



Maryland Museums Association  
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**Written Testimony for Maryland Historical Trust:  
Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program Funding (HB0688)**

Maryland General Assembly  
Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**March 25, 2024**

Dear Senators,

Please accept this letter as written testimony in support of a minimum \$5M appropriation in FY2025 for the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program (MAP) at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) as recommended in House Bill 0688.

We strongly support the House amendment to the bill which removes language in the original legislation excluding beneficiaries of Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) grants from applying to the MAP program.

Notwithstanding that MAP has gone unfunded for over 10 years, during the pandemic, Maryland museums would not have been able to access COVID relief funds through MSAC had they also been current MAP grantees. This example highlights the potentially detrimental impact to our cultural institutions of keeping these grant programs exclusive of each other.

Additionally, state agencies like MSAC and MHT are empowered to create equitable funding formulas, and develop eligibility and award criteria based on each agency's expertise in the field and the needs of their stakeholders — without an exclusion mandated by law.

Funding MAP at a significant level this Session is an opportunity to provide support at a critical time in preparations for America250 (2026) and Maryland400 (2034) when all eyes will be on Maryland museums to deliver accurate and engaging interpretive experiences to residents and visitors alike.

Sincerely,

Meagan Baco, Board Chair  
Maryland Museums Association, Inc.