



The Motor House
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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
Council Bill 21-0022R**

Thank you for your consideration of Resolution 21-0022R. This legislation establishes a \$1 million emergency fund for artists in Baltimore City.

Emergency funding for artists is an ongoing need for artists until the country achieves herd immunity from the COVID-19 pandemic, and beyond. The pandemic has magnified the role of artists in navigating the world. Not only are artists creating language and vocabulary that puts our feelings into concrete terms, but they are also offering respite from the overwhelmingly negative reality. Artists are saving us. We need to save them back.

At Motor House, we are committed to doing this work as well. We have been recipients of multiple emergency funding awards and we have been able to pass those funds down to as many artists as possible through performances and exhibitions. However, our funds are finite. The city must take on the task of taking care of artist residents as the benefit to the city is invaluable, and the potential loss of these residents would be detrimental.

Because artists are often independent contractors, they have been particularly impacted by the loss of work as they are ineligible to receive many of the unemployment benefits that other residents who lost work due to the pandemic are entitled to. Typically, artists' work is dependent upon public viewership. They may not simply turn their work into a digital format. We must not punish them for this. In order to keep these artists alive during this time, we must find continued ways to keep them living safely in Baltimore, so that we do not lose them. When the pandemic ends, we want them to still be here.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on Resolution 21-0022R.

Thank you,

Camille Kashaka
Executive Director, Motor House