

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Health and Human Services

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



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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

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Hearing: March 19, 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.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cory V. McCray
45th District