

January 29, 2019

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 Baltimore Center Stage 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 the State Theatre of Maryland since 1978, Center Stage has maintained its commitment to artistic excellence and access for all. Our educational programs inspire young imaginations, cultivate creative and intellectual potential, and help young audiences develop a practical understanding of the arts. Center Stage 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 Young Playwrights Festival, Student Matinee Series, School Partnerships, and many other educational programs have had on the nearly thousands of Maryland students we serve each season. 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 participating in meaningful cultural activities as a regular part of a well-rounded educational experience helps to develop empowered creative thinkers who are better equipped to thrive in a global marketplace of diverse and rapidly changing ideas. Every student in our city and state deserves this opportunity. Community-based programs like Baltimore Center Stage's are especially essential for public schools that lack resources to provide these meaningful arts experiences for its students. The *artlook*[®] data platform will help us connect with schools to ensure that all students are able to access the many benefits that theatre education offers.

We are pleased to endorse the implementation of *artlook*[®] *Maryland* and see this important project supporting our mission to engage, enrich, and broaden the perspectives of diverse audiences through entertaining and thought-provoking work and educational programs. 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,

A blue ink signature of Michael Ross, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes.

Michael Ross

Executive Director, Baltimore Center Stage

A blue ink signature of Adena Varner, featuring a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by the name in a cursive script.

Adena Varner

Director of Education, Baltimore Center Stage