



AIA
Maryland

Promoting Maryland Architecture Since 1965

21 January 2019

Senator Delores G. Kelley, Chair and Sponsor
Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony and Letter of Support for SBO012
Capital Projects – Inclusion of Public Art

Dear Senator Kelley, and Members of the Finance Committee;

We are writing to offer AIA Maryland's support for Senate bill OO12 Capital Projects Inclusion of Public Art. AIA Maryland represents over 1,800 Architects in the state of Maryland. Since its inception, AIA Maryland has advocated for provisions of law that recognize the value of art and design. This bill aligns Maryland with policies that exist in 28 other states and territories and it enables one means of supporting the arts, a fundamental element that contributes to the well-being of our communities.

In addition to cultivating imagination, the arts serve as an important economic and education driver in the state of Maryland. Several state universities such as Morgan State, University of Maryland and Towson University and independent schools such as MICA all have very strong arts programs which train creative individuals who remain active members of Maryland communities. Funding public art provides elements that create a welcoming sense of place or add a desirable quality to building and renovation projects and they often preserve elements of culture or heritage for future generations of citizens.

We encourage you to vote in favor of this legislation and help foster imagination, build a sense of identity and community and help to support an important sector of small businesses in Maryland. Thank you for your consideration and your vote.

Sincerely,

Chris Parts, AIA
Past President, AIA Maryland
Email: cparts@hcm2.com

cc: Finance Committee:

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