



maryland art place

February 14, 2025

**Attention:** House Appropriations Committee

**Re:** HOUSE BILL 961

**Lead sponsor:** Delegate Elizabeth Embry

**Co-sponsors:** Delegates, Acevero, Boyce, Crutchfield, Kaufman, McComas, Pasteur, and Ruff

**Sponsor in the Senate:** Cheryl Kagan

Dear Honorable Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of Maryland Art Place (MAP,) I am writing in support of the House Bill 0961. MAP's core mission is to support living visual artist in our state. As such, part of that work is rooted in advocating for the rights of artists, whether it be for proper compensation or basic intellectual rights such owning the copyright of their creations. In no way should artists be expected to waive the right to own their work (VARA Visual Artist Rights Act of 1990). For the purposes of artistic legacy and historical preservation I urge this committee to approve HB0961.

Sincerely,

Amy Cavanaugh

Executive Director, Maryland Art Place