

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 21-0022R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Dorsey, Burnett, Cohen, Middleton

Introduced and read first time: February 22, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Workforce, and Youth Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts, Department of Finance, Baltimore Development Corporation, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, Mayor's Office of Employment Development

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Assisting Baltimore City Artists**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on the Administration, if the City receives additional COVID-19 relief
4 funds from the United States Congress, to invest at least \$1 million of those funds to
5 establish an emergency fund to assist Baltimore City artists.

6 **Recitals**

7 The Baltimore City Council recognizes the significant contributions of artists in the City and
8 their direct impact on economic vitality, community investment, and tourism attraction. Artists
9 make up an integral part of Baltimore's cultural heritage and are a vital part of its national
10 identity.

11 Independent artists make up a unique part of the City's workforce, many being self-employed
12 and freelance workers. Due to these distinctions, many of the individuals that make up the artist
13 workforce have gone without regular or pandemic unemployment assistance. Without this critical
14 provision, artists have gone without traditional government assistance during a national health
15 and economic crisis.

16 The Baltimore City Council requests that the Mayor's office provide critical emergency
17 economic relief for Baltimore City's artists who have suffered undue hardships caused by the
18 health and safety closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

19 Should the City receive additional COVID-19 relief funds from the United States Congress,
20 City Council requests that the Mayor invest at least \$1 million towards an emergency artist relief
21 fund.

22 COVID-19 has had a disproportionate effect on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color
23 (BI-POC), both in terms of economic hardships and healthcare. This pandemic has negatively
24 affected arts communities of color and further stifled their creativity and investment
25 opportunities. The Council requests that any emergency artist fund specifically address and
26 invest in BI-POC artists in Baltimore and that funds should be granted directly to individual
27 artists.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

Council Bill 21-0022R

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
2 Council calls on the Administration, if the City receives additional COVID-19 relief funds from
3 the United States Congress, to invest at least \$1 million of those funds to establish an emergency
4 fund to assist Baltimore City artists.

5 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
6 Director of Finance, the Executive Director of the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts,
7 and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the Baltimore City Council.