



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 that is open to both arts organization and cultural and historical institutions.

Frederick County is considered one of the most art-centric communities in the state and the arts are fueling our economic vibrancy but we cannot fulfill our potential without a source of capital support that this bill would provide. The number one concern cited among our artist --and arts organization -- members is a lack of space. From the individual studio artist to the Frederick Symphony Orchestra, our arts stakeholders are not able to stabilize and grow without the infrastructure necessary to provide accessible programming.

HB 127 creates a program that promises equity in distribution of funds, and allows the critical arts services we provide to flourish. The Frederick Arts Council is itself in the early stages of restoring a church in downtown Frederick. The community arts center will house our public art program and serve as a community center for arts and culture. The 8000 square foot building will create a space for us to serve the people of Frederick County, our thousands of public school students, and the many visitors who come to experience the unique cultural amenities Frederick has to offer.

We know this fund would help us complete this important project and would also help the nearly two dozen grantee organizations we support who are doing work in all corners of our county.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB 127.

In appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise Kennelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Louise Kennelly

Executive Director

Frederick Arts Council 11 West Patrick St. Frederick Maryland 21701

