

**Testimony**  
**Strathmore Hall – Capital Additions and Historical Restorations**  
**ZA00 – Miscellaneous Grant Programs FY2016**  
**Larry Levitan and Eliot Pfanstiehl**

We are here in support of the inclusion of the \$1,000,000 statewide Capital Bond Bill in the FY16 State Capital Budget for the planning and design phase of our **Renovation of the Historic Mansion and the Expansion of the Music Center at Strathmore**. Montgomery County has assured us they will provide their match to this appropriation. In FY 17, Strathmore will seek the remainder of the construction funding from the State and County.

We are now celebrating our Tenth Anniversary of the Music Center which opened February 5, 2005 with major capital funding provided by the County and the State. Strathmore, the not for profit operator of the Music Center, boasts is a beautiful 2,000 seat music venue with world class acoustics and award winning design as well as a comprehensive arts education center. It houses all of *Strathmore's* programs as well as those of the *Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, National Philharmonic, Levine School of Music, Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras, CityDance, and interPLAY*. The campus hosts *260 annual performances* per year for *250,000 patrons* and services *over 1,000 students per week*. Strathmore is truly a statewide asset as it regularly draws audiences from *Montgomery, Frederick, Howard, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Washington, Baltimore County and Baltimore City*. In its short ten year life, Strathmore is now the largest and most productive performing public arts presenter in the State. In short, it is working exactly as promised to this legislative body ten years ago.

This project will *enclose the Bou Terrace* at the Music Center thereby doubling the number of patrons who can be seated and served in the Music Center café. It also adds *additional meeting and reception capacity* for pre and post show events, civic meetings and pre-concert educational lectures. The project *adds a new escalator* connecting the Promenade entry level and the lower Orchestra lobby serving our growing number of patrons with mobility issues. Finally, a portion of the funds will repair and stabilize the adjacent century-old historic (Corby) Mansion including *repairs to the roof, floors, foundation walls and column restoration* to stabilize this historic site, as required by law.

We believe Strathmore is a major statewide treasure which should be protected and encouraged by the State of Maryland. Your support of this project is invaluable to the project's success.

Thank you for your support, both in the past and in the future.