

# **SB 341 MDP Written Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Andrew Wilson

Position: FAV



## Maryland DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

Click or tap to enter a date.

**HEARING DATE:** February 1st at 1:30 PM

**BILL NO:** SB0341

**COMMITTEE:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**POSITION:** Support

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:** Andrew Wilson (443) 366-4224

---

**TITLE:** Commission on African American History and Culture – Museum Name Change

**BILL ANALYSIS:**

This bill would alter the name of the “Banneker-Douglass Museum” to the “Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum.”

**POSITION AND RATIONALE:**

The Banneker-Douglass Museum, administered by the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, was opened to the public on February 24, 1984. The name of the museum honors two great African American Marylanders – the mathematician and astronomer Benjamin Banneker who was born in Baltimore County and the 19<sup>th</sup> century African American civil rights activist Frederick Douglass who was born in Talbot County. Notably, both are men.

The Maryland Historical Trust is in full support of renaming the museum to also recognize the nationally significant figure of Harriet Tubman who was born in Dorchester County. Tubman, although best known for her work as an abolitionist, lived a life of many accomplishments - serving as a spy during the Civil War, fighting for women’s suffrage, and late in life establishing a nursing home for poor and aged African Americans in Auburn, New York. Renaming the museum to celebrate the achievements of all three of these Maryland heroes is an exciting and appropriate way to celebrate the museum’s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



**Oral Testimony.SB341.2024.pdf**

Uploaded by: chanel compton

Position: FAV



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

84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401 410-216-6180

[www.africanamerican.maryland.gov](http://www.africanamerican.maryland.gov)

January 30, 2024

### **MCAAHC**

Edwin T. Johnson, PhD  
*Chair*

Maya Davis  
*Vice Chair*

Chanel Johnson  
*Executive Director*

#### **Commissioners**

Kali Ahset-Amen, PhD

Dion Banks

Lori Bradford

H. Russell Frisby, Jr.

Wali Gill, PhD

Janice Curtis Greene

Kara Hunt, PhD

Philip J. Merrill

Jaelon Moaney

Brian Morrison, PhD

Barbara Paca, PhD, OBE

Robert Patterson, PhD

Ada Pinkston

Elinor L. Thompson

Hakeem Tijani, PhD

Reginald Turner

Kennedi Wilson

Wesley Wood

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Greetings Chair Feldman and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

As the Director of the Banneker-Douglass Museum, Maryland's official state museum on African American History and Culture, I request your support of Senate Bill 341. We aim to update our museum's name from the Banneker-Douglass Museum to the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum. Our museum documents interprets and promotes African American history and culture (particularly in Maryland) through exhibitions, programs, and projects to improve the understanding and appreciation of America's rich cultural diversity for all.

Our current namesakes are Maryland-born Frederick Douglass, famed abolitionist, and orator, and Benjamin Banneker, scientist, and astronomer, who helped survey the boundaries of our Nation's capital, Washington DC. Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in Dorchester County, Maryland; she would self-liberate, becoming an abolitionist to help liberate members of her own family and network. Tubman became the first woman to lead a major military operation, rescuing more than 700 enslaved men, women, and children during the Civil War. Later, she became a women's suffrage activist. Including Tubman in our name would honor this incredible hero and symbolize Black women's many contributions to our state and country.

The Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum, the name itself, represents African American men and women who have inspired and continue to inspire generations of people of all ages and backgrounds. This year, 2024, is the 160th anniversary of Maryland's emancipation, which in 1864 freed enslaved African Americans in our state.

During this milestone year, we ask for your support in honoring this trailblazer representing freedom, community, and bravery in our state.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chanel J.", written in a cursive style.

Chanel Compton Johnson

Executive Director

**SB341 PresMD FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Christiana Limniatis

Position: FAV



# PRESERVATION MARYLAND

January 26, 2024

Hon. Brian J. Feldman  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, Maryland

**RE: SB341 FAVORABLE**

**Chairperson Feldman,**

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Preservation Maryland and our thousands of statewide supporters, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **SUPPORT of SB341** – a piece of legislation that will establish a new name for the museum operated by the Commission on African American History and Culture.

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

The museum's proposed name, Banneker-Douglass-Tubman, will strengthen the museum's efforts to include and honor Harriet Tubman as the museum's namesake. Harriet Tubman's work as an abolitionist and social activist is a critical part of American history. Tubman's history is intertwined with Maryland, some of which includes her birth place in Dorchester County, Maryland and routes where she guided enslaved people to freedom. One of the more frequent routes she used was the Choptank River through Caroline County. The addition of Harriet Tubman's name to the Banneker-Douglass museum will further honor Tubman and support the museum's mission to document, interpret, and promote African American History and Culture.

SB341 is an enhancing piece of legislation, and we urge a favorable report.

**Favorable**

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Redding, President & CEO



# **SB 341 Sen McCray.pdf**

Uploaded by: Destiny Bell

Position: FAV

**CORY V. McCRAY**  
Legislative District 45  
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

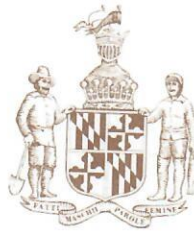
Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety, Transportation,  
and Environment



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 221  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3165 · 301-858-3165  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3165  
Cory.Mccray@senate.state.md.us

Statement of Senator Cory McCray in Support of Senate Bill 341 (HB390) - Commission on African American History and Culture - Museum Name Change

## Vote Yes to SB 341

Title: Commission on African American History and Culture - Museum Name Change  
Education Energy and Environment Committee  
Hearing: February 01, 2024

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Respected Members of the Committee:

I am writing to seek your favorable vote on **Senate Bill 341**, legislation that has the potential to significantly impact African American history and culture positively. This bill aims to oversee the Commission on African and American Culture in renaming the Banneker-Douglass Museum to the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum.

**Significance and Impact: SB341** is positioned to bring about transformative changes that recognize the historical and contemporary contributions of both black men and black women. The Banneker-Douglass Museum commemorates the accomplishments of historical figures like Benjamin Banneker, a self-taught mathematician, astronomer, almanac compiler, and writer, as well as Frederick Douglass, an influential social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman who played a crucial role in the 19th-century African-American civil rights movement. The proposed transformation into the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum includes the addition of Harriet Tubman, a freedom fighter, Civil War hero, and advocate for women's suffrage.

The decision to rename the museum is not merely symbolic; it represents a pivotal step toward acknowledging the significant contributions of both black women and men in shaping American history. By incorporating Harriet Tubman's name alongside these previously mentioned heroines, the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum will ensure that their impactful legacies rightfully occupy a central place in its historical narrative.

Moreover, the Banneker-Douglass Museum serves not only as a museum but also as a community-driven hub and an educational focal point, inspiring individuals of various ages and backgrounds. The clear and unwavering endorsement of **SB341** resonates with diversity and dedicated commitment.

**Important Considerations:** **SB341** recognizes the pivotal role of the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum in inspiring and educating, understanding that the preservation of our cultural heritage acts as a conduit for appreciation and growth in future generations. Beyond being a legislative measure, **SB341** represents a collective voice actively shaping history. I strongly urge a favorable report for **Senate Bill 341**.

# **SB0341 BDM Letter of Support Name Change 2024.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lindsey Baker

Position: FAV



108 West Centre Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-4565

(410) 685-0095  
[www.mdhumanities.org](http://www.mdhumanities.org)

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD

January 25, 2024

SB0341: Commission on African American History and Culture- Museum Change

Dear Chair Feldman:

On behalf of Maryland Humanities, we submit this statement in favor of a name change to the Banneker Douglass Museum to the Banneker Douglass Tubman Museum.

Located in our state's capital, the Banneker-Douglass Museum gives the public free access to research and explore Black history, art, and culture in Maryland. Harriet Tubman represents the best of Maryland and American history. She was self-liberated from slavery, served as an abolitionist, a union spy and nurse, and a woman suffrage activist. Therefore, including Tubman in the naming would honor Tubman and symbolize the many contributions Black women have made to our state and country.

At Maryland Humanities, we are focused on lifting the humanities sector statewide. We are excited to see such an important part of Maryland's history elevated to the status she deserves. I sincerely hope you will support this effort and vote yes on SB0341.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsey Baker".

Lindsey Baker  
Chief Executive Officer  
Maryland Humanities

# **SB341 Testimony\_MTC.pdf**

Uploaded by: Matt Libber

Position: FAV



January 30, 2024

Maryland Senate  
Senator Brian Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support of SB 341 - Commission on African American History and Culture - Museum Name Change

Chairperson Feldman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Matt Libber, and I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland Tourism Coalition (MTC). I am writing to you today to express MTC's support for Senate Bill 341. The Maryland Tourism Coalition is a trade organization with members representing all areas of tourism in the State of Maryland. Our mission is to support businesses and organizations that cater to the tourism industry through education, networking, and advocacy. As such, MTC asks the committee to vote in favor of this bill.

The Banneker-Douglass Museum is located in Annapolis and has an award-winning partnership with Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County, and NTC member and Black History 365 project. The museum is one of the top visitor attractions in Anne Arundel County and is marketed to the 6.8 million visitors who spend \$3.8 billion locally providing \$427 million in state and local taxes and work with the Maryland Office of Tourism to market it to the 43.5 million visitors to the state who spend \$19.4 billion, generating \$2.3 billion in state and local taxes. [Source: Tourism Economics *Economic Impact of Tourism in Maryland 2022* report]

The proposed name change to include Harriet Tubman is appropriate and is right. The name recognizes Maryland-native and renowned Freedom Fighter Harriet Tubman to the name of the State's official museum of African American heritage. The addition of her name to the museum's name highlights her strong connection to her homeland and makes the name of the museum more inclusive by including a woman. It also builds upon the State of Maryland's multi-year major investments to showcase and provide places to learn about Harriet Tubman with the development and marketing of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Park, a partnership with the Maryland State Parks and National Park Service, and the nationally recognized Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Scenic Byway.

The Maryland Tourism Coalition stands alongside the Banneker-Douglass Museum and the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture in its mission to create a more equitable and inclusive society by celebrating the rich tapestry of African American heritage with the addition of Harriet Tubman's name to the Banneker-Douglass Museum. We hope you will support this simple name change that will undoubtedly offer profound and long-term positive impacts. Together, we all can continue to empower communities, amplify underrepresented voices, and inspire future generations to embrace the profound legacy of African Americans in Maryland.



**MARYLAND  
TOURISM  
COALITION**

For these reasons, the Maryland Tourism Coalition asks this committee to vote in favor of this legislation and forward it a full vote within the Senate of Maryland.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Libber  
Legislative Chair  
Maryland Tourism Coalition  
[mllibber@mdsoccerplex.org](mailto:mllibber@mdsoccerplex.org)  
301-528-1480



**MCAAHC TESTIMONY \_SB0341.pdf**

Uploaded by: Maya Davis

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY TO THE EDUCATION, ENERGY, and the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**SB 341 - Commission on African American History and Culture - Museum Name Change**

**POSITION:** Support

**Submitted By:** Maya Davis, Vice Chair Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

**Date:** February 1, 2024

The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture operates the Banneker-Douglass Museum, a museum dedicated to Documenting, interpreting, and promoting African American history & culture. When this museum opened in 1984, the Commission had over five years of discussions and debates on the potential name of this museum. One of the proposed names for the museum was the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum. Some of the members of the Commission thought that to have three names was too, while others not understanding Harriet Tubman's contribution to history didn't find her worthy of being included in the name.

Since that 1984, much research has been uncovered on the life and legacy of Harriet Tubman, a formerly enslaved woman from Dorchester County, Maryland, who liberated herself, her family, and other acquaintances in this state, and beyond its borders in states like Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina, and internationally in Canada. Her impact on African American History and Culture and the Black Diaspora, is documented in the records of the aforementioned states, written on extensively by scholars, memorialized internationally, and portrayed in film and television series.

Harriet Tubman is one of the beacons and icons of our great state and this country and deserves to have her name placed on the marquis of this amazing museum as a testament to her heroic efforts, connection to Maryland African American history and culture, and as an acknowledgement of the power and achievements of Black women in Maryland. In a post patriarchal Maryland the Commission wants to demonstrate our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion by including the name of one of the most powerful women from the state of Maryland, Harriet Tubman, to the Banneker-Douglass Museum's name.

We encourage you to consider favorable support for changing the name of the Banneker-Douglass Museum to the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum.

Best Regards,

Maya Davis, Vice Chair

Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture.