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Suzan E. Jenkins, MBA

Chief Executive Officer

Kenneth A. Lechter, Esq.

Legal Counsel

November 30, 2021

Montgomery County Council

100 Maryland Ave,
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Councilmembers –

I am writing to convey the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County's support for the Design, Arts & Culture chapter of the Thrive 2050 plan, and to convey our hope for work it will enable us to do in the future.

The Thrive 2050 plan charts a course for AHCMC to lead further arts and culture planning.

Montgomery County has changed dramatically since its last arts and culture plan was created in 2000. We look forward to convening an inclusive process that considers how the great breadth of creative life in the County – from established arts organizations to cultural practices to singular creative voices – can be supported in ways that strengthen the County's economic health, community equity, and environmental resilience.

The Thrive 2050 plan recognizes the intertwined nature of planning, land development and the spaces necessary for our cultural ecosystem to survive.

We hope that the recommendations open the door for aggressive approaches to including arts and culture recommendations in all area-based plans, and incorporating arts and culture spaces in new development, historic resources, and existing community hubs.

The Thrive 2050 plan recognizes that Montgomery County, once an innovator in public art, would benefit from redoubling its efforts to integrate public art in public and private development.

As steward of the County's Public Arts Trust and core participant in MNCPPC's Art Review Panel, we look forward to playing a leadership role in that effort.

It is in this spirit that we write today to convey our **Recommendations for Revisions to Thrive 2050 Design, Arts and Culture Chapter** as follows:

1. We request reconsideration of the first policy.

Change: *Support arts and cultural institutions and programming to educate, connect and build communities that celebrate our diversity and strengthen pride of place.*

To: **Sustain an arts and culture ecosystem that enriches the lives of County residents and the vitality of its communities, supporting strategic goals, economic health, equity and environmental resilience.**

2. We request the revision of the following “practice”:

Revise: *Promote an inclusive arts-and-culture environment by establishing a refreshed vision that sets goals, criteria, and priorities to support the county’s arts-and-culture resources. (Ec, Eq)*

3. We request the inclusion of the proposed Policy 8.5.5. from the Planning Board draft of the Thrive 2050 Plan:

Add: **D-23: Include recommendations promoting public art, cultural spaces, and cultural hubs in all future sector plans.**

4. We request the revision of action D-13.

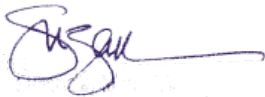
Revise: **D-13: Support the Arts and Humanities Council in creating inclusive arts and culture plans that establish a refreshed vision and set goals, criteria, and priorities for the County’s support of arts and culture activities, including the allocation of County resources.**

5. We request the revision of action D-18:

Revise: **D-18. Create an “arts space bank” of underused spaces in commercial and institutional buildings and provide equitable access to arts and culture organizations.**

Councilmembers, Thank You in advance for your consideration of our request. We hope that you adopt this plan not only in the spirit of celebrating but also *valuing* the County’s cultural diversity and cultural resources, and their ability to help the County to build a just and sustainable future. We look forward to continuing our work with you and our colleagues and MNCPPC to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Suzan', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Suzan Jenkins
CEO

Cc: Public Arts Trust Steering Committee
Gwen Wright, MNCPPC
Atul Sharma, MNCPPC