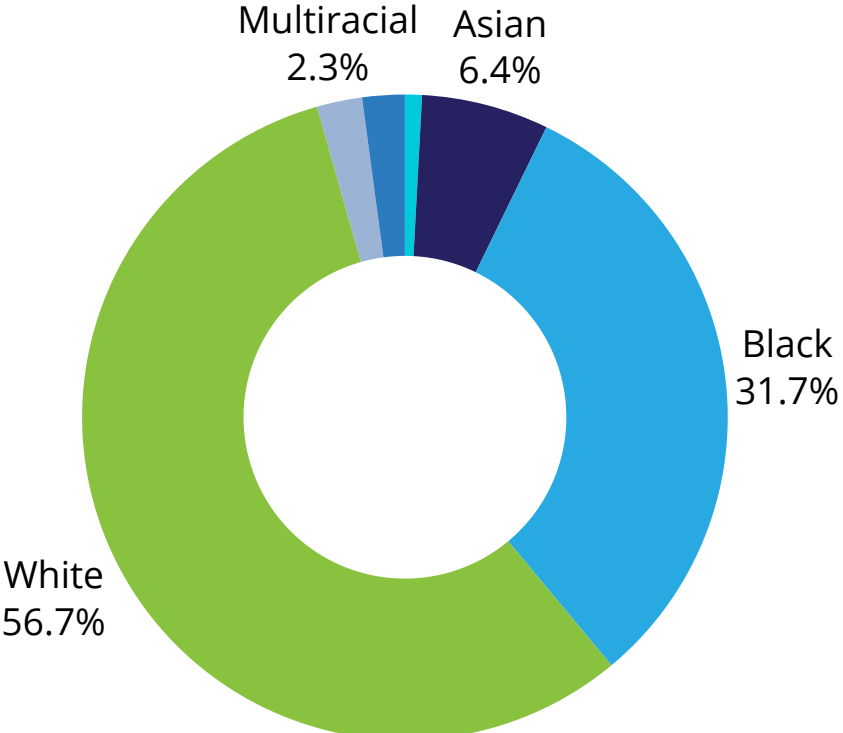
71 organizations answered this question. 38 organizations either skipped or reported they do not collect this information.

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

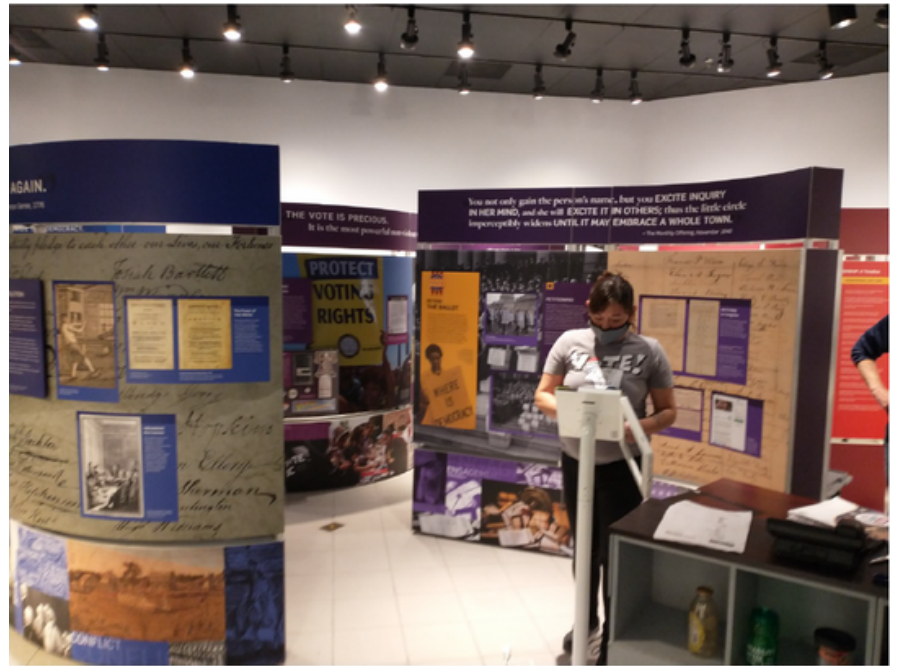


Photo courtesy of Baltimore County Historical Society. "Co-hosting the Smithsonian Voices and Votes exhibit with the Community College of Baltimore County, Dundalk campus."

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

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

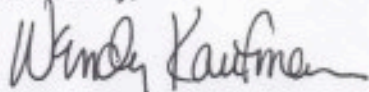
Dear Senator Guzzone,

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

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.

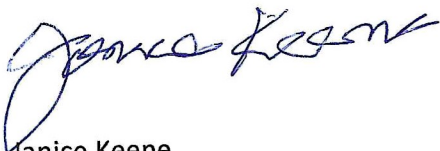
If Maryland Humanities is able to secure funding for FY25, they will continue to provide general operating support funding, awarding at least \$950,000 in grants, with a minimum award amount of \$10,000. They will continue to focus on small and mid-size humanities, arts, cultural, and educational nonprofits 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janice Keene". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "K".

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
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Lucille Ward Walker
Theresa A. Worden

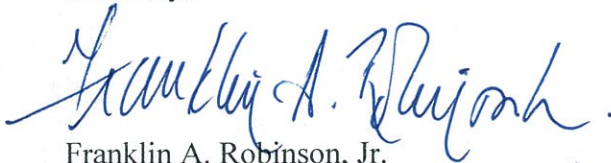
(240) 681-9292

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.

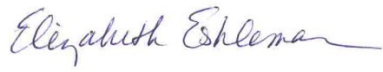
50 E. Main St, PO Box 92, Frostburg, MD 21532 | (301) 689-1195 | frostburgmuseum@verizon.net |

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

*HSBC 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

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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Liz Wist

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

443.783.3683 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 250th and Maryland's 400th 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 (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

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.

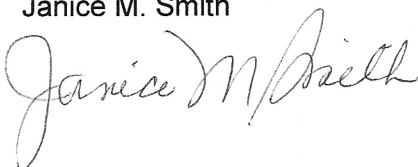
It is my hope that you will include the vital funding for this ambitious, yet sorely needed, grantmaking initiative in the FY2025 budget—as well as support any efforts to ensure it will continue in FY2026 and beyond. Thank you for your consideration.

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^{INC}

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

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,

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
The National Great Blacks In Wax Museum was founded in 1983 by Drs. Elmer P. and Joanne M. Martin



WrittenTestimonySB0596Baco.pdf

Uploaded by: Meagan Baco

Position: FAV

January 6, 2024

Maryland General Assembly
Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senators:

With this testimony, as the Board Chair of the all-volunteer Maryland Museums Association, Inc., I seek to proclaim the organization's support for SB0596 and the State of Maryland's investment in the Marilyn Hatza Memorial SHINE grantmaking initiative.

Hatza SHINE Grants have been a game changer for Maryland's cultural organizations. It is a rare, and severely needed, source of operating funds for small and mid-sized non-profits. Many may not qualify for funding from the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Historical Trust, and/or Maryland Heritage Areas Authority – and those project-based grants do not address what cultural institutions need most – reliable financial support for mission-driven work in the face of increased need and increased costs.

Moreover, Maryland Humanities is a leading statewide organization in transparency, equity, and meaningful engagement with all Marylanders. With their administration of the funds, Hatza SHINE Grants are getting directly into the hands of some of the most interesting, diverse, and engaged cultural groups. 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 – and what a difference that \$10,000 makes.

For example, as a Hatza SHINE Grant recipient, Maryland Museums Association, Inc., will be able to offer scholarships to Marylanders to the American Association of Museums and the Association of African American Museums when both national organizations host their annual conferences here in Maryland later this year. Even with the conferences being in Maryland this year, the cost of attending is prohibitive to smaller organizations, and we want Marylanders to benefit and shine at these educational conferences in our very own state.

It is the hope of the Maryland Museums Association, Inc. that you include the Hatza SHINE Grant funding in the FY25 budget and support all efforts to secure funding in the future.

Sincerely,

Meagan Baco, Board Chair
Maryland Museums Association, Inc.
www.mdmuseums.org