

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

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

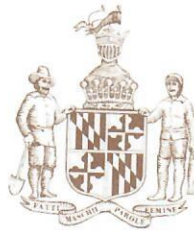
Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Pensions

Chair, Public Safety, Transportation,  
and Environment



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

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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**.