

Erin Frisby

Board President, This Could Go Boom!

Regarding: SB0980

Feb. 28th, 2025

My name is Erin Frisby. I am Prince George's County resident and a co-founder of the local nonprofit organization, This Could Go Boom!. This Could Go Boom! supports the local and regional music community with programming that advances equality in the music industry. We are fortunate to have received funding from Maryland Heritage Areas Authority to produce a music and culture festival focusing on the rich history of women and LGBTQIA contributions to the Anacostia region's musical traditions while celebrating local performing musicians and engaging multigenerational and multicultural communities.

This Could Go Boom! is a small grassroots organization that was founded by working musicians. We are volunteer-led and able to recognize and respond to the needs of our community quickly. We operate on a small budget fueled by individual contributions, earned income, and governmental and foundation support. Without funding from MHAA, we would not be able to realize this project which is bringing artists, a public park, a library, local businesses and four towns together to help tell the story of our local culture and to celebrate our exceptional and unique music scene. We received half of the budget we submitted for the project and are creatively bringing it to fruition with enthusiastic in-kind support and dedicated volunteers.

The story of our festival is a wonderful example of the exponential value of MHAA grants. Not only will this project result in a free and accessible public event that will bring together our multicultural community. It has also allowed our small organization to deepen relationships with our local towns. We are partnering with the Port Towns communities and are benefitting from learning more about the needs and desires of our wider community while working closely with Town Mayors and Administrators. We are highlighting our local artists and businesses and bringing everyone together to learn more about themselves and their neighbors.

I encourage you to lift the limit for MHAA funding in order to unlock the potential, innovation, and collaborative spirit of Maryland. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.