

Maryland Arts and Entertainment District Survey Analysis FY 2022

Prepared for
The Maryland State Arts Council

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1.0 Executive Summary

The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) manages the State of Maryland’s Arts and Entertainment District (A&E District) program. The purpose of the program is to “help develop and promote community involvement, tourism, and revitalization through tax-related incentives that attract artists, arts organizations, and other creative enterprises to towns and cities across the state.”¹ Each A&E District has unique economic development goals and priorities, which can include producing or facilitating events, attracting new businesses or developers, encouraging artists to locate and/or sell artworks in the district’s boundaries, or a combination of strategies.

Each year, MSAC distributes an annual report for each district to complete, highlighting the activities undertaken within these districts for the past fiscal year (FY). MSAC tasked the Regional Economic Studies Institute (RESI) of Towson University with analyzing the data collected from the annual report. To achieve the project objective, RESI collated and analyzed the survey results in a comprehensive report of all A&E Districts for FY 2022. It is important to note that only 27 out of 29 districts were analyzed, as the Annapolis and Gateway districts did not report data for FY 2022. All data are self-reported by the A&E Districts.

RESI’s analysis of the survey data includes the following findings.

- There were a total of:
 - 292 new or completed capital projects,
 - 95 new retailers,
 - 104 new businesses,
 - 83 new restaurants, and
 - 29 new organizations.
- Despite various business closures, the number of new openings was great enough to net:
 - 63 retailers,
 - 64 businesses,
 - 35 restaurants, and
 - 26 organizations.
- Challenges that Maryland’s A&E Districts faced included, but were not limited to, funding/fundraising, staffing, administrative issues, marketing/awareness, infrastructure, community support, socioeconomics, affordability, and COVID-19 related issues.
- Altogether, the 27 reporting A&E Districts held a combined 2,993 events and 144 festivals in FY 2022. Combined, these festivals and events attracted approximately 1.2 million attendees.

¹ “Arts & Entertainment Districts,” Maryland State Arts Council, accessed June 21, 2023, <https://www.msac.org/programs/arts-entertainment-districts>.

- Maryland’s A&E Districts reported that there are 543 enterprises within their borders, including performance venues, galleries/co-ops, arts education organizations, art suppliers/services, arts organizations, museums, and “other” enterprises.
- Maryland’s A&E Districts reported that 248 works of public art are available for visitors to enjoy.
- Twelve districts reported that they have housing specifically for artists, with 3,650 total units available.
- Fifteen districts maintain artist registries and have 267 registered artists during the reporting period. Overall, the 27 reporting districts estimate that there are 7,037 artists working and creating within their boundaries.
- Businesses within the A&E Districts take advantage of the Admissions and Amusement Tax abatement, as well as property tax credits. Other incentives that districts reported include façade improvement, loans, grants, other tax abatements/credits, and non-financial incentives.
- Two districts received national funding, totaling \$246,196.
- Twenty-three districts reported receiving funding from MSAC, totaling \$527,409.
- Other reported State funding came from the following sources:
 - Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) — \$80,000;
 - Community Legacy Program—\$300,000;
 - Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) —\$1.5 million;
 - Critical Areas Grant — \$11,500;
 - Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) — \$482,500;
 - Maryland Historic Trust—\$100,000;
 - QAC Arts Council Mini Grant—\$1,000;
 - Community Safety Works—\$225,550; and
 - Maryland State Aid for Police Protection — \$12,817.
- Local funding awards, often from arts councils or municipalities, totaled over \$1.7 million.
- Districts also received operational and in-kind support, valued at \$1.4 million and \$700,000, respectively.
- Some of the overarching goals of the A&E Districts include the following:
 - Establish more public art;
 - Support local artists;
 - Establish opportunities for local developers to get credit for contributions made;
 - Expand parking access and create a public transportation loop;
 - Invest in A&E infrastructure;
 - Engage economic development utilizing State of Maryland tax incentives;
 - Expand comprehensive artist registry;
 - Strengthening community partnerships;
 - Design or revamp websites to make them more accessible;
 - Increase youth engagement;
 - Implement comprehensive marketing plans, and

- Engage more with the public.
- Actionable steps to meet these goals included increasing awareness of events and programs and adding more artists to events, utilizing grant funds for marketing, rebranding strategy, and refreshing district maps, attracting audiences by elevating brand awareness across all platforms and streamlining data.

2.0 Introduction

The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) manages the State of Maryland’s Arts and Entertainment District (A&E District) program. The purpose of the program is “to develop, promote, and support diverse artistic and cultural centers in communities across Maryland that preserve a sense of place, provide unique local experiences, attract tourism, and spur economic revitalization and neighborhood pride.”² Each A&E District has unique economic development goals and priorities, which can include producing or facilitating events, attracting new businesses or developers, encouraging artists to locate and/or sell artworks in the district’s boundaries, or a combination of strategies.

FY 2022 was a year of continuing recovery from the pandemic for Maryland’s A&E Districts. By November 2021, the COVID-19 vaccine was authorized for 5- to 11-year-old children, expanding protection against the virus to vulnerable groups of the population.³ However, cases rose substantially due to the Omicron variant over the early winter months. By January 2022, Governor Larry Hogan executed a 30-day emergency order and in February, face masks were mandated in Maryland schools.⁴ Fortunately, by March, COVID-19 cases had declined, and the pandemic recovery continued. However, the economic recovery has been challenging. Inflation is rising more than ever due to multiple factors including the pandemic, war in Ukraine, and labor shortages.⁵ For example, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) more than doubled by August 2022 at 10.2 percent compared to 4.5 percent a year prior.⁶ For some consumers, these economic pressures have caused a cautious shift in discretionary spending, including on entertainment.⁷

Each year, MSAC distributes an annual report for each district to complete, highlighting activities undertaken within these districts for the past fiscal year. MSAC sought an analysis of the data from the annual reports completed for FY 2022. The Regional Economic Studies Institute (RESI) of Towson University tabulated and analyzed this data to provide MSAC with a comprehensive survey analysis for FY 2022. The data captured in the analysis are self-reported by the individual A&E Districts; as such, some figures may be overestimated or underestimated.

² “Arts & Entertainment Districts,” Maryland State Arts Council.

³ Greg Ng, Jenny Fulginiti, and Tramon Lucas, “2021 Timeline: Coronavirus in Maryland,” *WBAL*, January 4, 2022, accessed June 22, 2023, <https://www.wbaltv.com/article/covid-19-in-maryland-2021-timeline/35169408>.

⁴ Tramon Lucas, Blair Young, and Greg Ng, “2022 Timeline: Coronavirus in Maryland,” *WBAL*, April 26, 2022, accessed June 22, 2023, <https://www.wbaltv.com/article/covid-19-maryland-2022-timeline/38665369>.

⁵ “Study Ranks DC 21st, Baltimore 5th in U.S. Cities with Biggest Inflation Increase,” *WTOP News*, October 16, 2022, accessed June 22, 2023, <https://wtop.com/consumer-news/2022/10/study-ranks-dc-21st-baltimore-5th-in-u-s-cities-with-biggest-inflation-increase/>.

⁶ “Consumer Price Index, Baltimore-Columbia-Towson – April 2023: Mid-Atlantic Information Office,” U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 10, 2023, accessed June 22, 2023, https://www.bls.gov/regions/mid-atlantic/news-release/consumerpriceindex_baltimore.htm#cpibalcl1.

⁷ Courtney Reagan, “Nearly All Americans Cut Back on Spending Due to Inflation, CNBC Survey Finds,” *CNBC*, June 14, 2023, accessed June 26, 2023, <https://www.cnbc.com/2023/06/14/nearly-all-americans-cut-back-on-spending-amid-inflation-cnbc-survey-says.html>.

Where applicable, the analysis presents data regarding the number and percentage of respondents for each answer choice for multiple-choice questions. In cases where questions were open ended, RESI reported which respondents replied with similar answers or presented a sample of direct quotes collected.

3.0 Survey Analysis

Of the 29 A&E Districts within Maryland that received the annual survey for FY 2022, 27 districts reported data. Since the Annapolis and Gateway districts did not provide a response to the FY 2022 A&E District survey, they were excluded from the analysis and show as ‘not reported’ (N/R) in figures. Within 27 reporting districts, even though some of the data were incomplete, they still reported a significant amount of information, and therefore were included in the analysis. For this reason, RESI will refer to the information gained from the “27 reporting districts” rather than all 29 A&E Districts in this report. MSAC provided these reports to RESI, who then collated and analyzed them. The sections below detail these results. Please note that totals may not sum due to rounding.

3.1 FY 2022 Accomplishments

In the annual report, districts were asked to highlight various accomplishments during FY 2022, including new capital projects initiated or completed during the fiscal year; new retailers, businesses, and restaurants that opened; and new organizations that are located in each district.

Figure 1 below outlines A&E Districts newly initiated or completed capital projects.

Figure 1: Capital Projects by District, FY 2022

A&E District	Count	Percent
Annapolis	N/R	N/R
Bel Air	0	0.0%
Berlin	0	0.0%
Bethesda	6	2.1%
Bromo	22	7.5%
Cambridge	2	0.7%
Catonsville	2	0.7%
Chestertown	6	2.1%
Crisfield	3	1.0%
Cumberland	16	5.5%
Denton	3	1.0%
Easton	0	0.0%
Elkton	0	0.0%
Frederick	22	7.5%
Frostburg	3	1.0%
Gateway	N/R	N/R
Grantsville	0	0.0%
Hagerstown	112	38.4%
Havre de Grace	4	1.4%
Highlandtown	17	5.8%
Leonardtwn	8	2.7%
Oakland	0	0.0%
Pennsylvania Ave.	9	3.1%
Salisbury	13	4.5%
Silver Spring	26	8.9%
Snow Hill	0	0.0%
Station North	4	1.4%
Stevensville	7	2.4%
Wheaton	7	2.4%
Total	292	100%

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

The 27 reporting A&E Districts had a total of 292 newly initiated or completed capital projects open during FY 2022. Hagerstown reported the most newly initiated and completed capital projects during FY 2022 with 112 projects. Seven districts—Bel Air, Berlin, Easton, Elkton, Grantsville, Oakland, and Snow Hill—did not report any initiations or completions of capital projects. Along with capital projects, many new entities opened during FY 2022, detailed below in Figure 2.

Maryland Arts and Entertainment District Survey Analysis FY 2022

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Figure 2: Openings by District, FY 2022

A&E District	Retail		Businesses		Restaurants		Organizations	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Annapolis	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Bel Air	6	6.3%	7	6.7%	1	1.2%	1	3.4%
Berlin	4	4.2%	1	1.0%	1	1.2%	2	6.9%
Bethesda	8	8.4%	10	9.6%	10	12.0%	5	17.2%
Bromo	7	7.4%	8	7.7%	2	2.4%	0	0.0%
Cambridge	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Catonsville	5	5.3%	5	4.8%	1	1.2%	0	0.0%
Chestertown	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	2	2.4%	2	6.9%
Crisfield	0	0.0%	1	1.0%	1	1.2%	0	0.0%
Cumberland	5	5.3%	7	6.7%	1	1.2%	1	3.4%
Denton	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Easton	4	4.2%	0	0.0%	1	1.2%	2	6.9%
Elkton	1	1.1%	1	1.0%	1	1.2%	0	0.0%
Frederick	12	12.6%	9	8.7%	12	14.5%	4	13.8%
Frostburg	2	2.1%	1	1.0%	2	2.4%	0	0.0%
Gateway	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Grantsville	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hagerstown	6	6.3%	5	4.8%	6	7.2%	2	6.9%
Havre de Grace	9	9.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	6.9%
Highlandtown	3	3.2%	6	5.8%	6	7.2%	0	0.0%
Leonardtwn	4	4.2%	4	3.8%	3	3.6%	0	0.0%
Oakland	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.2%	0	0.0%
Pennsylvania Ave.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Salisbury	1	1.1%	14	13.5%	2	2.4%	4	13.8%
Silver Spring	1	1.1%	10	9.6%	16	19.3%	0	0.0%
Snow Hill	4	4.2%	2	1.9%	1	1.2%	0	0.0%
Station North	2	2.1%	0	0.0%	2	2.4%	2	6.9%
Stevensville	4	4.2%	5	4.8%	0	0.0%	1	3.4%
Wheaton	5	5.3%	8	7.7%	11	13.3%	1	3.4%
Total	95	100%	104	100%	83	100%	29	100%

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

During FY 2022, the 27 reporting A&E Districts saw a total of 311 new entities open. The most openings were seen for businesses, while organizations had the fewest openings. Frederick had the most openings out of all the reporting districts with 37 total, followed by Bethesda at 33 and Silver Spring at 27. Three districts—Denton, Grantsville, and Pennsylvania Avenue—reported zero openings during the year.

Maryland A&E Districts reported the opening of 95 new retail stores during FY 2022. Frederick had the most retail openings out of all the reporting districts with 12, followed closely by Havre de Grace with nine. Five districts—Crisfield, Denton, Grantsville, Oakland, and Pennsylvania Avenue—reported zero retail store openings during FY 2022.

A&E Districts reported 104 new business openings during FY 2022, the largest increase out of the four entity types. Salisbury had the largest number with 14 businesses opening in the district, followed by Bethesda and Silver Spring with 10. Nine A&E Districts—Cambridge, Chestertown, Denton, Easton, Grantsville, Havre de Grace, Oakland, Pennsylvania Avenue, and Station North—reported zero new business openings.

There were 83 new restaurants reported in the A&E Districts in FY 2022. Silver Spring had 16 restaurants open, the most out of the 27 reporting districts. Frederick had the second-most restaurant openings at 12. Six districts—Cambridge, Denton, Grantsville, Havre De Grace, Pennsylvania Avenue and Stevensville—did not report any new restaurant openings.

Lastly, Maryland A&E Districts reported 29 new organizations during FY 2022, the lowest number of openings between the four different entity types. Bethesda had the most organization openings at 5, followed by Frederick and Salisbury with 4. Just over half of all A&E Districts reported that no new organizations opened during FY 2022.

3.2 Closures and Net Gains

While there were many entities that opened in FY 2022, some also closed. Figure 3 presents closures by entity type and by district.

Maryland Arts and Entertainment District Survey Analysis FY 2022

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Figure 3: Closures by District, FY 2022

A&E District	Retail		Businesses		Restaurants		Organizations	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Annapolis	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Bel Air	1	3.1%	2	4.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Berlin	2	6.3%	0	0.0%	1	2.1%	0	0.0%
Bethesda	6	18.8%	5	11.4%	8	16.7%	0	0.0%
Bromo	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	4.2%	0	0.0%
Cambridge	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Catonsville	1	3.1%	1	2.3%	1	2.1%	1	33.3%
Chestertown	1	3.1%	0	0.0%	1	2.1%	0	0.0%
Crisfield	2	6.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Cumberland	1	3.1%	1	2.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Denton	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Easton	0	0.0%	1	2.3%	2	4.2%	0	0.0%
Elkton	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.1%	0	0.0%
Frederick	2	6.3%	4	9.1%	4	8.3%	1	33.3%
Frostburg	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Gateway	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Grantsville	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hagerstown	1	3.1%	0	9.1%	3	6.3%	0	0.0%
Havre de Grace	1	3.1%	0	0.0%	1	2.1%	0	0.0%
Highlandtown	2	6.3%	9	20.5%	6	12.5%	0	0.0%
Leonardtwn	1	3.1%	0	0.0%	1	2.1%	0	0.0%
Oakland	0	0.0%	1	2.3%	1	2.1%	0	0.0%
Pennsylvania Ave.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Salisbury	3	9.4%	10	22.7%	2	4.2%	0	0.0%
Silver Spring	1	3.1%	3	6.8%	8	16.7%	0	0.0%
Snow Hill	1	3.1%	2	4.5%	1	2.1%	0	0.0%
Station North	0	0.0%	1	2.3%	1	2.1%	0	0.0%
Stevensville	1	3.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Wheaton	5	15.6%	0	0.0%	4	8.3%	1	33.3%
Total	32	100%	40	100%	48	100%	3	100%

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

During FY 2022, the 27 reporting A&E Districts saw a total of 123 entity closures, with the plurality being restaurant closures. Bethesda experienced the largest number of closures with 19 total, followed by Highlandtown with 17, and Salisbury with 15. Five districts—Cambridge, Denton, Frostburg, Grantsville, and Pennsylvania Avenue—reported zero closures during the year.

Maryland A&E Districts reported the closure of 32 retail stores during FY 2022. Bethesda reported the largest number at six closures, followed by Wheaton at five. Ten districts—Bromo, Cambridge, Denton, Easton, Elkton, Frostburg, Grantsville, Oakland, Pennsylvania Avenue, and Station North—reported zero retail closures.

A&E Districts reported the closure of 40 businesses during FY 2022. Salisbury reported the largest number of business closures with ten, followed by Highlandtown with nine. Over half (15) of the 27 reporting A&E Districts covered reported zero business closures.

During FY 2022, Maryland A&E Districts reported the closure of 48 restaurants. Bethesda and Silver Spring reported the largest number with eight restaurant closures each, followed by Highlandtown with six reported restaurant closures. Nine districts—Bel Air, Cambridge, Crisfield, Cumberland, Denton, Frostburg, Grantsville, Pennsylvania Avenue and Stevensville—reported zero restaurant closures.

Lastly, there were a total of three organization closures reported in FY 2022. Three districts—Catonsville, Fredrick, and Wheaton—reported one organization closure each. The other 24 districts all reported zero organization closures.

Figure 4 compares the openings and closures presented in Figure 2 and Figure 3. Overall, more entities opened in A&E Districts than closed in FY 2022.

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Figure 4: Net Changes by Entity Type by District, FY 2022

A&E District	Net				Total
	Retail	Businesses	Restaurants	Organizations	
Annapolis	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Bel Air	5	5	1	1	12
Berlin	2	1	0	2	5
Bethesda	2	5	2	5	14
Bromo	7	8	0	0	15
Cambridge	1	0	0	0	1
Catonsville	4	4	0	-1	7
Chestertown	0	0	1	2	3
Crisfield	-2	1	1	0	0
Cumberland	4	6	1	1	12
Denton	0	0	0	0	0
Easton	4	-1	-1	2	4
Elkton	1	1	0	0	2
Frederick	10	5	8	3	26
Frostburg	2	1	2	0	5
Gateway	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Grantsville	0	0	0	0	0
Hagerstown	5	5	3	2	15
Havre de Grace	8	0	-1	2	9
Highlandtown	1	-3	0	0	-2
Leonardtwn	3	4	2	0	9
Oakland	0	-1	0	0	-1
Pennsylvania Ave.	0	0	0	0	0
Salisbury	-2	4	0	4	6
Silver Spring	0	7	8	0	15
Snow Hill	3	0	0	0	3
Station North	2	-1	1	2	4
Stevensville	3	5	0	1	9
Wheaton	0	8	7	0	15
Total	63	64	35	26	188

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

Maryland’s A&E Districts experienced an overall net gain of 188 entities during FY 2022. Only two of the 27 reporting districts covered, Highlandtown and Oakland, saw overall net loss of entities, at two and one respectively. The closures in these districts were concentrated in business entities. The Frederick A&E District experienced the largest net gain of 26 entities during FY 2022 with 11 closings and 37 entity openings. Bromo, Hagerstown, Silver Spring and Wheaton followed behind Frederick with a net gain of 15 entities each.

3.3 FY 2022 Challenges

A&E Districts were asked to provide a narrative overview of the challenges they faced during FY 2022. Figure 5 below sorts the main challenges faced by the districts from most to least common. Please note that the ‘Percent of Districts’ value represents the percentage of the 27 districts that reported a challenge falling within the 10 categories listed in the figure below. For this reason, totals will not sum to 100 percent.

Figure 5: A&E District Challenges, FY 2022

Challenge Type	Number of Districts	Percent of Districts
Staffing	15	55.6%
COVID-19 related	15	55.6%
Administrative issues	10	37.0%
Other	10	37.0%
Affordability	7	25.9%
Infrastructure	5	18.5%
Socioeconomics	4	14.8%
Funding Opportunities/Fundraising	4	14.8%
Community Support	4	14.8%
Marketing/Awareness	2	7.4%

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

Out of 27 reporting districts covered, 15 reported that staffing issues presented challenges to their operations. Businesses and restaurants are trying to balance getting back to a regular schedule of events and programming and initiate additional activities. However, the staffing capacity remained the same as during the pandemic for multiple reasons including employees unable to return due to caretaking responsibilities. COVID-19 related issues also presented challenges to 15 districts’ operations. Cancellations of events and festivals continued in FY 2022 due to the COVID-19 Omicron variant, which impacted money typically raised through fundraiser events. Spikes in case numbers also shifted policies and attendance for some events due to people’s discomfort or inability to attend. Additionally, while sales and foot traffic began to return to normal levels at the start of the program year, inflation and economic concerns dampened spending and attendance habits by year’s end.

3.4 District Events and Festivals

A&E Districts provided RESI with details on events and festivals that took place during FY 2022 for analysis. Please note, not all districts were able to provide all the information requested; N/A (not applicable) appears in instances of missing information. Events and festivals that did not take place during FY 2022 were excluded, and any entry provided as an event and as festival was only counted as a festival. Several districts were unable to provide complete data which likely undercounts event and/or attendance figures. For example, Bromo provided attendance figures for three of the twenty-six events reported. Other districts provided attendance ranges, from which RESI derived estimates. Finally, due to rounding, totals may not add up to 100 percent. A&E District events from FY 2022 are detailed below in Figure 6.

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Figure 6: Events by District, FY 2022

A&E District	Events	Percent	Attendance
Annapolis	N/R	N/R	N/R
Bel Air	1,019	34.0%	101,847
Berlin	39	1.3%	51,000
Bethesda	45	1.5%	10,350
Bromo	335	11.2%	2,750
Cambridge	15	0.5%	N/A
Catonsville	10	0.3%	61,514
Chestertown	57	1.9%	30,838
Crisfield	27	0.9%	2,293
Cumberland	25	0.8%	11,325
Denton	8	0.3%	1,320
Easton	10	0.3%	12,250
Elkton	39	1.3%	15,100
Frederick	16	0.5%	225,740
Frostburg	12	0.4%	10,420
Gateway	N/R	N/R	N/R
Grantsville	3	0.1%	3,075
Hagerstown	15	0.5%	15,226
Havre de Grace	3	0.1%	27,000
Highlandtown	251	8.4%	40,491
Leonardtwn	73	2.4%	20,435
Oakland	52	1.7%	19,700
Pennsylvania Ave.	6	0.2%	N/A
Salisbury	30	1.0%	47,670
Silver Spring	500	16.7%	N/A
Snow Hill	28	0.9%	6,325
Station North	100	3.3%	21,440
Stevensville	10	0.3%	5,325
Wheaton	265	8.9%	27,170
Total	2,993	100.0%	770,604

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

During FY 2022, approximately 2,993 events took place in the A&E Districts, attracting an estimated 770,604 attendees in total. Both figures are most likely undervalued because some districts—Cambridge, Pennsylvania Avenue, and Silver Spring—were unable to provide attendance approximations. Bel Air held 34 percent of all the A&E District events (1,019 events) in FY 2022, whereas Frederick attracted the most estimated attendees to their 16 events,

totaling approximately 225,740 individuals. Almost all districts had a significant increase in the number of events and attendees in FY 2022, indicating post-pandemic recovery. Bel Air went from hosting 39 events (FY 2021) to 1,019 events (FY 2022), whereas Bromo went from hosting 6 events to 335 events.

The occurrence of festivals also increased significantly in the most-recent fiscal year, rising from 42 in FY 2021 to 144 in FY 2022. Figure 7 below shows details of the festivals that occurred in A&E Districts during FY 2022.

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Figure 7: Festivals by District, FY 2022

A&E District	Festivals	Percent	Attendance
Annapolis	N/R	N/R	N/R
Bel Air	4	2.8%	50,000
Berlin	2	1.4%	9,000
Bethesda	1	0.7%	10,000
Bromo	0	0.0%	N/A
Cambridge	5	3.5%	9,500
Catonsville	3	2.1%	24,000
Chestertown	7	4.9%	19,125
Crisfield	8	5.6%	2,400
Cumberland	12	8.3%	5,430
Denton	4	2.8%	6,400
Easton	8	5.6%	29,500
Elkton	3	2.1%	2,825
Frederick	7	4.9%	N/A
Frostburg	7	4.9%	13,350
Gateway	N/R	N/R	N/R
Grantsville	5	3.5%	5,300
Hagerstown	4	2.8%	4,830
Havre de Grace	13	9.0%	19,900
Highlandtown	3	2.1%	9,000
Leonardtwn	4	2.8%	28,000
Oakland	1	0.7%	3,500
Pennsylvania Ave.	4	2.8%	N/A
Salisbury	1	0.7%	65,000
Silver Spring	8	5.6%	N/A
Snow Hill	13	9.0%	8,000
Station North	7	4.9%	30,250
Stevensville	2	1.4%	3,500
Wheaton	8	5.6%	37,500
Total	144	100%	396,310

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

During FY 2022, A&E Districts held 144 festivals with a total of approximately 396,310 attendees. Similarly, to the district events, these numbers may be lower than the actual totals, as four districts—Frederick, Pennsylvania Avenue, and Silver Spring—were unable to provide attendance approximations for the festivals held. Havre de Grace and Snow Hill held the most

festivals during FY 2022, each reporting 13 festivals. However, Salisbury had the largest number of total attendees to their three festivals with approximately 65,000 attendees.

3.5 A&E District Assets

Maryland’s A&E Districts feature a variety of creative and cultural assets, such as performance venues, galleries/co-ops, arts education organizations, arts organizations, and museums for visitors to enjoy. Figure 8 presents the number of reported enterprises by district for FY 2022.

Figure 8: Enterprises by District, FY 2022

A&E District	Count	Percent
Annapolis	N/R	N/R
Bel Air	13	2.4%
Berlin	12	2.2%
Bethesda	30	5.5%
Bromo	30	5.5%
Cambridge	11	2.0%
Catonsville	29	5.3%
Chestertown	14	2.6%
Crisfield	4	0.7%
Cumberland	17	3.1%
Denton	11	2.0%
Easton	5	0.9%
Elkton	16	2.9%
Frederick	26	4.8%
Frostburg	22	4.1%
Gateway	N/R	0.0%
Grantsville	14	2.6%
Hagerstown	30	5.5%
Havre de Grace	17	3.1%
Highlandtown	17	3.1%
Leonardtwn	17	3.1%
Oakland	18	3.3%
Pennsylvania Ave.	8	1.5%
Salisbury	18	3.3%
Silver Spring	104	19.2%
Snow Hill	6	1.1%
Station North	32	5.9%
Stevensville	7	1.3%
Wheaton	15	2.8%
Total	543	100.0%

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

As seen above, there were 543 enterprises within the 27 reporting A&E Districts. Silver Spring reported the highest number of enterprises at 104, significantly more than any other district. Station North followed with 32 enterprises, while Bethesda, Bromo, and Hagerstown reported 30 enterprises each.

Figure 9 contains additional information on the types of enterprises located around the state. As seen below, the plurality of enterprises were performance venues, accounting for 23.8 percent of all enterprises, followed by galleries/co-ops (23.4 percent), and arts organizations (19.7 percent).

Figure 9: Enterprises by Type, FY 2022

Enterprise Type	Count	Percent
Performance Venues	129	23.8%
Galleries/Co-ops	127	23.4%
Arts Organizations	107	19.7%
Art Suppliers/Services	64	11.8%
Arts Education Organizations	50	9.2%
Museums	41	7.6%
Other	25	4.6%
Total	543	100.0%

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

Districts also provided information on the art works that are publicly accessible within their borders, found in Figure 10 below. Maryland’s A&E Districts reported that there are 248 pieces of art available to the public within their districts. Silver Spring reported the highest total, at 88 works. Examples of public art include murals, sculptures, and statues.

Figure 10: Public Art by District, FY 2022

A&E District	Public Art Works
Annapolis	N/R
Bel Air	27
Berlin	2
Bethesda	0
Bromo	0
Cambridge	9
Catonsville	8
Chestertown	1
Crisfield	0
Cumberland	2
Denton	1
Easton	0
Elkton	12
Frederick	24
Frostburg	3
Gateway	N/R
Grantsville	1
Hagerstown	1
Havre de Grace	0
Highlandtown	0
Leonardtwn	9
Oakland	7
Pennsylvania Ave.	1
Salisbury	14
Silver Spring	88
Snow Hill	0
Station North	4
Stevensville	0
Wheaton	34
Total	248

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

Some districts contain housing that is specifically designed or designated for artists. These buildings may contain specialized infrastructure (for example, gallery space or a sprung floor for dance) and/or be financially accessible. Figure 11 below illustrates which districts have housing available for artists, and if so, how many units are available.

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Figure 11: Artist Housing by District, FY 2022

A&E District	Housing?	Buildings/Complexes	Units
Annapolis	N/R	N/R	N/R
Bel Air	No	--	--
Berlin	No	--	--
Bethesda	Yes	1	N/R
Bromo	Yes	6	340
Cambridge	No	--	--
Catonsville	No	--	--
Chestertown	No	--	--
Crisfield	Yes	1	8
Cumberland	No	--	--
Denton	No	--	--
Easton	No	--	--
Elkton	No	--	--
Frederick	Yes	1	83
Frostburg	No	--	--
Gateway	N/R	N/R	N/R
Grantsville	Yes	1	2
Hagerstown	Yes	8	62
Havre de Grace	No	--	--
Highlandtown	Yes	1	9
Leonardtwn	Yes	11	72
Oakland	No	--	--
Pennsylvania Ave.	No	--	--
Salisbury	Yes	2	95
Silver Spring	Yes	N/R	2,464
Snow Hill	No	--	--
Station North	Yes	4	174
Stevensville	No	--	--
Wheaton	Yes	5	341
Total	12	41	3,650

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

As shown in Figure 11, 12 districts reported that artist housing is available. The 41 buildings or complexes in these districts contain an estimated 3,650 units. Leonardtown reported 11 buildings or complexes, the largest number of any district, while Silver Spring reported the greatest number of units with 2,464. Silver Spring is also currently working on additional redevelopment and construction projects to increase the number of affordable housing units available for artists. The overall buildings and unit numbers might be higher than reported, as several districts did not clarify building names and unit numbers. For example, Bethesda

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reported having several buildings with affordable rents but only mentioned the name of one building.

Districts also provided information regarding occupancy rates for various types of real estate within their borders, presented in Figure 12.

Figure 12: Occupancy Rate by Real Estate Type by District, FY 2022

A&E District	Storefront/ Commercial	Residential	Industrial/ Manufacturing	Mixed Use
Annapolis	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Bel Air	95.0%	99.0%	--	90.0%
Berlin	90.0%	100.0%	--	90.0%
Bethesda	78.0%	90.0%	--	85.0%
Bromo	97.8%	84.3%	--	97.0%
Cambridge	80.0%	90.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Catonsville	98.0%	97.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Chestertown	98.0%	99.0%	100.0%	95.0%
Crisfield	51.0%	80.0%	80.0%	50.00%
Cumberland	80.0%	80.0%	90.0%	80.0%
Denton	--	--	--	--
Easton	90.0%	95.0%	--	70.0%
Elkton	93.0%	90.0%	--	95.0%
Frederick	90.0%	97.0%	97.0%	83.0%
Frostburg	80.0%	95.0%	--	85.0%
Gateway	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Grantsville	25.0%	70.0%	--	5.0%
Hagerstown	75.0%	90.0%	95.0%	70.0%
Havre de Grace	--	--	--	--
Highlandtown	91.0%	98.0%	93.0%	95.0%
Leonardtwn	95.0%	95.0%	--	95.0%
Oakland	65.0%	30.0%	--	5.0%
Pennsylvania Ave.	55.0%	65.0%	--	60.0%
Salisbury	90.0%	96.0%	--	85.0%
Silver Spring	93.0%	96.0%	97.0%	91.0%
Snow Hill	35.0%	60.0%	--	5.0%
Station North	65.0%	72.0%	51.0%	73.0%
Stevensville	75.0%	95.0%	--	80.0%
Wheaton	97.0%	90.0%	--	77.0%
Average	79.3%	86.1%	90.3%	74.4%

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

For districts that provided data, occupancy rates vary significantly. While some districts are near or at capacity, other districts have significant space available for new opportunities.

3.6 Benefit Information

The A&E District program provides opportunities and incentives for artists and businesses located within the districts. Figure 13 shows which districts have artist registries, the number of artists registered in FY 2022, and whether or not the district has a relocation program.

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Figure 13: Registered Artists by District, FY 2022

A&E District	Registry?	Artists Registered in FY 2022	Relocation
Annapolis	N/R	N/R	N/R
Bel Air	No	--	No
Berlin	Yes	0	No
Bethesda	No	--	No
Bromo	No	--	No
Cambridge	No	--	No
Catonsville	No	--	No
Chestertown	No	--	No
Crisfield	Yes	8	No
Cumberland	No	--	No
Denton	Yes	4	No
Easton	No	--	No
Elkton	Yes	4	No
Frederick	Yes	16	No
Frostburg	Yes	24	No
Gateway	N/R	N/R	N/R
Grantsville	Yes	0	No
Hagerstown	No	--	No
Havre de Grace	Yes	18	No
Highlandtown	Yes	2	No
Leonardtwn	Yes	20	No
Oakland	Yes	0	No
Pennsylvania Ave.	Yes	35	No
Salisbury	No	--	No
Silver Spring	Yes	2	No
Snow Hill	No	--	No
Station North	No	--	Yes
Stevensville	Yes	133	No
Wheaton	Yes	1	Yes
Total	15	267	2

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

As seen above, a slight majority of districts maintain an artist registry, and 267 artists were reported to have registered in FY 2022. Stevensville reported the largest number of registrations in FY 2022, at 133 artists. Station North and Wheaton were the only districts that reported having an artist relocation program, with fifteen and zero artists relocated in FY 2022, respectively.

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Regardless of whether or not a district maintains a registry, districts were asked to estimate the number of artists working within their borders. These estimates are presented in Figure 14 below.

Figure 14: Estimated Artists by District, FY 2022

A&E District	Estimated Artists
Annapolis	N/R
Bel Air	150
Berlin	17
Bethesda	1,000
Bromo	350
Cambridge	20
Catonsville	40
Chestertown	19
Crisfield	127
Cumberland	50
Denton	20
Easton	1,500
Elkton	136
Frederick	850
Frostburg	100
Gateway	N/R
Grantsville	22
Hagerstown	1,270
Havre de Grace	75
Highlandtown	90
Leonardtwn	75
Oakland	52
Pennsylvania Ave.	50
Salisbury	160
Silver Spring	85
Snow Hill	50
Station North	500
Stevensville	129
Wheaton	100
Total	7,037

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

Statewide, Maryland’s A&E Districts estimated that they have approximately 7,037 artists working within their districts. Easton and Hagerstown reported the largest number of artists, at

1,500 and 1,270, respectively. These figures represent significant increases from FY 2021, when Easton reported 115 artists and Hagerstown reported 150.

Businesses in Maryland's A&E Districts can access unique tax incentives. Figure 15 presents the number of businesses utilizing tax incentives in FY 2022.

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Figure 15: Businesses' Tax Incentive Utilization by District, FY 2022

A&E District	Admissions and Amusement Tax Abatement		Property Tax Credit	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Annapolis	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Bel Air	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Berlin	1	4.2%	0	0.0%
Bethesda	2	8.3%	1	7.1%
Bromo	3	12.5%	0	0.0%
Cambridge	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Catonsville	0	0.0%	13	92.9%
Chestertown	2	8.3%	0	0.0%
Crisfield	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Cumberland	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Denton	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Easton	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Elkton	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Frederick	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Frostburg	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Gateway	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Grantsville	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hagerstown	3	12.5%	0	0.0%
Havre de Grace	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Highlandtown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Leonardtwn	2	8.3%	0	0.0%
Oakland	1	4.2%	0	0.0%
Pennsylvania Ave.	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Salisbury	3	12.5%	0	0.0%
Silver Spring	2	8.3%	0	0.0%
Snow Hill	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Station North	4	16.7%	0	0.0%
Stevensville	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Wheaton	1	4.2%	0	0.0%
Total	24	100%	14	100%

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

As seen in Figure 15 above, 24 businesses across 11 of the state's A&E Districts used an Admission and Amusement Tax Abatement in FY 2022. Station North had four businesses utilizing these programs, the greatest number from any of the reporting districts. Of the 14

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businesses that used a property tax credit in FY 2022, 13 were located in Catonsville. Bethesda was the only other district reporting one business that used a property tax credit.

In addition to tax credits, districts have other financial and nonfinancial resources available for use. Information regarding these other types of incentives is presented in Figure 16.

Figure 16: Incentives Reported by A&E District, FY 2022

A&E District	Other	Façade?	Loan?	Other Tax Credit/ Abatement?	Grants	Other	Nonfinancial
Annapolis	N/R						
Bel Air	Yes	X	X	X		X	X
Berlin	Yes	X				X	X
Bethesda	Yes				X	X	
Bromo	Yes					X	
Cambridge	Yes			X		X	
Catonsville	Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X
Chestertown	Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X
Crisfield	Yes			X		X	
Cumberland	Yes		X	X	X	X	X
Denton	Yes					X	X
Easton	Yes			X		X	
Elkton	No						
Frederick	Yes	X		X	X	X	X
Frostburg	Yes			X	X		
Gateway	N/R						
Grantsville	Yes	X		X	X	X	
Hagerstown	Yes		X	X	X	X	X
Havre de Grace	Yes	X		X			X
Highlandtown	Yes			X		X	
Leonardtwn	Yes	X			X		X
Oakland	Yes			X	X	X	X
Pennsylvania Ave.	No						
Salisbury	Yes	X	X	X		X	
Silver Spring	Yes		X	X	X	X	X
Snow Hill	Yes			X	X	X	X
Station North	Yes			X			
Stevensville	Yes			X			
Wheaton	Yes			X	X	X	X
Total	25	9	7	20	13	20	14

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

Of the 27 reporting districts, 25 reported utilizing other incentives. Of the defined incentive types, ‘other tax credits/abatements’ and ‘other’ were the most commonly used. Examples of other tax credits/abatements programs include historic preservation tax credits, local property tax credits for arts-related spaces, and tax credits for sustainable communities. Examples of other programs include historic preservation, enterprise zone, real property, rehabilitation, and new job creation.

Districts use a variety of communication tools to share information with their communities, which was important during FY 2022 as districts continued recovering from COVID-19 pandemic. Information regarding communication tools can be found below.

Figure 17: Use of Communication Tools, FY 2022

Communication Tool	Number of Districts	Percent of Districts
Facebook	27	100.0%
Website	26	96.3%
Instagram	22	81.5%
Online Events Calendar	21	77.8%
Artist Registry	16	59.3%
Other	8	29.6%
Twitter	7	25.9%

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

As seen in Figure 17 above, all reporting A&E Districts use Facebook. The majority of districts also have a website, online events calendar, Instagram, and an artist registry.

3.7 Public Funding

A&E Districts reported their national, MSAC, other State of Maryland agency, and local public funding along with any in-kind support received during FY 2022. Figure 18 through Figure 23 outline funding by source, type, and amount each reporting district. Figure 18 below shows federal funding for all reporting A&E Districts.

Figure 18: A&E Districts Receiving Federal Funding, FY 2022

Federal Funding Type	A&E District	Amount
Project Support	Station North	\$150,000
Other	Leonardtwn	\$96,196
Total		\$246,196

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

Only two A&E Districts received federal funding during FY 2022: Station North and Leonardtown. Leonardtown received funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through Disaster Reimbursement Funding for Tropical Storm Isaias. Station North received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts for project support. The total

amount of national funding received by A&E Districts in FY 2022 amounted to \$246,196, a little less than the \$260,632 obtained in FY 2021.

Figure 19 below outlines A&E District funding from MSAC.

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Figure 19: A&E Districts Receiving Funding from MSAC, FY 2022

MSAC Funding Type	A&E District	Amount
Operating Support	Bel Air	\$16,571
	Berlin	\$15,000
	Bethesda	\$17,000
	Bromo	\$16,571
	Catonsville	\$21,571
	Chestertown	\$16,571
	Crisfield	\$16,571
	Cumberland	\$16,571
	Elkton	\$13,425
	Frostburg	\$16,571
	Grantsville	\$16,571
	Hagerstown	\$22,571
	Havre de Grace	\$16,571
	Highlandtown	\$16,571
	Leonardtown	\$16,571
	Oakland	\$16,571
	Pennsylvania Ave.	\$16,571
	Salisbury	\$16,571
	Silver Spring	\$16,571
	Snow Hill	\$16,000
Station North	\$13,425	
Stevensville	\$17,089	
Wheaton	\$16,571	
Technical Assistance	Frostburg	\$10,000
Public Art	Catonsville	\$5,000
	Crisfield	\$20,000
	Frostburg	\$25,000
	Leonardtown	\$20,000
	Station North	\$25,000
Project Support	Elkton	\$7,536
	Leonardtown	\$2,252
	Station North	\$2,000
	Stevensville	\$10,000
Emergency Grant	Salisbury	\$11,250
	Station North	\$4,725
Total		\$527,409

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

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Out of 27 reporting districts, 23 districts received between \$13,425 and \$22,571 in MSAC operating support grants. Hagerstown received the highest grant of \$22,571, which is a significant increase from FY 2021 when they did not receive any funding. This year, two districts received emergency funding related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding from MSAC in FY 2022 amounted to more than \$527,409. State funding not from MSAC is shown in Figure 20 below.

Figure 20: A&E Districts Receiving Other State Funding, FY 2022

State Funding Type	A&E District	Amount
Maryland Heritage Areas Program Grant	Frostburg	\$5,000
	Leonardtwn	\$75,000
Community Legacy Program	Cambridge	\$250,000
	Leonardtwn	\$50,000
Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)	Berlin	\$5,000
	Cambridge	\$1,200,000
	Elkton	\$2,000.00
	Frostburg	\$7,000.00
	Highlandtown	\$110,000
	Leonardtwn	\$20,000
	Station North	\$150,000
Critical Areas Grant	Leonardtwn	\$11,500
Maryland Department of General Services (Capital Grants Program/Bond Initiatives)	Catonsville	\$232,500
	Pennsylvania Ave.	\$100,000
	Station North	\$150,000
Maryland Historic Trust	Pennsylvania Ave.	\$100,000
QAC Arts Council Mini Grant	Stevensville	\$1,000
MD State Aid for Police Protection	Leonardtwn	\$12,817
	Berlin	\$76,300
Community Safety Works/Refund the Police	Easton	\$99,250
	Stevensville	\$50,000
Total		\$2,707,367

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

Cambridge received the most funding from other State sources in FY 2022, totaling nearly \$1.5 million. The largest single grant amount came from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and totaled approximately \$1.5 million between seven districts. The second-largest funding source was the Maryland Department of General Services (Capital Grants Program/Bond Initiatives), supporting Catonsville, Pennsylvania Avenue, and Station North districts with \$482,500. In total, FY 2022 A&E Districts received over \$2.7 million other State funding, which is five times the amount A&E Districts received in FY 2021.

Figure 21 below breaks down local funding sources and amounts for the A&E Districts.

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Figure 21: A&E Districts Receiving Local Funding, FY 2022

A&E District	Local Funding Type	Amount
Bel Air	Town of Bel Air Cultural Arts Commission- Public Art Projects/ Sponsorships	\$4,864
	Town of Bel Air Cultural Arts Commission- Marketing and Miscellaneous Support	\$3,461
	Town of Bel Air Economic Development- Marketing	\$1,722
	Town of Bel Air Economic Development- Web Hosting and Services	\$1,885
Berlin	Worcester County Tourism and Economic Development	\$4,500
	Worcester County Arts Council	\$4,000
Bromo	Baltimore City Department of Planning	\$50,000
Catonsville	Maryland Heritage Area Association	\$15,400
	Baltimore County Community Foundation	\$20,000
	Baltimore County Arts and Sciences Commission- Project Support	\$26,000
	Baltimore County Arts and Sciences Commission- Operating Support	\$157,500
	Catonsville Women's Giving Circle	\$1,100
	Catonsville Historical Society	\$23,000
	Baltimore County	\$4,000
Crisfield	Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore	\$2,000
	Crisfield American Legion	\$4,900
Denton	Erik Arslan/Pizza Empire	\$5,750
Easton	Town of Easton	\$412,000
Elkton	Town of Elkton	\$30,000
Frostburg	City of Frostburg	\$25,000
Grantsville	Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area	\$2,000
	Town of Grantsville	\$3,000
Highlandtown	Baltimore Civic Fund 2021 Baltimore Nonprofit Relief Fund	\$10,000
	Baltimore City A&E Operating Support FY22	\$50,000
Leonardtwn	FY22 Commissioners of Leonardtown	\$10,000
	FY22 St. Mary's County Arts Council Dev Grants	\$5,000
Oakland	Town of Oakland	\$12,450
Pennsylvania Ave.	Baltimore Community Foundation	\$25,000
	T Rowe Price	\$10,000
	Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA)	\$35,000
	CLLCTIVLY	\$5,000

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	Planning Department	\$50,000
	Visit Baltimore	\$5,000
	Change Elemental	\$5,000
	Verizon	\$20,000
Salisbury	Chaney Foundation Grant-Public Art Master Plan	\$7,500
	Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore	\$3,000
	Operating Support	\$148,500
Silver Spring	Montgomery County Government	\$250,000
Station North	Baltimore City	\$50,000
	Johns Hopkins University- Operating Support	\$20,000
	Johns Hopkins University- Project Support	\$50,000
	Goldseker Foundation	\$15,000
	PNC Bank	\$10,000
	France Merrick Foundation	\$6,500
Stevensville	Baker Foundation	\$2,500
	Commissioners of Queen Anne's County	\$11,500
Wheaton	Montgomery County Government	\$130,000
Total		\$1,749,031

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

A&E Districts combined received over \$1.7 million in local funding in FY 2022. The largest single grant received by a district went to Easton from the Town of Easton and amounted to \$412,000. Easton also received the most total funding, followed by Silver Spring at \$250,000 and Catonsville at \$247,000.

Figure 22 below shows the districts that received operating support during FY 2022.

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Figure 22: A&E Districts Receiving Operating Support, FY 2022

A&E District	Provider	Amount
Bel Air	Town of Bel Air Cultural Arts Commission- Marketing and Miscellaneous Support	\$3,461
	Town of Bel Air Economic Development- Marketing	\$1,722
	Town of Bel Air Economic Development- Web Hosting and Services	\$1,885
Bromo	Baltimore City Department of Planning	\$50,000
Catonsville	Baltimore County Arts and Sciences Commission	\$157,500
Easton	Town of Easton	\$412,000
Frostburg	City of Frostburg	\$25,000
Grantsville	Town of Grantsville	\$3,000
Highlandtown	Baltimore City A & E Operating Support FY22	\$50,000
Leonardtwn	FY22 Commissioners of Leonardtown	\$10,000
Pennsylvania Ave.	Baltimore Community Foundation	\$25,000
	T Rowe Price	\$10,000
	Planning Department	\$50,000
Salisbury	Operating Support	\$148,500
Silver Spring	Montgomery County Government	\$250,000
Station North	Baltimore City	\$50,000
	Johns Hopkins University	\$20,000
	Goldseker Foundation	\$15,000
Stevensville	Baker Foundation	\$2,500
	Commissioners of Queen Anne's County	\$11,500
Wheaton	Montgomery County Government	\$130,000
Total		\$1,427,067

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

Fourteen of the 27 reporting A&E Districts received local operating support amounting to over \$1.4 million in FY 2022. The Town of Easton provided the single largest grant in the amount of \$412,000 to Easton. Easton was also the district with the most funding, followed by Silver Spring with \$250,000 from a single grant.

The final funding-related figure below, Figure 23, outlines the in-kind support received by the districts in FY 2022.

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Figure 23: A&E Districts Receiving In-Kind Support, FY 2022

A&E District	Provider	Type	Amount
Bel Air	Town of Bel Air	Staff salary	\$25,672
	Town of Bel Air	Office space and services	\$3,000
	Town of Bel Air	Police and DPW staff for events	\$6,000
Berlin	Town of Berlin	Events, staffing, advertising, marketing, salary	\$60,000
Bromo	Downtown Partnership of Baltimore	Salary, and office space	\$70,000
Crisfield	City of Crisfield	Use of Corbin Studio & Gallery, 4 E. Main Street	\$12,000
	City of Crisfield	Utilities at Corbin Studio & Gallery	\$6,000
	City of Crisfield	Crisfield A&E District insurance	\$1,802
Cumberland	City of Cumberland	Administrative	\$500
	Allegany County Government	Administrative	\$500
Denton	Town of Denton	In-Kind Support	\$15,000
Easton	Town of Easton	Office space	\$900
Elkton	Margie Blystone	Volunteer A&E Chairman	\$18,000
	Town of Elkton	Office space, Police & Public Works for events	\$50,000
Grantsville	Garret County Arts Council	Operating support	\$4,600
	Garret County Arts Council	Project support	\$3,700
Highlandtown	Creative Alliance Staff Time	Public events and marketing	\$50,000
	Southeast CDC Staff Time	District Administrator	\$50,000
	Ha! Communications Volunteer	Monthly electronic newsletter	\$1,200
Leonardtwn	Commissioners of Leonardtown	Staff support, office space and supplies, A&E District major events	\$50,000
	Leonardtwn Business Association	Funding and volunteers for district events	\$15,000
Oakland	Garret County Arts Council	Operating support	\$5,800
Pennsylvania Ave.	Motor House	Programming space	\$1,300
	Impact Hub	Programming space	\$1,300
	Baltimore Sound Stage	Programming space	\$2,500
	Black Water House	Programming space	\$915

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	Terra	Café	\$300
	BLICK Art Materials	Supplies	\$1,200
	Mess in a Bottle	Supplies	\$288
	150 Hours	Volunteers	\$4,493
Salisbury	City of Salisbury	Office and utilities	\$20,000
	City of Salisbury	Event technical support	\$60,000
	City of Salisbury	General operating support-other	\$20,000
	WMDT-47	Advertising support	\$20,000
Silver Spring	Montgomery County Government	Office	\$10,000
Station North	CBP-SNAD	Volunteer	\$5,500
	Neighborhood Design Center	Design services	\$30,000
Stevensville	Queen Anne's County Economic & Tourism Development	Admin/program support	\$25,000
Total			\$652,470

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

A&E Districts can receive in-kind support from the community in addition to government funding. The types of in-kind support mainly include staff, operating, office, event, and miscellaneous support. In FY 2022, 17 of the 27 reporting districts were able to provide estimates of the in-kind support they received; this totaled to \$652,470. Since these are only estimates and ten of the districts were unable to provide approximations, their combined value may be underestimated.

3.8 FY 2022 Goals and Work Plan

Districts provided narratives regarding their goals and plans to help attain them. Some of the overarching and interrelated goals of the A&E Districts include the following:

- Establish more public art,
- Support local artists,
- Establish opportunities for local developers to get credit for contributions made,
- Expand parking access and create a public transportation loop,
- Invest in A&E infrastructure,
- Engage economic development utilizing State of Maryland tax incentives,
- Expand comprehensive artist registry,
- Strengthen community partnerships,
- Design or revamp websites to make them more accessible,
- Increase youth engagement,
- Implement comprehensive marketing plans, and
- Engage more with the public.

To meet these goals, each district has a work plan. A sample of such work plans includes the following action steps:

- “Planning on promoting the district to local artists and let them know what the benefits are to perform here.”
- Continue working on “using public art as a means of enhancing community well-being, creating a shared sense of place by celebrating the area's unique history, and attracting tourists.”
- “Provided special exhibit opportunities and professional training to emerging artists and we cross-promoted local artists, arts businesses and arts organizations through our social media channels and email lists.”
- Identify grant opportunities and utilize federal fundings to “develop free music concert series” and “award and support local artists.”
- “Continue to add new artists and update existing information on the website as well as expanding the mailing list for artist opportunities.”
- Promotions “focused on connections within tourism, economic development and rural entrepreneurship.”
- Enhance “communication and marketing of A&E Districts between partners and engaging more community members in events and programs.”
- “Utilize a portion of grant funds for marketing, rebranding strategy and refreshing district maps.”

- “Develop audience by elevating brand awareness across all platforms and streamline data.”
- Support infrastructural renovations like “streetscaping, lighting, and wayfinding.”
- “Fostering an arts based economic development agenda centered around makers and creative start-ups, small business development, and acquisition of key properties.”
- “Growing staff to support expanding programming activities and economic development initiatives.”

3.9 MSAC Technical Assistance

Districts were asked to provide narratives regarding the types of technical assistance, other than funding that would benefit them. While each district has unique needs, several trends emerged. Figure 24 summarizes these findings. Please note that because several districts discussed multiple types of assistance, percentages will not sum to 100 percent.

Figure 24: Types of Technical Assistance Requested by Districts, FY 2022

Technical Assistance	A&E Districts	Percent of Districts
PD/Training Opportunities	10	37.0%
Marketing/Market Research	10	37.0%
Networking Opportunities	10	37.0%
Other	9	33.3%
Financial and Administrative Assistance	4	14.8%
Ecommerce Resources	3	11.1%
Community Engagement Resources	2	7.4%
Working Groups	1	3.7%

Sources: Maryland A&E Districts, MSAC, RESI

As seen above, ten districts requested additional professional development and/or training opportunities. Topics of interest include but are not limited to diversity, equity, and inclusion; data management; strategic planning; and programming. Several districts also reported that more networking opportunities between A&E District representatives would help them navigate programming, marketing, and filling vacancies post-COVID, and that encouraging these interactions would provide opportunity to share their successes, challenges and goals. Despite the common themes amongst the districts, nine districts suggested technical assistance that could not be otherwise categorized. One district requested guidance on engaging volunteers in a meaningful way, while another district requested examples of other innovative arts programs that exist on a global scale. Additional technical assistance requests were made that did not fit in categories above such as assistance with best practices for reporting data to MSAC.

4.0 Conclusion

Maryland’s A&E Districts provides a variety of creative and cultural enrichment for Maryland residents and visitors. These opportunities improve quality of life and support the livelihoods of

artists, local businesses, and communities. The creative sector now accounts for approximately 2.7 percent of the state's economy and contributes almost 80,000 jobs.⁸

Over the past few years, A&E Districts were negatively impacted from the pandemic's effects. Although FY 2022 was not free from these effects, particularly from the Omicron variant, the data submitted overall indicates a sturdy recovery. Most aspects of A&E Districts are either leveling up to pre-pandemic levels or have surpassed them. Net changes in entities—retail, business, restaurants, and organizations—have nearly tripled compared to FY 2019. Similarly, the number of events is almost double those in FY 2019 before the pandemic, and nearly six times as many as in FY 2021. Similarly, the number of festivals in FY 2022 was more than three times that in FY 2021 and is close to reaching pre-pandemic levels. Though the number of events and festival attendees is lower than in FY 2019, this figure is likely significantly underestimated due to incomplete data. Additionally, the number of artists housing and funds—MSAC, federal, State, local, operational, and in-kind—has increased substantially. However, some of those funds, primarily those related to COVID-19 assistance, may be ending soon.

Communities in Maryland have persevered and have been uplifted through activities and efforts driven by the art community. It is likely that the upward trajectory of impacts seen from the arts and entertainment industry will continue to be evident in the upcoming fiscal years as more festivals, venues, and events return. As the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic continues, Maryland's A&E Districts will continue to be supported for the vital economic role that they play in the state's economy.

⁸ "Annual Report FY22," Maryland State Arts Council, accessed June 22, 2023, <https://msac.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/AR22.pdf>.

5.0 References

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WTOP News. "Study Ranks DC 21st, Baltimore 5th in U.S. Cities with Biggest Inflation Increase." October 16, 2022. Accessed June 21, 2023. <https://wtop.com/consumer-news/2022/10/study-ranks-dc-21st-baltimore-5th-in-u-s-cities-with-biggest-inflation-increase/>.

Appendix A—A&E District Annual Report for FY 2022

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS ANNUAL REPORT FY 2022

Organization Information

Organization Name:
Address:
Phone:
County:
DUNS Number:
Website:

Contact Information

Grant Contact Name:
Phone:
Email:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip Code:

District Primary Contact Person

Name:
Title:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip Code:
Phone:
Mobile:
Email:

Board Chair/Management Team Chair

Name:
Title:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip Code:
Phone:
Mobile:
Email:

ANNUAL REPORT

Answer All Questions as They Pertain to The Reporting Period: July 1, 2021 - June 30,2022

District Name:
Website:

A.1 District Overview

- A. Provide a narrative overview of your district’s accomplishments during the reporting period.

Overall, this response should illustrate district accomplishments within the reporting period. Refer to the list below and include brief descriptions for any items that pertain to your district.

- new initiatives (e.g., strategic planning, marketing campaigns, funding secured, management changes, partnerships/collaborations, signage, etc.)*
- significant events and festivals occurring within the district*
- new public art projects within the district*
- new capital projects within the district*
- new or significant retailers, businesses, and restaurants within the district*

-activities of significant arts organizations or arts-related businesses

-changes in district management and staffing

In addition, please reference the district's goals listed in Section VIII of your previous year's annual report, reporting on district progress toward the stated goals and any new plans or goals developed or implemented since the last report. MSAC uses these two responses to inform program development, report to State officials, and provide technical assistance to districts. The A&E Districts Program Advisory Committee also reviews these and other parts of this report to select Outstanding Achievement awardees.

- B. Provide a narrative overview of challenges that the district faced during the reporting period.
- C. Let us know what type of technical assistance MSAC could provide beyond funding that would serve to strengthen your district.

A.2 Capital Projects

- A. How many capital projects were initiated, in process, or completed in the district during the reporting period? If none, enter 0.

Provide a list of all capital projects initiated, in process, or completed within the district during the reporting period. Include A&E District projects as well as those undertaken in the district by other organizations, developers, or enterprises.

Instructions: Include the name or address, CP type (see below), and phase at the end of the reporting period (see below) of each project in the following format:

Project Name/Address; CP type; Number of Units; Phase

Project Name/Address; CP type; Number of Units; Phase

Etc...

CP Type: Residential, Commercial, Mixed-Use, Industrial, Artist Housing; Other (include as many as pertain)

Phase: Initiated, In Process, Completed

A.3 Openings

- A. How many new retailers opened in the district during the reporting period? If none, enter 0.

Provide a list of all retailers that opened in the district during the reporting period. For the purposes of this report, retailers include businesses that sell goods, whether arts-related or not.

Instructions: Include each retailer's name, industry (see below), and if available the number of full and part-time jobs employed by the retailer in the following format:

Retailer Name; Retailer Industry; #FT; #PT

Retailer Name; Retailer Industry; #FT; #PT

Etc...

Retailer Industry: General, Specialty (e.g., art supplies, sporting goods, books, music), Clothing,

Food/Beverage, Health (e.g., drug stores), Other.

- B. How many new businesses opened in the district during the reporting period? If none, enter 0.

- C. Provide a list of all businesses (other than retailers and restaurants) that opened in the district during the reporting period.

Instructions: Include each business' name, industry (see below), and if available the number of full and part-time jobs employed by the business in the following format:

Business Name; Business Industry; #FT; #PT

Business Name; Business Industry; #FT; #PT

Etc...

Business Industry: Accommodations (e.g., hotels, b&bs, etc.), Arts-Related, Attraction (specify Museum, Historical Site, Amusement, etc.), Education, Financial, Fitness, Medical, Real Estate, Other.

- D. How many new restaurants opened in the district during the reporting period? If none, enter 0.

Provide a list of all restaurants that opened in the district during the reporting period.

Instructions: Include each restaurant's name, whether it provides full, counter, or bar service, and if available the number of full and part-time jobs employed by the restaurant in the following format:

Restaurant Name; Full/Counter/Bar; #FT; #PT

Restaurant Name; Full/Counter/Bar; #FT; #PT

Etc...

- E. How many organizations newly located in the district during the reporting period? If none, enter 0.

Provide a list of all organizations that opened a physical office or space in the district during the reporting period. Organizations may include not-for-profit arts or service organizations and any other organizations not included in any of the categories above.

Instructions: Include each organization's name, type (see below) and if available the number of full and part-time jobs employed by the organization in the following format:

Organization Name; Org Type; #FT; #PT

Organization Name; Org Type; #FT; #PT

Etc...

Org type: Arts-Related, Not-For-Profit, Community, Other (include all types that pertain)

A.4 Closings

- A. How many retailers closed in the district during the reporting period? If none, enter 0.

Provide a list of all retailers that closed in the district during the reporting period. For the purposes of this report, retailers include businesses that sell goods, whether arts-related or not.

Instructions: Include each retailer's name, industry (see below) and if available the number of full and part time jobs lost because of the retailer's closing in the following format:

Retailer Name; Retailer Industry; #FT; #PT

Retailer Name; Retailer Industry; #FT; #PT

Etc...

Retailer Industry: General, Specialty (e.g., art supplies, sporting goods, books, music), Clothing,

Food/Beverage, Health (e.g., drug stores), Other.

- B. How many businesses closed in the district during the reporting period? If none, enter 0.

Provide a list of all businesses (other than retailers and restaurants) that closed in the district during the reporting period.

Instructions: Include each business' name, industry (see below), and if available the number of full and part-time jobs lost because of the business' closing in the following format:

Business Name; Business Industry; #FT; #PT

Business Name; Business Industry; #FT; #PT

Etc...

Business Industry: Accommodations (e.g., hotels, b&bs, etc.), Arts-Related, Attraction (specify Museum, Historical Site, Amusement, etc.), Education,

Financial, Fitness, Medical, Real Estate, Other

- C. How many restaurants closed in the district during the reporting period? If none, enter 0.

Provide a list of all restaurants that closed in the district during the reporting period. Include each restaurant's name, whether it provided full, counter, or bar service, and if available the number of full and part-time jobs lost because of the restaurant's closing in the following format:

Restaurant Name; Full/Counter/Bar; #FT; #PT
Restaurant Name; Full/Counter/Bar; #FT; #PT
Etc...

- D. How many organizations closed or moved outside the district during the reporting period? If none, enter 0.

Provide a list of all organizations that closed a physical office or space in the district during the reporting period. Organizations may include not-for-profit arts or service organizations and any other organizations not included in any of the categories above.

Include each organization's name, type (see below) and if available the number of full and part-time jobs lost because of the organization's closing in the following format:

Organization Name; Org Type; #FT; #PT
Organization Name; Org Type; #FT; #PT
Etc...

Org type: Arts-Related, Not-For-Profit, Community, Other (include all that pertain)

A.5 District Events and Festivals

- A. How many events occurred within the district during the reporting period?

Provide a list of all public events that occurred within the district during the reporting period. Include events presented by district management as well those presented by other organizations or enterprises.

Include the event's name, date(s), number of occurrences during the reporting period, estimated total attendance (total for all occurrences during the reporting period), and event type (see below). Mark with an asterisk () events that took place for the first time during the reporting period. Please use the following formats:*

For new events:

**Event Name; Date(s); Number of Occurrences; Estimated Total Attendance; Type*

**Event Name; Date(s); Number of Occurrences; Estimated Total Attendance; Type*

Etc...

For reoccurring/annual events:

Event Name; Date(s); Number of Occurrences; Estimated Total Attendance; Type

Event Name; Date(s); Number of Occurrences; Estimated Total Attendance; Type
Etc...

Event Type: Community, Culture, Film, Fine Art, Food, Holiday, Performing Arts, Other

B. How many festivals occurred within the district during the reporting period?

Provide a list of all public festivals that occurred within the district during the reporting period. Include festivals presented by district management as well those presented by other organizations or enterprises.

Include the festival's name, date(s), number of occurrences during the reporting period, estimated total attendance (total for all occurrences during the reporting period), and festival type (see below). Mark with an asterisk () festivals that were presented for the first time during the reporting period. Please use the following formats:*

For new festivals:

**Festival Name; Date(s); Number of Occurrences; Estimated Total Attendance;*

Type

**Festival Name; Date(s); Number of Occurrences; Estimated Total Attendance;*

Type

Etc...

For reoccurring/annual festivals:

Festival Name; Date(s); Number of Occurrences; Estimated Total Attendance;

Type

Festival Name; Date(s); Number of Occurrences; Estimated Total Attendance;

Type

Etc...

Festival Type: Community, Culture, Film, Fine Art, Food, Holiday, Performing Arts, Other

A.6 District Assets

A. Provide a list of all arts-related enterprises within the district by type. Note: For those organizations that perform, exhibit, or provide services outside of the district, only include attendance that occurs within the district in your estimate.

Enter each enterprise once under the appropriate enterprise type. Omit any types that do not apply. Enter an enterprise under "Other" if it does not fit any of the first seven types.

Enterprise Types: Galleries/Co-ops; Performance Venues; Museums; Arts Organizations; Arts Education Organizations; Public Art Pieces; Art Suppliers/Services; Other

For each type, include the name and annual attendance/patronage/visitation of each enterprise in the following format:

Galleries/Co-ops

Name; Estimated Total Annual Attendance/Patronage/Visitation

Name; Estimated Total Annual Attendance/Patronage/Visitation

Etc...

Performance Venues

Name; Estimated Total Annual Attendance/Patronage/Visitation
Name; Estimated Total Annual Attendance/Patronage/Visitation
Etc...
ETC...

- B. Provide a list of housing in the district that is built for or marketed to artists. Include affordable housing and any explanatory information as necessary.

Include name or address, type (see below) and number of units in the following format:

Name/Address; Housing Type; Number of Units

Name/Address; Housing Type; Number of Units

Etc.

Housing Type: Artist; Affordable; Market-rate; Apartment; Condominium; Other (include all that pertain)

A.7 Occupancy Rate

- A. Estimate the percentage of occupied real estate at the end of the current reporting period for each type of building stock in the district. If not applicable, enter N/A.

Storefront/Commercial ----- %

Residential -----%

Industrial/Manufacturing -----%

Mixed Use -----%

Mixed Use is defined as a combination of land uses on the same site. Occupancy for this report can be estimated based on information from local real estate or licensing offices or best estimates based on district manager knowledge of the district.

A.8 District Benefit Information

- A. Does the district maintain an artist registry?

Estimate the total number of artists working in the district.

This estimate should include all registered artists (if the district maintains a registry) and an estimate of all artists regularly working within the district during the reporting period.

- B. Does the district have an artist relocation program?

- C. How many businesses in the district take advantage of the Admission and Amusement Tax abatement? If none, enter 0.

- D. Provide a list all businesses taking advantage of the abatement.

E. How many property tax credits were applied for during the reporting period?

F. Provide a list of property addresses for which property tax credits applications were submitted.

To confirm whether or not a construction project applied for A&E property tax credits, contact the tax office for your county, city, or town. County contact information can be found [here](#). Contact the Program Director for help finding this information.

G. Other than the A&E tax incentives, list all additional incentives available in the district.

List all incentives available within the district that are offered by state, county, or local government, by business groups, or through designations that overlap the A&E District.

H. Communication tools

Check all that apply

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Website
- Media page
- On-line events calendar
- Artist registry
- Other – specify:

A.9 District Funding

REPORT FUNDING APPLIED FOR OR RECEIVED FOR DISTRICT PROJECTS OR OPERATIONS ONLY

A. Federal/National Funding

Agency or Funder	Type of Funding	Award/Grant Amount (enter \$0 if funding was applied for but not received)
-----	-----	\$ -----

B. MSAC Funding

MSAC Program	Type of Funding	Award/Grant Amount (enter \$0 if funding was applied for but not received)
-----	-----	\$ -----

C. Other State Funding

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Department or Funder	Type of Funding	Award/Grant Amount (enter \$0 if funding was applied for but not received)
-----	-----	\$ -----

D. Local Funding

Entity or Funder	Type of Funding	Award/Grant Amount (enter \$0 if funding was applied for but not received)
-----	-----	\$ -----

E. In-Kind

Entity	Description of Support	Estimated Value
-----	-----	\$ -----

A.10 Electronic Signatures

The name typed here is authorized to sign this Maryland State Arts Council application on behalf of the applicant and certifies that all information contained in this report is true and accurate. Checking this box verifies that the applicant agrees to complete and submit this report by electronic means, including the use of an electronic signature.

Signature:

Total Income (Allowable + Non-Allowable):

Total Expenses (Allowable + Non-Allowable):

Appendix B—Data Limitations

Please note that data comes from annual reports that each A&E District is required to submit to MSAC. Since these documents contain self-reported data, some information may be inconsistent between districts and/or under- or over-counted.

END OF DOCUMENT