



ARENA PLAYERS, INC. 801 MCCULLOH STREET BALTIMORE, MD 21201 410-728-6500

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February 27, 2026

Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

I am writing today to submit this letter of support for the passage of **Senate Bill 0818: State Center - Development - Contract, Plan Requirements, and Advisory Group** on behalf of Arena Players, Inc.

Arena Players, Inc., based in the Seton Hill neighborhood of Baltimore City, is proud to be the oldest continuously operating African-American community theater in the United States. Since 1961, we have made our home at 801 McCulloh Street, just 0.1 miles from the State Center property line at the intersection of Madison Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Arena Players is deeply invested in this community and the development of the State Center. We have owned our building in this community since 1969, and we are currently embarking on a more than \$7 million renovation project. We have both a long-standing history and a strong investment in the future in this neighborhood.

With this in mind, Arena Players is eager to support Senate Bill 0818. State Center development will have a tremendous impact on the surrounding neighborhood, and it is critical that the community is able to provide input, have access to transparent and timely information, and leverage benefits of the project for the surrounding area. We are eager to collaborate with our fellow anchor institutions to support the State Center Advisory Group, and to ultimately support both the State Center and the surrounding region.

It is for these reasons that we encourage you to **support of SB0818: State Center - Development - Contract, Plan Requirements, and Advisory Group.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Catherine Orange*

Arena Players, Inc.