

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cenname, Deputy Finance Director <i>RC</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 469, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 24-0488 Supplementary General Fund Operating Appropriation - M-R: Arts and Culture \$581,334		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

February 21, 2024

Position: Support

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 24-0488, Supplementary General Fund Operating Appropriation - M-R: Arts and Culture. The purpose of this legislation is to restore \$581,334 to Service 824: Events, Art, Culture, and Film, which supports the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts (BOPA) budget.

Background

As part of the Fiscal 2024 budget process, the City Council adopted an amendment to budget to reduce funding for BOPA by \$1,744,002. The amendment detailed four concern areas that needed to be addressed for funding to be restored:

1. BOPA's board governance and structure,
2. Operations of the Baltimore Film Office,
3. Operations of the Baltimore Arts Council and Public Arts Commission, and
4. BOPA's ability to carry out its mandate to produce events and festivals, administer grants, manage arts education and public art programming, provide film and production support, and provide oversight of Baltimore City facilities in its care.

The Administration and City Council have determined marked progress has been made in these areas in the time since 23-0177R was adopted. This Resolution seeks to restore \$581,334 in funding to BOPA in recognition that BOPA has complied with the requested actions of the City Council.

Fiscal Impact

The Bureau of the Budget and Management Research is proposing to fund this supplemental appropriation through a projected surplus in transfer tax revenue. Despite increasing interest rates, the volume of activity in the real estate market remained strong into Fiscal 2023. Early projections for fiscal 2024 indicate these trends will continue generating a surplus in this revenue source.

This third and final supplemental appropriation will fully restore BOPA's Fiscal 2024 appropriation.

Conclusion

The Department of Finance has no objections to the proposed supplemental appropriation.

cc: Michael Mocksten
Nina Themelis