



**Maryland Commission on African American
History and Culture**

84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401 410.216.6180

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Education, Business and Administration
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Chanel Compton Johnson
Executive Director

DATE: February 09, 2024
February 15, 2024

Subject: Response to Department of Legislative Services' FY 2025 Budget Analysis

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Department of Legislative Services' (DLS) analysis of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

MCAAHC should comment on how operations have changed since becoming an independent agency and plans for continued expansion and engagement with the community. MCAAHC should also comment on how events attended by the commissioners impact the museum's operations, expansion, and engagement with the community. (page 8)

The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture has improved in its operation of the Banneker-Douglass Museum and co-administration of the African American Heritage Preservation Grant. The following is an outline of administrative and programmatic improvements:

Finance/Fiscal Management: The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture has hired a full time Chief Administrative Officer to work directly with the Executive Director and the commission to manage MCAAHC's budget, refine financial procedures, pay bills, assist with grants management, and manage vendors and capital repair expenditures. Having a CFO focused solely on the commission's operational and capital budget and finances has made our programming, administration, capital work and operations more efficient and effective.

Museum Exhibitions, Youth & Public Programs: The independent status has ensured that all our work is solely aligned with our mission and national standards. The museum's collections, research, exhibitions, and programs are aligned with the American Alliance of Museum's Core. Standards, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History's annual themes, and the Association of African American Museum's annual priorities.

Management: The MCAAHC is a dedicated board of commissioners tasked with governing the Banneker-Douglass Museum and supporting the AAHPP grant program. As such, there is a clear line of authority and communication with staff and commissioners. MCAAHC leadership works closely with the Executive Director to support and evaluate her work and development. In addition, MCAAHC has a stronger connection with the Governor's Office, as the Commission Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Director meets with their office bi-weekly to discuss commission updates and community needs.

Operating Budget Recommendation

Reduce funding for increased health insurance cost for the new position as a technical correction.
(page 9)

I concur with the recommendation.