



December 4, 2018

Ms. Lori Snyder  
Executive Director  
Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance  
190 W. Ostend St, Suite 210  
Baltimore, MD 21230

Dear Ms. Snyder,

We are writing on behalf of the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) in support of the development and implementation of *artlook Maryland*. We believe that this data-mapping platform with associated rubrics to drive and recognize excellence in the arts is long overdue in preK-12 education in Maryland.

As a vibrant and innovative cultural institution that is a vital educational resource for a broad and diverse audience, the BMA is excited about the potential to further expand its reach through *artlook's* publicly-accessible database of arts partners and schools. We have seen firsthand the positive impact that our school tours, educational programs, workshops, and professional development for teachers have had on the more than 25,000 students and teachers whom we welcome every year. The *artlook* map will provide a crucial tool for connecting schools and arts partners throughout the state to help target resources to fill gaps in arts access for our students, particularly those from low-income schools and communities. Furthermore, we believe that *artlook* will drive increased efficiency for our education department by making it easier to locate and contact schools with students who would most benefit from our programs.

We know that arts education is essential as part of a well-rounded, world-class education that we want to provide for each student in our city and state. Numerous studies indicate the arts' positive impact on student achievement and test scores, overall motivation, and critical-thinking skills. We also know that students involved in the arts and who have constructive experiences through school are more likely to form positive relationships with peers and teachers. When learning is interesting and exciting, both student engagement and achievement will rise. From there we can engage them more deeply in the learning of all disciplines.

We are pleased to endorse the implementation of *artlook Maryland* and see this important project supporting our mission to inspire creativity, encourage learning, and foster human understanding through an excellent artistic program in an environment welcoming to all. Our students need a learning environment where exposure to the arts is valued, inquiry is supported, and exploratory learning is part of daily instruction. We see *artlook* as a step to help Maryland educators and cultural institutions build the capacity to reach and engage more young people across our state through the arts.

Sincerely,

Christine Dietze  
COO, Baltimore Museum of Art

Christopher Bedford  
Director, Baltimore Museum of Art