



# PRESERVATION MARYLAND

February 9, 2024

Hon. Ben Barnes  
Appropriations Committee  
House Office Building, 6 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, Maryland

**RE: HB0688 FAVORABLE**

**Chairperson Barnes,**

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Preservation Maryland and our thousands of statewide supporters, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **SUPPORT of HB0688**— a piece of legislation which will authorize the Governor, beginning in fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$5M to the Maryland Historical Trust to be used to provide grants to museums under the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program.

Preservation Maryland is the nonprofit, statewide voice for historic preservation that harnesses the power of historic places by revitalizing and reinvesting in communities, advocating, and building the historic trades workforce for the benefit of all Marylanders. (Learn more at: [presmd.org](http://presmd.org))

*Why We Support This:* Preservation Maryland has long championed the state's investment in museums and previously worked to have the Maryland Historical Trust study and document the overwhelming need for this type of funding. With the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States approaching in 2026, now is the time to increase the state's investment in history. As Maryland is without a singular official state museum, the tradition has been to provide support to the state's network of museums of all sizes via the Museum Assistance or Advancement grant program. The program was used to enhance museum exhibits, visitor facilities, and provide educational programming across the state. Without funding for over a decade, this infusion of support could make a profound difference for the state's history and heritage.

**Favorable**

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Redding, President & CEO