

Honorable Members of the House Appropriations Committee

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 0961
Commissioned Public Art - Artist Rights

As Executive Director of the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (GBCA), I am writing to ask the House Appropriations Committee to support HB0961, Commissioned Public Art-Artist Rights.

GBCA is a leading provider of support and services for artists and cultural organizations in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carrol, Harford, and Howard counties. GBCA knows first-hand how important is to provide these protections for artists and to protect public investment in such artworks.

The cultural sector makes a \$13 billion impact on Maryland's economy and is responsible for over 80,000 jobs. In actuality, those numbers are much larger as they do not adequately reflect artists who operate independently as small businesses throughout the state—small businesses with little to no access to legal services in the event they need them.

The work of artists in public spaces provide assets to the community, promote tourism, and activate underutilized commons. They reflect the spaces in which they are installed and offer opportunities for contemplation and interaction.

Thank you for your consideration. Artists and communities living and working in Maryland are counting on your support.

Sincerely,

Jeannie L. Howe, Executive Director
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