

13 February 2025

To: The Honorable Members of the House Appropriations Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 0961 - Commissioned Public Art - Artist Rights

Dear Honorable Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 0961, which seeks to protect the rights of artists in relation to commissioned public art. As a career arts professional with over 30 years of experience representing, exhibiting, building scholarship for, and forming legacy protections around culturally significant art works and their makers, I believe this bill is a crucial step in safeguarding both the integrity of public art and the rights of the artists who create it.

Public art has the unique power to shape communities, foster dialogue, and inspire future generations. Supporting public art is vital not only for enriching the quality of life for our constituents, but also for its role in cultural and civic engagement. By supporting HB 0961, this committee would send a clear message that Maryland values the contributions of artists and recognizes their rights to preserve the integrity and longevity of their works.

The preservation of public art's veracity benefits both artists and the public by ensuring that art remains a meaningful and historically significant part of our day. After all, art is a mirror of our time that transcends language, economic, and educational differences. Public art links us together. When artists can safeguard the vision and intent behind their work, they are empowered to continue creating without fear of alteration or destruction, and without fear of losing their intellectual property entitlements. The public, in turn, experiences art as it was intended, in its original form and context, with dignity attached.

As a professional who has worked in various facets of the arts, and as a member of this community, I understand the importance of protecting the rights of artists. This bill is a vital step in ensuring that public art remains a vibrant and respected part of our shared cultural landscape, while upholding the values, ideas, and cultural significance that such works represent.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of HB 0961. I urge you to support this important bill, which will protect the rights of artists and benefit our community by ensuring public art flourishes in Maryland, while preserving the integrity, dignity, and rights of the artists who bring it into creation.

Sincerely,  
Amy Eva Raehse

Executive Director & Partner at Goya Contemporary Gallery & Goya-Girl Press, Inc.  
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Board of Trustees at The Creative Alliance of Greater Baltimore (Emeritus)  
Board of Trustees at International Fine Print Dealers Association  
Board of Trustees at the IFPDA Foundation  
Board of Trustees at University of Maryland Global Campus Art Advisory  
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