



September 24, 2018

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

Dear Ms. Snyder,

I am writing on behalf of Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) 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 an institution of higher education that empowers students to forge creative, purposeful lives and careers in a diverse and changing world, MICA 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 many benefits of after-school arts-based learning experiences on youth and communities through the year-long residencies community artists engage in with nonprofits, schools, and community centers in Baltimore through our Community Art Collaborative (CAC). 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 students, particularly those from low-income schools and communities. Furthermore, we believe that *artlook* will drive increased efficiency for the CAC and our degree programs by making it easier to locate and contact schools and organizations with students who would most benefit from our partnership.

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.

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We are pleased to endorse the implementation of *artlook Maryland* and see this important project supporting our vision for a just, sustainable, and joyful world activated and enriched by artists, designers, and educators who are valued for their leadership and imagination. Our next generations 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samuel Hoi', with a small black dot to its right.

Samuel Hoi
President