

Testimony before County Council
10-19-2020

Agenda: TAO1-FY2021
Testimony of Jean Weller
Stance: For

Toby's Dinner Theater is not just a Cultural Entertainment establishment. For 48 years Toby has been the founder and director of "The Columbia Center for the Theatrical Arts". This non-profit 501c3 organization has supported youth theatrical arts programs both in and beyond the County.

They offer excellent professional theater arts training for young children through teens as well as presenting free programs for at risk and lower income youth in the Baltimore area. In addition, they offer free musical arts programs for children and young adults with Special Needs both in and beyond the schools in Howard County.

My son Paul has multiple disabilities and participated in New Horizons for a few shows, which performed once at Toby's Dinner Theater. These are designed to develop social, emotional, and language skills, and they brought out the budding comedian in him.

The Community should be thankful that Toby's Dinner Theater wants to be a major part of this Cultural Arts Center knowing it will continue to thrive for all the ways Toby has already contributed to the community in the theatrical arts in addition to the excellent Theater performances she brings to our community. The Dinner Theater gets such tremendous support from business leaders and families in our community because of the excellent performances by children, youth, and adults as well as Toby's huge artistic impact on our community and beyond.

COLUMBIA DOWNTOWN HOUSING CORPORATION
9820 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 224, Columbia, MD 21046
(O) 410-313-6316; housing@howardcountymd.gov

BY E-MAIL
October 19, 2020

Ms. Deb Jung, Chair, and Members of the Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City MD 21043

RE: TAO1- FY2021 – Funding for New Cultural Center (NCC) – SUPPORT TESTIMONY

Dear Chairman Jung and Council Members:

The Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation (CDHC) fully supports and requests County Council approval of TAO1-FY2021, an Act transferring \$54,652,000 from C0214, Category Contingency Fund, to capital project C0364, New Cultural Center, for Fiscal Year 2021. CDHC and all the NCC stakeholders have been proactive yet patient in working with the Council and the Administration to bring accurate information forward and to respond to questions and concerns.

When the Council failed to approve NCC funding in May because some members said they needed more information, time and transparency to evaluate the request, CDHC stepped forward to lead three public summer workgroup sessions including Council members and other stakeholders. The sessions provided extensive information and transparency about NCC and Artists Flats, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) development to be built as part of and on top of the NCC. For detailed information about NCC and workgroup sessions, see <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/CDHC>.

We are approaching six months since the Council moved the funding to contingency. The time to move forward is now. There is transparency, there is a clear and viable financial and programmatic NCC plan before the Council that reasonably manages County costs and risks. NCC construction must begin in early Spring 2021 to meet federal LIHTC deadlines and use \$65 million in non-county funds awarded to build Artists Flats. There is no other viable way to create the 87 affordable units at Artists Flats.

Any further delay will kill Artists Flats, the first LIHTC development included in the affordable residential development plan for Downtown Columbia enacted by HR-52-2016 et. al. and the Developer Rights and Responsibilities Agreement (DRRA) executed in accordance with that legislation. The DRRA was signed by the County Executive and the Howard Hughes Corporation in February 2017 and is being relied on by multiple parties as the binding agreement and plan

The Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation (“CDHC”) serves as the Downtown Columbia Housing Foundation recognized by the Howard County Council under Title 28 of the Howard County Code. CDHC is organized specifically to fulfill the vision of the Downtown Columbia Plan for a full spectrum and diverse mix of housing in Downtown Columbia, including affordable housing that will ensure low, moderate and middle- income families will have an opportunity to live in Downtown Columbia.

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for ensuring a diverse and vibrant Downtown Columbia with housing affordable and accessible to people with a range of incomes, abilities, ages, and lifestyles. Individuals, businesses, and organizations have relied on the commitments made in this document and spent money and time to implement it. It is incumbent on the Howard County Council to stand with the Administration and move forward NOW to bring the Downtown Plan and DRRA to reality.

The downtown affordable housing legislation resulted from diligent, candid, and thoughtful exchanges of ideas over two years among housing advocates, community groups, residents, Howard Hughes as master developer, CDHC, the County Housing Commission, and the County Council and Administration. CDHC has worked diligently to implement the DRRA. Artists Flats will be homes for 174 families, half of whom could not otherwise afford to live here. Affordable housing is a hard-earned resource to the community; as it is, these homes, the first significant increase in downtown affordability, will not arrive until 2024.

A vote YES will move the Columbia Downtown Plan, including affordable housing, forward as committed to in the DRRA. The members of the Howard County Council must meet their professed commitments to affordable housing, to Downtown Columbia and to their constituents, who expect their government to honor its written commitments.

Any further delays will cost the county \$65M in non-county resources to build the housing AND the value of the LIHTC rent restrictions, estimated at \$1.1M annually for 40 years (\$44M total - using CDHC's Live Where You Work rental subsidy payments as a model). Failure to vote YES will undermine the DRRA and the Four-Party Agreement signed by the County, Howard Hughes, the Commission and CDHC. It will jeopardize the County's capacity to compete successfully for future federal and state housing resources essential to create more than 400 of the 900 affordable units agreed to in the DRRA. The County will fail to meet the very real need for sustainable housing affordable for its residents and workers, many of whom are black and brown, seniors, and people with disabilities.

The County has a legal and moral obligation to affirmatively further fair housing. Seven years is long enough to wait. These are especially difficult times, likely to get harder on the most vulnerable. Will the County honor this obligation, or tell the 87 Artists Flats' families to keep waiting in line?

The need for quality affordable housing in our county will only increase as we reopen and get back to work. NCC is poised to help put people back to work and to enhance the community and local businesses and residents through its operations and programming. It will be an amenity for downtown Columbia and bring a central site under County control. It can do all

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this, as well as house essential workers and critical community players once completed. Its new residents and users, and the workers who build it, will contribute to the vitality of this growing city, as well as paying income taxes to the county and helping to ensure that Downtown remains an economic engine for the county. The foundation of Columbia was and is a racially and economically diverse community living and working together; it is time for the Council to add another important cornerstone. Vote YES on November 2, 2020.

Sincerely,

Pat

Patricia Rynn Sylvester
President

The Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation ("CDHC") serves as the Downtown Columbia Housing Foundation recognized by the Howard County Council under Title 28 of the Howard County Code. CDHC is organized specifically to fulfill the vision of the Downtown Columbia Plan for a full spectrum and diverse mix of housing in Downtown Columbia, including affordable housing that will ensure low, moderate and middle- income families will have an opportunity to live in Downtown Columbia.

Sayers, Margery

From: Susan Garber <buzysusan23@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2020 5:03 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: TAO1-FY2021

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I urge the Council to TABLE consideration of TAO1-FY2021 for all of the reasons identified by the County Auditor. Such a complex and costly project should not be rushed into with incomplete information.

Sincerely,

Susan Garber
North Laurel

Sayers, Margery

From: Jung, Deb
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 12:46 PM
To: Sayers, Margery
Subject: FW: Introduce Legislation and Release Columbia Plan from Contingency NOW

Deb Jung

Council Chair, District 4
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-313-2001

Sign up for my newsletter [here](#).



From: Laurie Coltri <info@sg.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Jung, Deb <djung@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Introduce Legislation and Release Columbia Plan from Contingency NOW

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Deb Jung,

Release the funding for the New Cultural Center NOW!

I have lived with my family in the Thunder Hill neighborhood of Columbia since 1996. My spouse and I have raised two beautiful daughters in Howard County. We have loved the arts in our community and my husband and I have been members and leaders in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, and its vaunted Chalice Choir, since 2003.

The Cultural Center will help support our love of the arts, but my deeper concern is housing.

We are seniors, and have basically cloistered in our home since March. In our isolation, we are served by the wonderful folks who deliver our mail and groceries.

If we do get sick, we are served by our health care workers - the docs and dentists, the nurses

and technicians, and those who keep our hospitals running - the food workers, cleaners, and other amazing folk. They put themselves on the line for us. Our children were raised by the amazing educators and administrators of the Howard County educational system.

Our county, and particularly my zipcode 21045, contain numerous modest-income jobs and we should do a far better job of providing housing for our HEROES in health care, grocery work, education, delivery and others who have made it possible to survive the Covid pandemic.

We owe it to these beloved workers to give them adequate housing that they can afford; in a location that makes it possible for them to have easy commutes to work; contribute to a Green, carbon-light future; and raise their children safely.

Thank you for listening!

Laurie S. Coltri, Thunder Hill

Laurie Coltri

lscoltri@verizon.net

5223 Patriot Lane

Columbia, Maryland 21045

Sayers, Margery

From: Amanda Hof <amanda@howardcountytourism.com>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 10:45 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Tourism: Letters of Support in Funding Capital Project C0364, The New Cultural Center
Attachments: Visit Howard County Supports Funding for Columbia Cultural Center.pdf; MTC Supports Funding for Columbia Cultural Center.docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

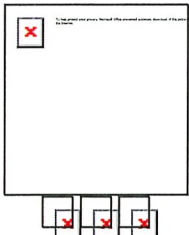
Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

In lieu of virtual testimonies for this evening's work session, please find attached letters from the Maryland Tourism Coalition and Visit Howard County in support of funding Capital Project C0364, The New Cultural Center in Downtown Columbia.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of funding this project. Please let me know if you have any questions and how I may be of further assistance in this matter.

Respectfully,

Amanda Hof



Amanda Hof
Executive Director
Visit Howard County

Business cell phone/text: (667) 352-5166

Email: Amanda@howardcountytourism.com

Visitor Website: VisitHowardCounty.com

Industry Website: HowardCountyTourism.com

Address: 8267 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043

[CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION PORTAL](#)



October 16, 2020

Re: New Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts Funding

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

Visit Howard County is in support of funding for capital project C0364, the New Cultural Center, and to allow this the project to move forward. More than ever, this project is needed for Howard County's tourism and arts community. Under the Maryland Department of Commerce, Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts you will find the Maryland State Arts Council. Tourism & Arts, once the tenth-largest business sector in the state of Maryland is now the industry that was hit the hardest by the COVID pandemic.

Howard County currently does not have an Arts & Entertainment District, which helps develop and promote community involvement, tourism, and revitalization through tax-related incentives that attract artists, arts organizations, and other creative enterprises to towns and cities across the State. Since the Arts & Entertainment District program's inception in 2001, the growing number of districts across the state have helped spur economic revitalization and leverage the arts to work toward economic goals. According to the MSAC 2019 Annual Report, in FY18 there were 25 A&E Districts in 18 different counties and Baltimore City. The districts supported \$72.1 million in state and local tax revenue, 9,987 jobs, and \$320.8 million in wages. In 2019 three more districts have been added. At this time the FY20 report has not been released but I do encourage you to read the report to see how the arts are here to stay and are ever-growing <https://www.msac.org/publications/fiscal-year-2019-annual-report>

Below are statistics from the state's calendar year 2019 Tourism Economics report to affirm tourism is a wise investment:

- Total Visitors: 3.2 M total (up 4.4% over 2018)
 - 1.3 million overnight
 - 1.9 million day trips
- Tourism Industry Sales \$652.5 M (up 2.4% over 2018)
- State & Local Taxes: 105 Million (up 4.75% over 2018)
- Tourism Labor Income: 422 Million (up 6.10% over 2018)
- Full-Time jobs supported: 11,152 (up 4.75% over 2018)

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of Howard County's tourism and art community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Hof".

Amanda Hof
Executive Director, Visit Howard County



October 16, 2020

Re: New Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts Funding

Dear Howard County County Council,

I am writing you today on behalf of the Maryland Tourism Coalition, which both Toby's Dinner Theatre and Visit Howard County are members of, to ask you to provide the funding for the new Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts and to let this project move forward. More than ever, this project is needed for the community of Howard County and Maryland Tourism & Arts. Under the Maryland Department of Commerce, Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts you will find the Maryland State Arts Council. Tourism & Arts, once the tenth largest business sector in the state of Maryland is now the industry that was hit the hardest by the COVID pandemic.

One may believe the world of art is dying. I beg to differ. While Howard County currently does not have an Arts & Entertainment District, which helps develop and promote community involvement, tourism, and revitalization through tax-related incentives that attract artists, arts organizations, and other creative enterprises to towns and cities across the State, it could one day with all that is going on in downtown Columbia and with adding new Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts. Since the program's inception in 2001, the growing number of districts across the state have helped spur economic revitalization and leverage the arts to work toward economic goals. According to the MSAC 2019 Annual Report, in FY18 there were 25 A&E Districts in 18 different counties and Baltimore City. The districts supported \$72.1 million in state and local tax revenue, 9,987 jobs and \$320.8 million in wages. In 2019 three more districts have been added. At this time the FY20 report has not been released but I do encourage you to read the report to see how the arts are here to stay and are ever growing <https://www.msac.org/publications/fiscal-year-2019-annual-report>

Not sure how tourism impacts the state? Here are a few tidbits for you for FY20. Visitors to Maryland spent nearly \$19 billion in that calendar year, up 3 percent from the previous year. The Economic Impact of Tourism in Maryland, an independent report conducted by Tourism Economics, shows visitation reached 41.2 million, with growth in both day and overnight trips. Visitor spending generated \$2.6 billion in state and local taxes, saving each household in Maryland \$1,175 in annual taxes. While visitor spending in Maryland has continued to grow each year since 2009, 2019 had the fastest growth in visitor spending since 2015. Tourism is one of the largest private-sector employers in Maryland, supporting over 226,000 direct and indirect jobs in the state, meaning one out of every 16 jobs in Maryland is a tourism job. More than half of all tourism jobs are family-sustaining jobs.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of Maryland's tourism and art community.

Sincerely,

Ruth Toomey

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Toomey" in a cursive script.

Executive Director, Maryland Tourism Coalition

Sayers, Margery

From: LINDA Wengel <lwengel@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 6:14 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: LWVHC supports New Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

As advocates for mixed income housing in Downtown Columbia, the League of Women Voters of Howard County once again asks this council to finally approve the funding of the New Cultural Center, one of five projects promised in the 2016 DRRRA between the county and the Howard Hughes Corp. to fulfill the need for affordable housing in Downtown.

It has been 10 years since the Downtown Plan was approved. We have watched thousands of market rate apartments constructed and occupied but the promise of affordable units remains unfulfilled.

Through the tedious efforts of the Housing Commission, the Downtown Columbia Housing Commission, the county government and the Orensteins, changes have been made in the size and funding sources for the project which we hope will give this council the assurance it needs to give the green light to the New Cultural Center.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated

Linda Wengel
Action Chair
League of Women Voters of Howard County

Sayers, Margery

From: Dr. Chao Wu <chaowu2016@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 10:50 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Ball, Calvin B
Subject: Feedback on Howard County Culture Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members and County Executive,

I have been thinking about the Culture Center in Downtown Columbia. Since the relocation of the central library proposed several years ago in our county's long term planning, I was wondering where Howard Hughs would eventually donate the land for such a library. Instead, I have been proposing the alternative.

We can put the central library inside the culture center where it can have one or two stories. There is not much free land available in the downtown Columbia area. By integrating the library in the building, it will save space and cost less money for our county in the long run.

It also greatly benefits people living in the affordable housing units proposed there. It helps them to get books and other services readily available in the same building.

I have been advocating for the future library to be a community center as well. Digital books will replace paper books in a significant amount which will reduce the need of library book shells. Non-expensive, easily accessible indoor community spaces are a highly desired resource for the community.

By incorporating a community center idea into our future library construction, we can consolidate community service, reduce cost and serve our residents better.

Thanks for serving our residents.

Best regards,

Chao

Chao Wu, *PhD*
Board Member of Howard County Board of Education
website: <https://www.chaowu.org>

Note: The opinion in the email does not represent the opinion of the Howard County Board of Education unless it is clearly stated.

Sayers, Margery

From: Lynne <riceroost@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2020 9:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Columbia New Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ *and does not receive yes votes* ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,

Lynne Rice

Sayers, Margery

From: Molly Klezer <klezerlouise@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 1:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC project

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the project out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,

Molly Klezer

Sayers, Margery

From: Morganne Chu Artist <morganne.chu@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 9:25 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the project out of contingency.

By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ and does not receive yes votes ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition.

Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

TOBY'S DINNER THEATRE HAS BEEN MY SAVING GRACE DURING THIS PANDEMIC.

Now I know that theatres are shut down during this current health crisis, so hearing this may seem a bit odd. But I don't know how I would be right now without this inspiring, caring, and incredible theatre. If you are wondering, yes, I lost my job as a hostess at Toby's and lost all performer contracts as an Actress for this year because of COVID-19. However, before I lost everything, Toby and her theatre gave me so much. Growing up here in Columbia, Maryland, Toby's Dinner Theatre was a magical place to go to. Not only could I spend a lovely night out with my family and friends, but I was transported to new worlds and places where I learned life inspiring lessons. I was also fortunate to be a part of Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts'

(CCTA) Summer Productions. Every year I was only able to participate because of scholarships I received from them. Those summers spent with Toby and her remarkable team not only gave me the skills I needed to pursue my education in the arts, but they also gave me a lifelong community of support. It is through this support, with fellow actors, friends from summer's past, and co-workers from Toby's that I have been able to keep afloat mentally and emotionally. And this is all that Toby's has given me with just their current means. I am simply one person and one story. But I know that with this new Cultural Center, so many more children, young adults, and the young at heart will be inspired and up-lifted by this phenomenal theatre company, and have the same gratitude that I am expressing here. Please vote yes not for me, but for this community we live in and for those who travel far and wide for the magic of Toby's. She helps more groups than we could even imagine.

Thank you,
Morganne Chu

Sayers, Margery

From: Ilona Kessell <ikessell@mcdonogh.org>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 6:54 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Columbia New Cultural Center...

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
Ilona Kessell

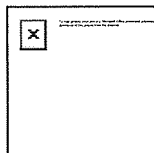
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Ilona Kessell

Dance Instructor, 5-12
Chair, Middle School Performing Arts

ikessell@mcdonogh.org
443-544-7359

McDonogh School
Owings Mills, Maryland
www.mcdonogh.org



Sayers, Margery

From: David Smith <acmdas@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 2:55 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center Funding

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the project out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,

David Smith
(410) 227-0419
acmdas@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Emily Thompson <eathompson592@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 11:23 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
Emily Thompson

--
Emily Thompson
(443)340-6146
eathompson592@gmail.com

Sayers, Margery

From: A L Kaplan <alkaplanauthor@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 6:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center in Columbia

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ *and does not receive yes votes* ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Sincerely,
Amy Kaplan

--
A. L. Kaplan
alkaplanauthor@gmail.com
alkaplanauthor.com
[Star Touched](#)

Sayers, Margery

From: Karen Yezek <yezekhome@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 3:15 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,

Ron and Karen Yezek

Sayers, Margery

From: FRANK HIGGINS <basplyr457@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2020 10:47 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

September 19, 2020

Dear Members of the Howard County Council:

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ *and does not receive yes votes* ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,

Frank Higgins

Sayers, Margery

From: jblank45@verizon.net
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2020 1:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Toby's Dinner Theatre

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the project out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you

Sayers, Margery

From: Anthony Neenan <campyman@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2020 12:32 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Approval Of funding for The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ *and does not receive yes votes* ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
Tony Neenan

Tony Neenan, Trumpet
cell: (443) 756-0065
hm: (410) 788-4607
[e-mail: campyman@verizon.net](mailto:campyman@verizon.net)

Sayers, Margery

From: Mary Ellen Garcia <tou247365@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 5:28 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Toby's Dinner Theatre

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ *and does not receive yes votes* ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you

Mary Ellen Garcia
Tou247365@yahoo.com

Sayers, Margery

From: MD <ross271@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 4:37 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: PLEASE MOVE Funding-Toby's New Cultural Arts Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ *and does not receive yes votes* ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
Ross Rawlings
Music Director/Supervisor-Toby's Dinner Theatre

Sayers, Margery

From: duchess3802@verizon.net
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 3:39 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Columbia Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ *and does not receive yes votes* ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
Lisa Hopkins

Sayers, Margery

From: Glenn Scimonelli <gmscimonelli@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 2:29 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Deb Jung, David Yungmann, and Liz Walsh to work with the County Executive Calvin Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ *and does not receive yes votes* ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. I have personally worked with Toby for almost 45 years and consider her work to be integral to the overall vision first conceived by James Rouse. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
Glenn Scimonelli

Sayers, Margery

From: SBJ Smith <thesmiths443@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 1:33 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ *and does not receive yes votes* ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,

Sam Smith

Sayers, Margery

From: Patricia Jordan <Patriciajjordan@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 11:08 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Toby's dinner theatre

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ *and does not receive yes votes* ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you

Thanks,
Patty

Patricia Jordan, Controller
Coastal Properties Management, Inc
1819 Bay Ridge Ave Suite 400
Annapolis, MD 21403

Tel 410.269.0933 Fax 410-269-1755
www.coastal-properties.com

Sayers, Margery

From: Lori Skillman <sunlori2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 9:46 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: PLEASE VOTE YES! (Cultural Center Project)

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Calvin Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ *and does not receive yes votes* ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
Lori Skillman
Elkridge, MD

Sayers, Margery

From: Lynette Casey <jamom17@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 9:25 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,

--

Lynette Casey

Sayers, Margery

From: elaine joseph <elainej59@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 9:24 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Toby's Dinner Theatre

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ *and does not receive yes votes* ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
Elaine Joseph

Sayers, Margery

From: Jeanne Marie Ford <jmgrunw@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 8:51 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ *and does not receive yes votes* ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
Jeanne Ford

Sayers, Margery

From: Kerry Foley <kfoleymd@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 3:19 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Toby's

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ *and does not receive yes votes* ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
Kerry Foley, MD

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Reenie Codelka <codereen13@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 3:00 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HOWARD COUNTY NEW CULTURAL CENTER

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council:

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball **to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the project out of contingency.** By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ and does not receive yes votes ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a *new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts*, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. **The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.**

The ARTS are an essential part of all of our educations throughout our lives!!

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,

M. Codelka

Sayers, Margery

From: Stephanie Rice <stephanierice490@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 12:24 PM
To: CouncilMail

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with the County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ *and does not receive yes votes* ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
Stephanie Rice

Sayers, Margery

From: Terrence Sweeney <Terric4465@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 12:04 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Art's Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ *and does not receive yes votes* ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,

Terrence H Sweeney

Terric4465@yahoo.com

909-561-0255

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: David Hopkins <tobysdinnertheatreshop@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 11:53 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!
The Arts are keeping people sane during this pandemic and we will be there for them in the near future. We need to improve the Arts Now more than ever!!

Thank you,

David Hopkins
Set Designer
Toby's Dinner Theater

Sayers, Margery

From: Cathy Mundy <cmundy56@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:54 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: FUND the New Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I have lived in Howard County for 60 years. One of the unique things about this County has been its support of the arts. It is what makes Howard County even **more** special. With the new Cultural Center, Howard County will be a shining example for the rest of the country. The Center will be an incredible resource for young and old alike and be a place where our citizens can come together to grow and learn and share our diversity and unity.

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
Catherine Mundy

3803 Grosvenor Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Sayers, Margery

From: Lynnjos <lynnjos@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:30 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Funding for the new Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
Howard County Arts Supporter
Lynn Joslin
She her hers
Lighting Design
(202) 251-0891
Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Crystal Freeman <cfreeman1373@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:29 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Toby's Dinner Theatre

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,

Crystal Freeman
443-254-4641

Sayers, Margery

From: Cheryl Clemens- Everidge <clclemens6676@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:28 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: NCC Project

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank You,
Cheryl Everidge

Sayers, Margery

From: Anne LaManna <annelamanna@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:28 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center Project

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,

Jamie LaManna, age 13, was recently seen in The Christmas Story at Toby's as Schwartz and was the understudy for Ralphie

Ava LaManna, age 9, will be in the upcoming show of Shrek the Musical in March 2021 as Young Fiona

As their parents, we travel 1.5 hours one way to bring our children to multiple rehearsals and 2 months of shows while our kids are in a performance. Toby's has provided an amazing experience for them! While we wait, we take advantage of Columbia's shopping and restaurants as I'm sure other parents of actors do as well. Toby's is an institution in Columbia. They and the people of Columbia deserve this important funding. (Anne & James LaManna)

Sayers, Margery

From: MaryKate Brouillet <marykbrouillet@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:20 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
MaryKate Brouillet

Sayers, Margery

From: Nick Lehan <nlehan1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 9:50 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: VOTE YES- Move Toby's OUT of Contingency

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

--

Nick Lehan
www.nicklehan.com
(240) 462-5484

Sayers, Margery

From: Rachel Sandler <rachel.sandler14@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:03 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: The arts in Howard county

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
Rachel Sandler

Sent from my iPad

Sayers, Margery

From: Coleen Foley <coleenmfoley@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:00 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Arts Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
Coleen Foley

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Kate Falco <kfalco1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:00 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center - Support

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,

Kathleen Falco

Sayers, Margery

From: John Pantazis <japantazis@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 9:57 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center funding

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
John Pantazis

Sayers, Margery

From: Jeffrey Shankle <jeffreysshankle@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 9:55 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
Jeffrey Shankle

Sent from my iPhone

Sayers, Margery

From: Monique Midgette <moniquemidgette@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 9:54 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,

Monique Midgette

--

Monique Midgette
she,her,hers
moniquemidgette.com
Director.writer.creator
Expect miracles

Recent Productions:

Having Our Say, Director

Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma

February 19-March 8, 2020

Dessa Rose, Director

Olney Theatre

March 6, 2020

Sayers, Margery

From: Monique Midgette <moniquemidgette@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 9:54 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,

Monique Midgette

--

Monique Midgette
she,her,hers
moniquemidgette.com
Director.writer.creator
Expect miracles

Recent Productions:

***Having Our Say, Director
Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma
February 19-March 8, 2020***

***Dessa Rose, Director
Oliney Theatre
March 6, 2020***

Sayers, Margery

From: Maggie Dransfield <margaret.drans@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 9:52 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

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It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,

Maggie Sines

Sayers, Margery

From: Lynn Sharp Spears <sharpspearsl@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 9:51 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: New Cultural Center

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

I am writing to ask Councilmembers Jung, Yungmann, and Walsh to work with County Executive Ball to pre-file legislation in September in order to move funding for the New Cultural Center project out of contingency, and then vote YES to move the *project* out of contingency. By doing so, you will help Howard County make the fiscally responsible decision to utilize \$64 million in state funding while it is available, and pave the way for hundreds of units of affordable housing for Howard County families to live and thrive in Downtown Columbia, bringing together a rich blend of affordable, accessible arts experiences for residents of all ages in Howard County.

If the NCC project is not moved out of contingency ~ *and does not receive yes votes* ~ the already secured \$62 million Federal dollars will be lost, and it will be impossible to see Toby's dream of a new, modern Toby's Dinner Theatre, a children's theatre, and a home for her school, The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, come to fruition. Toby was asked to bring arts education to Columbia almost 50 years ago by Columbia's founder, James Rouse, and she has continued to serve that mission and the community with quality, respect, and grace. The arts projects and organizations that Toby and Hal Orenstein have created in Howard County have been strongly embraced by the community, and deserve to be supported so they can continue to provide entertaining, educating, and enriching events that elevate the quality of life for all.

It is essential to pre-file legislation and please vote YES!

Thank you,
Lynn

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6240 Old Dobbin Lane ■ Suite 110 ■ Columbia, MD 21045

September 9, 2020

Ms. Deb Jung
Chair, Howard County Council
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: Howard County Cultural Arts Center

Dear Chairperson Jung,

The future development of downtown Columbia and housing affordability are two issues the Howard County Chamber has taken great interest in over the past several years. From involvement to the development of the Downtown Columbia plan to supporting Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to participation in the affordable housing master plan task force, the Chamber believes these two issues to be of utmost importance to the future growth of Howard County.

Discussions pertaining to the future of downtown Columbia began well over a decade ago culminating in the adoption of the downtown Columbia Plan in 2010. A major element of the plan and discussions involved a new cultural arts center and affordable housing. We have now reached a place where those ideals can come to fruition only to have dedicated funds placed on hold.

The County's fiscal position was strained prior to Covid-19 and we understand the pressures before you now and the concerns you have. However, this project is paramount to continued momentum underway in downtown. Further, this project is a part of the TIF that was approved over two years ago which would support the first mixed-use, mixed-income project under the Downtown Development Rights Responsibility Act (DRRA). The Howard Hughes Corporation has also been following through on its commitments under the DRRA, delivering the first inclusionary affordable units in Juniper. This project has also been able to garner over \$60M in federal and state dollars which would be lost should this project not move forward.

As stated earlier, the continued growth of the downtown area is paramount to the County's economic growth. Further, it enables people to live in downtown that might not otherwise be able due to their financial conditions. We respectfully ask that you move forward with the downtown Cultural Arts Center project without further delay.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Leonardo McClarty'.

Leonardo McClarty, CC
President/CEO, Howard County Chamber

CC: Howard County Council