

American Visionary Art Museum

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

Thank you for consideration of HB127. This legislation creates a much-needed Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program benefiting organizations all across our beautiful state, with a new capital grant fund that will be thoughtfully and efficiently 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 that is open to both arts entities supported through the Maryland State Arts Council.

Last year, I sadly witnessed an increase in need for capital projects of unforeseen repair due to vandalism when my colleagues at The Jewish Museum of Maryland experienced breakage of their historic stained-glass windows. We, too, had our first serious damage in 24 years of operation of our campus' electric blue light bollards. This bill will provide a truly needed, flexible source of quick rescue repair funds in addition to spreading capital support to aid arts institutions, large and small, all across our state.

Please consider your personal support to provide passage of this bi-partisan and innovative bill meant only as a blessing – this year.

Thank you for all you do and for your time in contemplating adding your own support in favor of the passage of HB 127.

With sincere respect and appreciation for your care in this matter,



Rebecca Alban Hoffberger, Founder & Director
American Visionary Art Museum