

# **SB 764- Arts Incubator Workgroup.pdf**

Uploaded by: Antonio Hayes

Position: FAV

ANTONIO HAYES  
Legislative District 40  
Baltimore City

Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 764: Arts Incubator Workgroup**

Chairman Beidle and esteemed members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 764, which aims to establish the Arts Incubator Workgroup to study how arts and cultural institutions can support local artists.

It requires the Workgroup to submit a preliminary report by October 1, 2024 and a final report on its recommendations, including any necessary budget, facility, or in-kind services that are needed to support local artists to the Governor and General Assembly by October 1, 2025.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, and I urge you to support the passage of Senate Bill 764.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes".

Senator Antonio L. Hayes  
40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District – MD

# **SB 764\_Commerce\_Arts Incubator Workgroup\_Support.p**

Uploaded by: Kevin Anderson

Position: FAV



Wes Moore | Governor  
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor  
Kevin A. Anderson | Secretary of Commerce  
Signe Pringle | Deputy Secretary of Commerce

**DATE:** February 27, 2024  
**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 764  
**BILL TITLE:** Arts Incubator Workgroup - Established  
**COMMITTEE:** Senate Finance  
**POSITION:** Support

The Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce) supports Senate Bill 764 - Arts Incubator Workgroup – Established.

**Bill Summary:**

Senate Bill 764 establishes the Arts Incubator Workgroup. The purpose of the Workgroups is to study how arts and cultural institutions can support local artists. Staffing for the Workgroup will be provided by staff from the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC). A preliminary report is due to the General Assembly on or before October 1, 2024, and a final report is due in October 2025.

**Background:**

MSAC has several grant programs and funding opportunities available to independent artists, including the Grants for Artists Program. Despite MSAC’s efforts, there is still a need in the State’s burgeoning arts community for affordable space for artists to create, rehearse, perform, and exhibit their work. Research is needed to uncover potential funding and operational models that could inform Maryland-specific solutions, including making the case for more funding for MSAC programs more prominent.

**Rationale:**

The needs mentioned above are common concerns MSAC staff hear from artists across the state, in urban, suburban, and rural areas. The costs for space rental and what they can pay as artists fees needs to be addressed in order for MSAC to continue to support organizations. While MSAC operating support to organizations, including county arts agencies, is robust, operational costs and business models of nonprofit arts organizations require them to pass along costs to artists in what they charge for space rental and what they can pay as artist fees. Researching the issue will likely uncover funding and operational models that could inform Maryland-specific solutions and allow our State to continue to lead in our support for the arts and artists.

Commerce respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 764.

# **Letter of Support SB764.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nicholas Cohen

Position: FAV



## Teaching Artists of the Mid-Atlantic (TAMA)

[www.teachingartists.org](http://www.teachingartists.org)

[info@teachingartist.org](mailto:info@teachingartist.org)

PO Box 212, Riverdale, MD 20738

Honorable Members of the Senate:

We are writing to express our full support for SB 764, the Arts Incubator Workgroup, a crucial initiative to sustain and invest in our creative arts economy. As artists ourselves, we know that the arts are an essential cultural asset and a significant contributor to the economic vitality of our state. Teaching Artists, in particular, are dynamic and vibrant arts professionals who specialize in leading arts-learning and making experiences in educational and community settings, including schools, arts organizations, community centers, parks, libraries, wellness centers, detention centers, businesses, and other similar institutions.

We represent the Maryland chapter of the Teaching Artists of the Mid-Atlantic (TAMA). TAMA is the only local agency supporting, empowering, and advocating for professional Teaching Artists. We serve the region as a model and resource for mid-Atlantic stakeholders who value and recognize Teaching Artists as influential paid professionals of an equitable and vibrant arts ecosystem. Unlike arts organizations with physical locations, most Teaching Artists do not operate from a fixed location and workplace, essentially, we are invisible. Yet, we work at the intersection of arts, education, and community, making our contributions all the more vital.

In Maryland, the arts sector is a formidable economic engine. For instance, the state's artists and cultural organizations generate \$837 million in economic activity annually, support eight thousand jobs, and return \$19.6 million in local and state tax revenues, as per the Maryland Department of Commerce FY2022 report. These figures underscore the undeniable impact of the arts on our economy. Teaching Artists leverage their artistic skills and expertise to create arts education and lifelong creative learning programs that grow meaningful connections, foster empathy and understanding, promote healing, address societal challenges, and facilitate personal growth and development. We empower individuals and communities to unlock their full potential to shape, change, create, and transform individuals, local communities, our nation, and the world for the better.

Despite these substantial contributions, artists face significant economic hardships. Teaching Artists, in particular, have to deal with the challenges of straddling the dual role of education and the arts. Moreover, traditional business sector policies tend to overlook artists altogether, leaving Teaching Artists vulnerable to exploitation. The majority of Teaching Artists work without a labor union. Primarily hired as part-time or independent contractors, often paid by the hour or the length of service, we lack traditional benefits, such as healthcare contributions, pensions, sick leave, and job security. SB764 proposes an essential framework for addressing these economic challenges. It aims to further study the needs of artists and provide them with the support they need.

As small businesses, artists and Teaching Artists must be recognized and valued as paid professionals in Maryland. TAMA seeks to collaborate with legislators to ensure that policies that overlook our vital contributions to our communities receive urgent attention.

Please consider the profound impact your support of SB 764 could have on the lives of artists and the cultural wealth of Maryland. The artist incubator workgroup is a valuable initiative that must include input from Teaching Artists. We urge the Governor to appoint a Teaching Artists of the Mid-Atlantic member as the artist-educator representative in this important initiative. We believe that Teaching Artists must actively participate in this workgroup to ensure that art-learning and art-making are at the heart of Maryland's future, enhancing the state's vibrancy and continued growth and transformation. Therefore, we urge you to vote YES for SB 764, ensuring our state remains a nurturing ground for the arts.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this pivotal issue.

Signed,



Jennifer Ridgway, President



Khaleshia Thorpe-Price, Maryland Director

**Across the state, 49 individual Teaching Artists and small businesses have pledged their support for HB1451:**

### **In Anne Arundel**

David Kenneth Hildebrand  
David & Ginger Hildebrand  
Annapolis, MD

### **In Baltimore City**

Christina Delgado  
Tola's Room  
Baltimore, MD

Christine Susan DeJuliis  
Baltimore, MD

Michael Lamason  
Black Cherry Puppet Theater  
Baltimore, MD

Katherine Lyons  
Baltimore, MD

Kathleen Kelly MacMillan  
Stories By Hand with Kathy  
MacMillan  
Baltimore, MD

Joanne Margolius  
Magical Experiences Arts  
Company  
Baltimore, MD

Anna Sellheim  
Refugee Youth Project  
Baltimore, MD

**BLACK CHERRY  
PUPPET THEATER**



### **In Baltimore County**

Lisa Anderson  
Milkshake Music LLC  
Baltimore, MD

Deborah Rachel Kleinmann  
Baltimore, MD

Valerie Leonhart Smalkin  
Small Kin Music/Silly Goose & Val  
Baltimore, MD



### **In Calvert County**

Dr. Candace Campbell  
Peripatetic Productions  
Chesapeake Beach, MD



## **In Charles County**

Thomas Jefferson Howell  
STEAM, a 501(c)3 nonprofit  
La Plata, MD

Monique Walker  
Waldorf, MD

## **In Frederick County**

Tricia L Fegley  
Myersville, MD

Christine Galante  
Frederick, MD

Jeffrey Warren Harrison  
Sunnyland Music & Multicultural Arts  
Emmitsburg, MD

Andrea McCluskey  
Frederick, MD

## **In Howard County**

Loretta Jean Foster  
Clay Happenings Again  
Columbia, MD

## **In Montgomery County**

Kathryn Aboudou  
Takoma Park, MD

Steven L. Barker  
Gaithersburg, MD

Noa Baum  
Silver Spring, MD

Liliane Blom  
Liliane Blom Art Studio  
Rockville, MD

J. Jordan Bruns  
Art Clinic at Glen Echo Park  
Glen Echo, MD

Paula Marie Cleggett  
Rockville, MD

Roberta M. Gasbarre  
Silver Spring, MD

Mary Gresock  
Silver Spring, MD

Arturo Ho  
Silver Spring, MD

Jamie Iwugo  
Takoma Park, MD

Denise M. Jones  
Brass Ring Company  
Takoma Park, MD

Renee Sandell  
ForThCo Vision LLC  
Bethesda, MD

Annetta Dexter Sawyer  
Silver Spring, MD

Deborah Sternberg  
Germantown, MD

Laura Sturza  
Laura Sturza, Writer/Teacher  
Rockville, MD

Khaleshia Thorpe-Price  
Dramatic Play LLC  
Gaithersburg, MD

Michele A. Valeri  
Dinorock Productions  
Silver Spring, MD

Marcie Wolf-Hubbard  
Silver Spring, MD



## In Prince George's County

Eileen C. Cave  
Hyattsville Community Arts  
Alliance  
Hyattsville, MD

Saige Colbert  
A D4ME Production LLC  
Mount Rainier, MD

Henry Harris  
Strategic Music Partnerships  
Fort Washington, MD

LaShawnte' Holloman-Clay  
Sculpted Clay Productions LLC  
Upper Marlboro, MD

Don Junious Johns  
DMV Music Academy  
Hyattsville, MD

Alicia Oliver-Krueger  
InterAct Story Theatre Education  
Association  
Glenn Dale, MD

Jennifer Lynn Ridgway  
Yard Dramas LLC  
Hyattsville, MD

Melissa Richardson  
Brentwood, MD

Alice Lorraine Robinson  
Fort Washington, MD

Laura Catherine Schandelmeier  
Dance Box Theater  
Brentwood, MD



## **In Washington County**

Dawn K. Hoffman  
Dawn Arts Design  
Hagerstown, MD

## **In Wicomico County**

Stephen Philip Harvey  
Hidden Cinema Records LLC  
Salisbury, MD

**SB 764 Senate Finance Letter 2-22-24.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nicholas Cohen

Position: FAV

**LAUREN DUGAS GLOVER**  
*LDG Consulting Services*  
1905 Parkside Drive ~ Bowie, MD 20721  
301-717-5633

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Bidel, Chair  
The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier, Vice Chair  
Senate Finance Committee

**RE: Support of HB1451/SB 764**

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing in full support of HB1451/SB 764, the Arts Incubator Workgroup, which is crucial to help further sustain and invest in our creative arts economy. The arts are a cultural asset and a significant contributor to our state's economic vitality. Accordingly, artists are the backbone of the arts sector's success.

In Maryland, the arts sector is a formidable economic engine. For instance, our artists and cultural organizations generate \$837 million in economic activity annually, support eight thousand jobs, and return \$19.6 million in local and state tax revenues, as per the Maryland Department of Commerce FY2022 report. These figures underscore the undeniable impact of the arts on our economy.

Despite these substantial contributions, many artists face significant economic hardships. The path of an artist is often marked by financial instability due to the fluctuating nature of opportunities and the costs associated with producing their work. Additionally, the costs and expenses for venues to host and maintain these artists can often be a struggle. HB1451/SB 764 proposes an essential framework for addressing these economic challenges. It aims to further study the needs of artists and spaces to and provide the needed support.

Your support of this bill will acknowledge the cultural significance of our artists and reinforce a sector that is a cornerstone of Maryland's economic framework. We believe that with the proper support, our artists can continue to enhance the state's cultural landscape and drive economic growth.

Please consider the profound impact your support could have on the lives of artists and the cultural wealth of Maryland. Vote YES for HB1451/SB 764, ensuring our state remains a nurturing ground for the arts.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this pivotal issue.

Sincerely,

  
Lauren Dugas Glover

**SB0764-FIN-SUPP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**SB0764**

February 27, 2024

**TO:** Members of the Senate Finance Committee  
**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
**RE:** Senate Bill 764 – Arts Incubator Workgroup – Established

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 764.

SB 764 would create a pivotal initiative poised to bolster and enrich our creative arts economy. The arts don't just decorate Maryland; they drive its economic heartbeat and foster a vibrant cultural ecosystem. At the core of this sector's triumphs are our artists, the relentless creators whose innovations and contributions breathe life into our communities.

In Maryland, the arts are not merely a cultural embellishment but a towering economic force. Artists and cultural institutions ignite \$837 million in economic activity each year, propelling eight thousand jobs and contributing \$19.6 million in local and state tax revenues, as highlighted in the Maryland Department of Commerce FY2022 report. These numbers are a testament to the arts' indelible mark on our economy.

Despite their monumental contributions, artists navigate a precarious financial landscape. The artistic journey is fraught with economic volatility, characterized by inconsistent opportunities and the substantial expenses of crafting their art. SB 764 emerges as a beacon of hope, offering a strategic plan to alleviate these financial burdens and to empower our artists with the resources they desperately need.

Support for this bill is an acknowledgement of the cultural significance of our artists and investment in a foundational pillar of Maryland's economic and cultural identity. The Arts Community stands at a juncture where your endorsement can significantly amplify artists' ability to enrich our state's cultural tapestry and stimulate economic prosperity.

For the above reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 764.

# **SB764\_Favorable\_Written Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rachel McGrain

Position: FAV



Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS) and Arts Every Day, with the support of the Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) and Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education (MAREE), are writing in full support of SB0764, the Arts Incubator Workgroup, which is crucial to help further sustain and invest in our creative arts economy. The arts are a cultural asset and a significant contributor to our state's economic vitality. Accordingly, artists are the backbone of the arts sector's success.

In Maryland, the arts sector is a formidable economic engine. For instance, our artists and cultural organizations generate \$837 million in economic activity annually, support eight thousand jobs, and return \$19.6 million in local and state tax revenues, as per the Maryland Department of Commerce FY2022 report. These figures underscore the undeniable impact of the arts on our economy.

The arts also have an undeniable positive impact on our youth. The academic, social and emotional benefits of all disciplines of arts education on students has been proven time and again by research and community engagement and support. Investing in a strong arts economy leads to learning and development opportunities for youth and demonstrates viable career paths to students interested in pursuing the arts.

Especially with the increasing focus on college and career readiness from the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, it is an essential time to invest in one of Maryland's most important industries and demonstrate that creative careers are a priority for our state. Not only are the arts defined in federal and state policies as core subjects; the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Statewide Implementation Plan acknowledges the importance of the arts:

"The Blueprint for Maryland's Future and the updated CCR standard are not intended to alter the need for high quality programs and content in **fine arts**, civics, physical education, and other areas that are **necessary to provide a holistic education and enable every student to be well-rounded and meet the CCR standard.**" (Pillar 3.1.1(b)) This language supports the viability of arts careers as a pathway for students to pursue in their education and into their professional life.

Despite these substantial contributions to Maryland's economy and youth, many artists face significant economic hardships. The path of an artist is often marked by financial instability due to the fluctuating nature of opportunities and the costs associated with producing their work. HB1451/SB 764 proposes an essential framework for addressing these economic challenges. It aims to further study the needs of artists and provide them with the support they need.

Your support of this bill will acknowledge the cultural significance of our artists and reinforce a sector that is a cornerstone of Maryland's economic framework. We believe that with the proper support, our artists can continue to enhance the state's cultural landscape and drive economic growth.

Please consider the profound impact your support could have on the lives of artists and the cultural wealth of Maryland. Vote YES for HB1451/SB 764, ensuring our state remains a nurturing ground for the arts.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this pivotal issue.

Rachel McGrain, Executive Director  
[Arts Education in Maryland Schools \(AEMS\)](#)

Julia DiBussolo, Executive Director  
[Arts Every Day](#)

Ellie Mitchell & Rick Tyler, Jr., Co-Chairs  
[Maryland Education Coalition \(MEC\)](#)

sharlimar douglass, Chair  
[Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education](#)