

Howard County Council testimony in support of CR18-2020
confirming my appointment to the Downtown Columbia
Partnership

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Council Chair Deb Jung and members Liz Walsh, Opel Jones, Christiana Rigby and David Yungmann. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of my appointment to the Downtown Columbia Partnership.

I am very pleased for the opportunity to serve and fully support its mission and goals.

I have lived in Wilde Lake for 20 years. I enjoy being able to walk to Downtown for errands and entertainment. It is extremely important to me that I live in a place with a good walkability score and a place that meets my needs today and tomorrow.

Twenty five years of immersion into the history of Columbia as director of the Columbia Archives gives me a comprehensive understanding of the Downtown Columbia plan.

I have followed it from its inception -- from the call for a plan, to charrettes, to endless meetings and testimonies. I am passionate about Columbia and its continued success. It is what makes me want to serve on this board.

I retired as director of Columbia Archives, a service of Columbia Association in 2017. I was responsible for the programming and public outreach, including the successful BikeAbout, the management of the physical collection including growing the collection, and budgeting to ensure the success of the community archives. I am proud that I had a part in growing the organization and establishing it as the primary source for the study of Columbia and Jim Rouse and the place they hold in the history of urban planning.

In addition to my professional experience I have a long history of community involvement starting with boards and committees at my children's schools and scouting and then moving on to wider community interests. Highlights of my involvement are: a founding member of Bicycle Advocates of Howard County, serving on the Howard County Transportation Board and helping to organize the early Bike to Work Days in Howard

County. I am an avid supporter of the arts having served on the Howard County Arts Council Grants Committee and currently as chair the Columbia Art Center Advisory Committee. I am a long-time member of the board of Preservation Howard County and am currently co-president of The Cove Condominium Association in Wilde Lake. The arts and multi-modal transportation are among my passions and are the key elements that will drive the success of downtown and Columbia. The celebration of Columbia's 50th birthday in 2017 provided an opportunity to "Appreciate the Past; Imagine the Future". I am enthusiastic about continuing to work toward a future as imaginative and innovative and successful as Columbia's past.