



January 23, 2020

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

Thank you for your 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.

Over the past 6 fiscal years (FY13-FY18), the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) has raised and expended, in addition to its annual operating costs of \$1.3 million, over \$3.7 million for capital expenses related to facility renovations and upgrades. Creating a new Maryland Arts and Culture Capital Grant Program, provides additional resources and potential leveraged funding when seeking grants and financial support from federal public resources, private foundations, and individuals.

During the past six fiscal years, the MFA has averaged 43,969 visitors each year. The museum has received visitors from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 62 foreign countries. Each year the museum receives citizens from all 23 Maryland Counties, and the City of Baltimore. The MFA is one of five nationally accredited fine arts museums in Maryland and an anchor cultural institution in Washington County, Western Maryland, and the 4-state region.

HB 127 would address critical needs for many arts organizations throughout the state providing support for infrastructure, visitor safety and future economic growth.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB127

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Massie Lane'.

Rebecca Massie Lane
Director