

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

PUBLIC TESTIMONY TEMPLATE

October 21st School Board Meeting / Arts Night

Use this template to connect your experience with arts education to BA4AE's two shared asks.

INTRODUCE YOURSELF

Good evening. My name is _____, and I am a parent / caregiver / student / educator / community member connected to _____ School.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

At our school, students have access to:

One thing I value about our arts program is:

One concern or need I see is:

CONNECT YOUR EXPERIENCE TO ACCOUNTABILITY

Families now have greater access to information about how schools are expected to budget for Fine Arts. But we also need to know that what is budgeted is what students actually receive. I am asking the district and School Board to establish **a clear accountability process to ensure schools meet Fine Arts budget guidance and funds are spent according to the approved budget.**

This is important to my school because:

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CALL FOR MORE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Students also deserve greater access to instrumental music across the district. I am asking the district and School Board to expand the Instrumental Music Plan to 10 schools

Expanding instrumental music is important because:

CLOSE WITH OUR SHARED MESSAGE

Baltimore City students deserve equitable access to strong arts programs, regardless of which school they attend.

Strong arts programs need strong district support.

Thank you.

NOTES:

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Sample Testimony #1:

Good evening. My name is Maria Johnson, and I am a parent at Baltimore City Elementary School.

The arts are an important part of my child's education. At our school, students have access to visual art and music, but like many families, I want to know that the arts staffing and resources included in our school budget are actually reaching our students.

Now that families have access to the Fine Arts budget guidance, we can better understand what schools are expected to provide. But access to information is only the first step. We need a clear accountability process to ensure that schools meet Fine Arts budget guidance and that funds are spent according to the approved budget.

We also need to expand opportunities for students. Instrumental music can give young people the chance to discover an interest, develop a skill, and participate in an experience they might not otherwise have. Yet too many students do not have access to that opportunity.

I am asking the district and School Board to expand the Instrumental Music Plan to 10 schools. Families should be able to trust that the arts resources included in school budgets reach students, while the district continues to expand opportunities for students who do not yet have them.

Strong arts programs need strong district support.

Thank you.

Sample Testimony #2:

Good evening. My name is Maria Johnson, and I am a parent at Baltimore City Elementary School.

My child loves music, but our school only has a part-time music teacher. That limits how often students receive music instruction and the opportunities they have to build their skills over time.

After learning more about the district's Fine Arts budget guidance, I have a better understanding of how staffing and funding decisions affect the arts opportunities available at my child's school.

I am asking the district and School Board to make sure schools have the staffing and resources they need to provide strong, consistent arts programs—not just when an individual school can find room in its budget.

Strong arts programs need strong district support.

Thank you.