

March 11, 2026

Dear Members of the County Council,

As arts and humanities organizations serving the citizens of Montgomery County, we write to express our support for Bill 10-26.

We commend the diligence and hard work of the Arts & Humanities Council and express our gratitude for their service and leadership.

We believe that strong governance, transparency, and accountability are essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring that County-supported arts funding continues to benefit the entire community. The Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County oversees the distribution of millions of dollars in public funding and reports to the County Council and the County Executive to help advance the County's priorities across the community. We believe that the governance updates proposed in Bill 10-26 will strengthen transparency and accountability while preserving fair, arm's-length support for the arts and humanities.

We also appreciate that the bill calls for the inclusion of artists and representatives from arts and humanities organizations in the process. The voices and lived experiences of the creative community are vital to ensuring that policies and decisions reflect the needs of those doing the work day to day.

We are grateful for the County's commitment to continue the important programs, services, and funding processes that support artists, cultural organizations, and residents. Maintaining stability while strengthening governance will help ensure that the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County continues to serve as a trusted steward of public resources and a strong partner to the arts and humanities community.

Montgomery County's arts and humanities sector plays an essential role in the cultural, educational, and economic life of our region. We support efforts that reinforce open communication, responsible controls, and community representation while sustaining the programs that allow this work to thrive.

On behalf of the following organizations:

Adventure Theatre MTC
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
Blackrock Center for the Arts
Glen Echo Park Ptnrshp. for Arts & Culture
Levine Music
National Philharmonic
VisArts
Olney Theatre Center

Round House Theatre
Sandy Spring Museum
Story Tapestries
Strathmore
Washington Conservatory of Music
Washington Revels
The Writers Center
Imagination Stage

cc: Suzan Jenkins, CEO AHCMC