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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 127
Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program**

Thank you for consideration of HB127. This legislation creates the Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, a new capital grant fund that will be administered by the Maryland State Arts Council.

The Program has two components - a competitive grant program for large institutions (\$3 m+ budgets) and another one for mid-size to small institutions.

Montgomery County is multicultural, growing more so, and is now home to many organizations and individual artists who reflect the county's diverse populace. Growth in the number and budgets of eligible organizations has brought more competition for public funding, and there is not a strong base of private funding to sustain the arts and humanities in Montgomery County. The Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County's research, in line with the findings and preliminary recommendations of the County-commissioned September 2018 Arts & Cultural Facilities Feasibility Study by Victor Gotesman Performing Arts Facilities Planning, demonstrates that the growth of many nascent, seasoned and legacy organizations, artists and scholars practicing their art across the county requires increased financial and human resources, increased technical, capital and capacity building assistance, relationship building, and professional development opportunities. Two recent fires - last year, at Adventure Theatre in Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture and earlier this year at the Sandy Spring Museum - demonstrate the need for critical capital funds to assist arts and humanities organizations with existing structure or physical plant repairs that are key to an organization's arts or humanities mission. Effective capital funding encourages and helps sustain our cultural ecosystem by supporting both emerging and established organizations and responds to needs outside of programmatic or general operating expenses.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB 127.
Suzan Jenkins, CEO, Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County

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