



Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

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FY 2024 OPERATING BUDGET TESTIMONY Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

House Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee

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February 9, 2023

Senate Health and Human Services Subcommittee

Senator Cory McCray, Chair

February 16, 2023

The following written testimony is provided on behalf of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC). We would like to thank our assigned analyst, Mr. Jacob Pollicove for his hard work, and acknowledgements of our efforts throughout the analysis. He is a pleasure for our office to work with.

Please accept our official comments below to the analysis.

On page 8 of the analysis, the MCAAHC is asked to comment on how their operations have changed since becoming an independent agency and plans for continued expansion and engagement with the community.

The MCAAHC's budget is presented in the analysis document as a part of Executive Department, but since July 1, 2022, the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) has been legislated as an independent state agency (D22).

Since that time, the MCAAHC has worked diligently with the Governor's Office of Finance (GOFA) during this time of transition. For MCAAHC to fully operate as an independent state agency, GOFA has trained MCAAHC staff (Executive Director and Administrative Director) on necessary state financial and procurement procedures. GOFA and MCAAHC have also developed the MCAAHC Chief Financial Officer (CFO) job description and onboarding plan.

The MCAAHC FY2024 budget has four new positions presented as a FY2023 deficiency:

1. Chief Financial Officer
2. Education Coordinator
3. Marketing Coordinator
4. Exhibitions Manager

The MCAAHC plans to onboard a CFO and program staff support (Education Coordinator, Marketing Coordinator, and Exhibitions Manager) by the Spring and Summer of 2023. The CFO will manage MCAAHC's fiscal activities and procedures. The program staff support will improve the quality and reach of BDM's core programs, such as traveling and onsite exhibitions, youth & public programs, and marketing and outreach. In addition, in FY2024, MCAAHC will onboard 2 contractual employees to assist in the administration of the African American Heritage Preservation Program Grant (AAHPP), in partnership with Maryland Historical Trust. These positions are critical to the success of MCAAHC in its operation of the Banneker-Douglass Museum and its ongoing service to the public.