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**From:** Jung, Debra  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 11:06 AM  
**To:** Anderson, Isaiah  
**Subject:** FW: Howard County Center for the Arts Relocation  
**Attachments:** March 7th Speech on Relocation.pdf; Resident Artists Proposal on Courthouse Move 3-5-2024.pdf; Artist Andrei Trach Opinion Piece docx .pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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**From:** Andrei Trach <trachm@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:47 PM  
**To:** CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov  
**Subject:** Howard County Center for the Arts Relocation

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

To: Deb Jung,

Hello, I am Andrei Trach, a Resident Artist at the Howard County Center for the Arts, currently located at 8510 High Ridge Road in Ellicott City, MD. I am writing to you about my strong concerns with the proposed move of the Howard County Center for the Arts to the Historic Courthouse in Ellicott City, MD. What has been proposed (particularly for the visual arts program) is a major downgrade as the majority of it is simply abandoned office spaces with low ceilings for the art classrooms, studios and galleries. I have been a full time art handler for 24 years. I transport, pack and install artwork ranging from ancient art to contemporary art. I've worked extensively in nearly all major art institutions throughout the county as well as galleries and art centers. I know what proper art studios, galleries, art classrooms and access for such spaces should look like. I urge you to vote against budget item c0371. Attached below is my speech from the last county budget meeting with the Howard County Executive. I have attached the Resident Artists Proposal for a resolution and compromise on the courthouse move as well as a recent option piece from me. All of these describe in detail the situation. But I encourage you to reach out to me and other resident artists. I invite you to visit my studio and the current art center anytime so I can better describe to you why the current art center is vastly superior to what is being proposed and how a compromise is in the best interest of all parties. It makes no sense to spend so much money to try and

renovate abandoned office space in the courthouse only to turn the current art center into office space.

Sincerely,

Andrei Trach  
Resident Artist at the Howard County Center for the Arts  
301-775-2943  
[trachm@msn.com](mailto:trachm@msn.com)

## **March 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 Budget Hearing Speech**

The decision to relocate the Howard County Center for the Arts was announced last year by Howard County Executive Calvin Ball at his State of the County Address. However, there was no prior consultation or input sought from the resident artists at the Howard County Center for the Arts before this decision was made. Despite claims of input from over 600 community stakeholders, no official survey or consultation with resident artists has been provided.

On January 18th, 2024, we were given a tour of the proposed new art center at the courthouse. The tour was rushed, and the presentation lacked adequate detail. As experienced artists and professionals in the art industry, we believe that the proposed art center at the courthouse does not meet the standards of a proper art studio, classroom, and exhibit space.

Contrary to the current Howard County Center for the Arts, which boasts spacious studios with high ceilings, ample natural light, large skylights in hallways and well-equipped classrooms, the proposed art center at the courthouse is cramped, disjointed, has ceilings that are too low, and lacks proper ventilation for making art. The art classrooms have no windows or natural light, which creates a suboptimal atmosphere for artistic expression. With a small passenger elevator and staircase to deal with, getting art equipment in and out will be very challenging and awkward with all the other entities in the building. This will be especially true for large artwork and equipment. I have been a professional art handler for 24 years and I can confidently say I know what a proper art center looks like. This current proposal is like trying to put a square peg in a round hole. It greatly degrades what the current art center is in nearly all aspects for the visual arts.

We urge the Howard County Executive and relevant authorities to reconsider the decision to relocate the Howard County Center for the Arts and to prioritize the needs and input of resident artists. Our current art center provides a conducive environment for creativity and artistic growth, and we believe that it should remain in its current location for the benefit of the community.

I urge you to vote against budget item c0371. The proposed art center at the courthouse is a major downgrade to the current art center that has worked great for 40 years. The vast amount of money for this project can be better utilized elsewhere in the county. Other artists and students at the Howard County Center for the Arts have written letters to the county describing in much more detail the many issues and concerns of the relocation. Please reach out to me or any of us at anytime for more insight. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrei Trach / Resident Artist at the Howard County Center for the Arts /  
301-775-2943 / trachm@msn.com



## **Proposal for Courthouse Move Relating to the Visual Artists at the Howard County Center for the Arts**

Do you agree it would be great to expand the Arts in Howard County, and not minimize and degrade what works so well for 40 years?

The current Howard County Center for the Arts on 8510 High Ridge Road in Ellicott City, MD 21043, “just works” so great in many ways and is superior in every way possible than the courthouse for the visual arts and what Ballet Mobile is offered at the courthouse. The current Howard County Center for the Arts was an elementary school that was specifically designed to house people for learning, exploration and play. Where as a courthouse is designed for judgment and confinement.

Much of or perhaps all of the current space can remain an amazing satellite arts location for the visual arts and the Ballet Mobile studio. But the county can still move forward with a move into the Historic Courthouse with (all) the other entities and still get an “Arts District Designation” with the inclusion of the Divine Nine since there is an abundance of office space there for that entity. At the end of my letter I will note the specific reasons why we believe this is far better, necessary and beneficial to the public, county, resident artists and the Divine Nine. After 2 tours of the courthouse it’s very evident the current proposed plans would not only degrade the current HCCA visual arts program it would be menial compared to the best arts centers in Maryland. This would not be the Howard County exceptionalism that the county prides itself on, especially for the visual arts. We have had no sculpture program for 40 years. So instead of facilities talking about eliminating higher windows, lowering ceilings, installing an expensive HVAC system and many other things for the Divine Nine, why not possibly dedicate one of the classrooms for sculpture with a kiln? Remember, there will be no windows in the 3 classrooms at the courthouse, low ceilings and much more difficult access for the disabled. How could we possibly go from our uplifting art making environment with large 10 foot ceiling windows that open in all classrooms to that? Well, we can’t because Howard County has always been about exceptionalism from the beginning.

The county can move forward with much of what does and will work great at the Historic Courthouse but not force the things that can not be nearly as great as they were previously for the public, students and artists. The many office spaces at the courthouse have low ceilings that are very cramped for art studios would be very beneficial for the Divine Nine and no costly and difficult renovations would be needed. The Roving Radish, Black Box Theater and dance studio can work well at the courthouse.

The current proposal is about degrading the already near perfect art studio space at the current art center to office type of space and then desperately trying to cram art studios and art classrooms into a building that isn’t designed for that.

I believe we all agree that an “Arts District” designation can have tax and other financial funding benefits for the county arts but also for real estate developers and property values. Historically artists have been used for regentrification to eventually be displaced.

Although the current county plans might not be total displacement of the visual artists, if fully executed it would be a noted downgrade and destruction from what has been increasingly great for 40 years. The “Arts District” designation can still be achieved at the Historic Courthouse, as several art entities will fit into it. Can we discuss how to move forward with this proposal in the way discussed here that leaves no one behind and marginalized? And how it can be an expansion of the arts with much less cost than the current plan.

## **Current Art Space vs. Courthouse**

### **Current Studios, Classrooms and Galleries at the Howard County Center for the Arts at 8510 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043**

- All studio and art classrooms with large entire wall of windows.
- Windows that can be opened which is essential for ventilation because of materials and supplies used by various artists.
- All studios, art classrooms, and galleries have 10 foot ceilings or taller
- Studio Hallway wing hallway to hang art and has large tall skylight to photograph art accurately in natural and even light. Great senses of community as you easily move to each studio during open studios.
- All ground level and extremely short and easy access from parking and straight into art studios and classrooms.
- Ample square footage in studios with good storage shelves and drawers.
- Transporting large paintings and any heavy equipment into studios is easy and straightforward.
- Entry into art center with large windows and natural light leads immediately to the main gallery.
- Art galleries are well designed with some walls over 10 feet tall.
- Good Potential to add sculpture and ceramics classes.
- One cohesive unit on I level, as you go from the galleries and straight down one hallway to all the studios in one location.
- 24-hour access for artists.
- Sinks in individual studios and classrooms.
- Green space outside and soccer field out back, which can be utilized.
- Ample storage rooms.
- Pedestrian access to Patapsco Valley State Park in Neighborhood.

### **Historic Courthouse at 8360 Court Avenue, Ellicott City, MD 21043**

- Windows that don't open in art studios and currently no ventilation system.
- Low ceilings in office spaces that are proposed for studios, classrooms and in at least half the gallery space.

- No windows in any of the proposed art classrooms (and not possible)
- Majority of proposed studios are office spaces that are simply better suited as office space.
- Winding staircase and passenger elevator to second floor proposed studios. 3-5 of these are the better studios and perhaps the only ones that many of the artists may want. But large painting and equipment will be difficult to get in and out. Even the taller ceilings in these are still less than 10 feet tall with one or two with a low section of ceiling.
- No sculpture program proposed.
- Disjointed, not in one place and cohesive like current art center.
- Very long walk from parking lot to studios and classrooms to take art and equipment to and from on a daily basis. (And multiple times during the day).
- 24 hour access might not be possible
- No skylights in hallways to proposed studio hallways
- No sinks in each individual studios and maybe not classrooms.

From Andrei Trach / Resident Artist / Howard County Center for the Arts / 301-775-2943  
Re: Proposed Move of Howard County Center for the Arts to Old Ellicott City Courthouse

I, Andrei Trach, am a 17-year visual artist at the Howard County Center for Arts and I am writing to you concerning the Howard County Arts Centers proposed move to the Historic Courthouse in Ellicott City, MD that was announced last year by Howard County Executive Calvin Ball at his State of the County Address. He also announced the courthouse would house the Roving Radish Marketplace, a shared kitchen and the Asian American and Pacific Island Cultural Center. Before the announcement there was (no knowledge of or input) asked of needs of the resident artists at the Howard County Center for the Arts. Although the County Executive said there was input from over 600 community stakeholders. I have yet to see any official survey. We find it unprofessional that they did not seek and get any input from artists at the center; some who have been there for 40 years and chose to keep them in the dark before this announcement.

On January 18, 2024, we got our first tour of the new proposed art center at the Old Ellicott City Courthouse that is to include the Howard County Center for the Arts. It was a very rushed tour, and there was a presentation at the end by Zachary Hollenbeck (Deputy Chief, Bureau of Facilities in Howard County). I have been a full-time professional art handler for 24 years and have worked at many art centers, galleries, major museums, institutions, and studios nationally and abroad installing, packing, and moving art. I can confidently say I know what proper art studio, classroom, and exhibit spaces look like. I have seen the best and the worst and worked extensively with all media of art.

My first art studio was at the Historic Oella Mill (now upscale apartments) in Ellicott City, MD from the late 1990s until about 2005. This was likely the most exceptional artist-run art center studios and gallery ever in Maryland. Tall soaring 13' ceilings with large walls of windows and gallery space that would befit a museum. The closest 2<sup>nd</sup> or maybe equal in some ways is the current Howard County Center for the Arts. It has 2 beautiful galleries with over 10' high walls to accommodate large art. Most studios range from over 300 square feet to 750 square feet. Three studios are at least 750 square feet, and 2 artists teach full size classes in theirs. The studio ceilings are a full 10 feet high, a whole wall over almost floor to ceiling windows that open, a sink in each, and original hardwood storage cabinet, drawers, and closets. Right outside our studios is a hallway with skylights and ample room to photograph our artwork underneath the skylights and hang our art on the hallway walls. The whole art center is ground level with easy access for large art and equipment. The center is well connected and one beautiful unit as you walk from the galleries, Black Box Theater, dance studios and down the hall to all the studios in one hallway. There are also ample storage rooms for organizations and even the office spaces have windows at our center. The classrooms are around 750 square feet, have a whole wall of almost floor to ceiling windows with natural light and 10-foot-tall ceilings. The resident artists have 24-hour access, which is necessary for artists who have day-jobs also.

Unfortunately, what we witnessed at the Courthouse tour was completely the opposite of what our current art center is. The proposed art center is disjointed, cramped and on different floors. There are art classrooms with no windows, no natural light and very low ceilings, which is a bad atmosphere for making art. The studios are abandoned offices with much less square



footage than currently, very low ceilings and much smaller windows that I don't know if even open because we were so rushed during the tour. The lower ceilings will make it impossible to make tall art on an easel. The largest 3 studios presented are slightly smaller than our half studios. The resident artists who currently teach classes will not be able to do such with at least half the size studio. Most of the rest of the studios presented I would never consider taking as a professional artist. There will be no sinks in each studio, which further makes it problematic for artists, especially ones who teach.

It was depressing and dismal, especially walking by the old prison cells. The galleries presented are clearly an afterthought, and the rooms and wall space that are going to be available. One is cramped and small with no natural light. I could almost touch the ceiling with my fingertips (and this is before track lighting is installed). There is also no proposed sculpture program, not that one would want to in such a menial space. The grand parts of the building with the big soaring ceilings are not going to be used as galleries or visual art studios. Storage space is also much less at the courthouse and will be a problem. The office spaces are absolutely dismal without windows. The non-profit Ballet Mobile (currently at the Howard County Arts Center) was not granted a new space at the courthouse. Even if there was, it would likely be as insufficient and disjointed as the galleries and art studios presented. Also, access to the studios with large equipment like a printing press, easels, paintings, etc. is terrible and a long path. There is only a passenger size elevator and no freight elevator. For us career artists, it was very demoralizing how rapidly pushed we were through the haphazard tour. I was told the trade-off with the degraded studios and galleries would be the location. This is false.

County Executive Calvin Ball's solution with our current and vastly superior art center is to house the Divine Nine, a group of fraternities and sororities. A very logical solution could be that the theater groups and other organizations move to the courthouse, as well as the fraternities and sororities, and at least most of the current art center can remain. This would be much like the satellite art studio location for the art center at Long Reach Village in Columbia, MD.

Those studios are greatly inferior studios to ours, and it is shocking that we are ones being moved out of our space into inferior spaces at the Courthouse. We have resident artists who have been at the art center since the beginning for 40 years! It took 40 years to develop what we have at the art center for the visual arts. To see it taken away and crammed into a disjointed, haphazard way into the Courthouse is unacceptable. We are going to be discussing ways to keep the arts studios and galleries at the current Howard County Center for the Arts and to notify the Community of what is proposed for our current art center.

I am having my studio review on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at 10am, and you are invited to that or to visit anytime of your choosing. We look forward to talking to you.

Sincerely,

Andrei Trach / Resident Artist / Howard County Center for the Arts / 301-775-2943

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**From:** Gary Parker <g.parker@parkertxservices.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 3:41 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** America's First D9 House

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Yes, I'm in support of the High Ridge/Rockland Arts Renovation.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thanks

Gary H. Parker, MSW | CEO  
[g.parker@parkertxservices.com](mailto:g.parker@parkertxservices.com)  
Office (410) 800-4480  
Cell (410) 440-0317  
Fax (443) 962.1045

Parker Therapeutic Services, Inc.  
940 Madison Ave. Suite 203  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
[www.parkertherapeutic.com](http://www.parkertherapeutic.com)

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**From:** Arinze Ifekauche <ifekauche@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 9:42 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support the High Ridge/Rockland Arts renovation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

I am a member of the community and I urge your support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility renovation.

This facility would be the first of its kind in the U.S. and would support the growth and development of organizations that are committed to improving our quality of life in Howard County. The High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility will be used for mentoring, tutoring, and other community related activities.

The Historic Greek Letter organizations and civic organizations that would utilize the facility regularly host voter engagement forums; conduct voter registration drives; raise money for scholarships; and organize community service projects. Please do not cut the funding for the renovations today.

**From:** [Donna Staton](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** Please Vote Yes!  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 2:09:30 PM

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

## **Subject: Support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts Facility Renovation**

Dear Council Members,

I am a member of the Howard County community and I urge your support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility renovation.

This facility would be the first of its kind in the U.S. and would support the growth and development of organizations that are committed to improving our quality of life in Howard County. The High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility will be used for mentoring, tutoring, and other community related activities.

The Historic Greek Letter organizations and civic organizations that would utilize the facility regularly host voter engagement forums; conduct voter registration drives; raise money for scholarships; and organize community service projects. Please do not cut the funding for the renovations on [Wednesday](#).

Best Regards,  
Donna Hill Staton  
443-604-7495

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**From:** eddieawinkley <eddieawinkley@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 10:18 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** High Ridge/Rockland Arts Facility

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

I am a member of the community and I urge your support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility renovation.

This facility would be the first of its kind in the U.S. and would support the growth and development of organizations that are committed to improving our quality of life in Howard County. The High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility will be used for mentoring, tutoring, and other community related activities.

The Historic Greek Letter organizations and civic organizations that would utilize the facility regularly host voter engagement forums; conduct voter registration drives; raise money for scholarships; and organize community service projects. Please do not cut the funding for the renovations on Wednesday.

Sincerely,

Eddie A. Winkley

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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**From:** e harrison <er.harrisonjr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 10:39 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** High Ridge/Rockland Arts Facility Renovation

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

I am a member of the community and I urge your support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility renovation.

This facility would be the first of its kind in the U.S. and would support the growth and development of organizations that are committed to improving our quality of life in Howard County. The High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility will be used for mentoring, tutoring, and other community related activities.

The Historic Greek Letter organizations and civic organizations that would utilize the facility regularly host voter engagement forums; conduct voter registration drives; raise money for scholarships; and organize community service projects. Please do not cut the funding for the renovations on Wednesday.

**From:** [eslindqvist@yahoo.com](mailto:eslindqvist@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** Support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility Renovation  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 10:55:58 AM

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

Dear Councilmember,

I am a member of the community and I urge your support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility renovation.

This facility would be the first of its kind in the U.S. and would support the growth and development of organizations that are committed to improving our quality of life in Howard County. The High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility will be used for mentoring, tutoring, and other community related activities.

The Historic Greek Letter organizations and civic organizations that would utilize the facility regularly host voter engagement forums; conduct voter registration drives; raise money for scholarships; and organize community service projects. Please do not cut the funding for the renovations on Wednesday.

Dr. Ernest S. Lindqvist

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**From:** [Holli Hunter](#)  
**To:** [CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov); [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** Support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts Facility Renovation  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 5:12:20 PM

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

Howard County Council President & other Councilmembers.

I am a member of the Howard County community and I urge your support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility renovation.

This facility would be the first of its kind in the U.S. and would support the growth and development of organizations that are committed to improving our quality of life in Howard County. The High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility will be used for mentoring, tutoring, and other community related activities.

The Historic Greek Letter organizations and civic organizations that would utilize the facility regularly host voter engagement forums; conduct voter registration drives; raise money for scholarships; and organize community service projects. Please do not cut the funding for the renovations on Wednesday.

Best Regards,

Howard County Resident

All The Best,

Holli Hunter



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**From:** Jameel Hendricks <jameelhendricks07@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 11:37 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility renovation

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

Greetings Councilmembers

I am a member of the community and I urge your support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility renovation for the Historic Greek Letter organizations and other community groups. These organizations play a vital role in leveraging their collective membership to foster community engagement, mentoring and educational programs. Please do not cut the funding for the renovations.

Sincerely,  
Jameel Hendricks

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**From:** JM <jsnmerriweather@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 11:08 AM  
**To:** CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov  
**Cc:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts Facility Renovation

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

Howard County Council President & other Councilmembers.

I am a member of the Howard County community and I urge your support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility renovation.

This facility would be the first of its kind in the U.S. and would support the growth and development of organizations that are committed to improving our quality of life in Howard County. The High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility will be used for mentoring, tutoring, and other community related activities.

The Historic Greek Letter organizations and civic organizations that would utilize the facility regularly host voter engagement forums; conduct voter registration drives; raise money for scholarships; and organize community service projects. Please do not cut the funding for the renovations on Wednesday.

Best Regards,  
Jason Merriweather  
Howard County Resident

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** LeTasha McFarlane <letashamcfarlane@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 12:34 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov  
**Subject:** Support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts Facility Renovation

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

Howard County Council President & other Councilmembers:

I am a member of the Howard County community and I urge your support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility renovation.

This facility would be the first of its kind in the U.S. and would support the growth and development of organizations that are committed to improving our quality of life in Howard County. The High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility will be used for mentoring, tutoring, and other community related activities.

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Best Regards,

LeTasha McFarlane  
Howard County Resident

**From:** [LISA SAUNDERS](#)  
**To:** [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** High Ridge/Rockland Arts Renovation  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 4:15:19 PM

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

- >
- > As your constituent, I am urging you to vote YES for the High Ridge/Rockland Arts Renovation.
- >
- > Lisa Saunders
- >
- > Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Dr. Melody Johnson Morales](mailto:Dr.MelodyJohnsonMorales)  
**To:** [CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov); [CouncilMail](#)  
**Subject:** Support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts Facility Renovation  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 3:10:07 PM

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

Dear Howard County Council President & other Councilmembers,

I am a member of the Howard County community and I urge your support for the High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility renovation.

This facility would be the first of its kind in the U.S. and would support the growth and development of organizations that are committed to improving our quality of life in Howard County. The High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility will be used for mentoring, tutoring, and other community related activities.

The Historic Greek Letter organizations and civic organizations that would utilize the facility regularly host voter engagement forums; conduct voter registration drives; raise money for scholarships; and organize community service projects. Please do not cut the funding for the renovations on Wednesday.

Best Regards,

**Melody Johnson Morales, PhD**

First Vice President and Program Chairman

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®  
Iota Lambda Omega Chapter

[drmjmorales@gmail.com](mailto:drmjmorales@gmail.com)

[programs@akaiotalambdaomega.org](http://programs@akaiotalambdaomega.org)

404-831-0647



***ILO: Insightful Impact, Leadership Legacy and Optimistic Opportunities***

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**From:** Michael Draper <michael.draper2017@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 9:37 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility renovation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Greetings,

I am a member of the community and I urge your support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility renovation.

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Thank you for your time and consideration,

Michael Draper

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**From:** Sharon Merriweather <sharon.s.merriweather@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 11:57 AM  
**To:** CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov  
**Cc:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** Support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts Facility Renovation

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

Howard County Council President & other Council members:

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Best Regards,  
Sharon Merriweather  
Howard County Resident

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**From:** timothy banks <tmbanks32@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024 9:48 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** High Ridge/Rockland Arts

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Timothy Banks  
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity  
Howard County Resident



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**From:** Kimberley Marter <kimjmarter@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2024 8:56 AM  
**To:** CouncilMail  
**Subject:** High Ridge/Rockland Arts Facility Renovation

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

Howard County Council President & other Councilmembers.

I am a member of the Howard County community and I urge your support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility renovation.

This facility would be the first of its kind in the U.S. and would support the growth and development of organizations that are committed to improving our quality of life in Howard County. The High Ridge/Rockland Arts facility will be used for mentoring, tutoring, and other community related activities.

The Historic Greek Letter organizations and civic organizations that would utilize the facility regularly host voter engagement forums; conduct voter registration drives; raise money for scholarships; and organize community service projects. Please do not cut the funding for the renovations on Wednesday.

Best Regards,

*Kimberley Marter*

***Obstacles are what you see when you take your eye off your goal!***

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**From:** S Brown <sbrown707@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2024 1:38 PM  
**To:** CouncilMail; CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov  
**Subject:** Support for High Ridge/Rockland Arts Facility Renovation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Howard County Council President & other Council Members,

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Best Regards,  
Sandra Brown  
11875 Blue February Way  
Columbia, MD 21044