2026 MARYLAND ARTS DAY

MCA
maryland citizens for the arts

SCHEDULE

2026 MARYLAND ARTS DAY

9:00AM

OPENING REMARKS + GREETINGS FROM LAWMAKERS

Hosted by Nicholas Cohen, Executive Director, MCA
First Lady Dawn Moore
Comptroller Brooke Lierman
Senate President Bill Ferguson
Speaker Pro Tem of the House Luke Clippinger
Senator Cheryl Kagan
Delegate Stephanie Smith
Delegate Elizabeth Embry

9:30AM

SUE HESS LEGACY MARYLAND ARTS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD PRESENTATION

Presented by Albita Rivera, Sue Hess Nominating Committee Chair, Board of Trustees, MCA
Named in honor of the late Sue Hess, the first MCA Board Chair and longest-serving Trustee, this award recognizes individuals and organizations whose efforts significantly increase support for and public recognition of the arts in Maryland.

2026 Recipient
Maria Broom, Actress, Dancer, Teacher, Storyteller

10:00AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Sue Malone, Executive Director, Wide Angle Youth Media

10:35AM

BUDGET REALITIES + LEGISLATIVE TALKING POINTS

Marva Jo Camp Esq., Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, MCA
Nicholas Cohen, Executive Director, MCA

11:30AM-12:30PM

LEGISLATIVE VISITS

Lowe House Office Building + Miller/James Senate Building
Delegations meet with legislators in assigned locations. Attendees will be dismissed by county/region from the Key Auditorium to the lobby and follow instructions from their delegation leaders from there.

12:00PM-2:00PM

LUNCH PICK-UP

Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts

#MDARTSDAY2026

SPECIAL GUESTS

Sue Hess Award Recipient

MARIA BROOM

Actress, Dancer, Teacher, Storyteller

Although nationally known as an actress for her recurring roles in HBO's *The Wire* and *The Corner*, Maria is also a storyteller and dancer with over forty years of performing and teaching in the US and globally. She is a Fulbright scholar and former news reporter for the ABC affiliates in Miami and Baltimore. She is on the theater faculty at the Baltimore School for the Arts. A native of Baltimore, Maria has received many awards and honors including the Eubie Blake Award, the Sarah's Circle Award and the 2004 Governor's Arts Award for Individual Artist. In 2007, she was named, Artist of the Year by Young Audiences of Maryland, Inc. In addition to her work as performer and educator, Maria is much requested as a speaker and presenter. With a background in yoga, meditation, Homa therapy and dance therapy, she conducts staff retreats, workshops and weekly classes that help people to release stress and feel at peace. Formerly, the diversity coordinator for the Park School in Baltimore, she has been a consultant since 2006 for Maryland Public Television's Campaign for Love and Forgiveness, sponsored by Fetzer Institute. As a recipient of an Open Society Institute community fellowship grant, Maria established a unique mentoring program in the inner city schools, and beyond, called the Dance Girls of Baltimore. Through this vehicle, she passes on the values of self-discipline and thoughtful behavior. In 2007, Maria worked in Poland and Czechoslovakia co-directing the independent film "Soul Immortal" to be released in 2010.

Keynote Speaker

SUE MALONE

Executive Director
Wide Angle Youth Media

Susan Malone is a nonprofit leader committed to building sustainable, values-driven organizations that center equity, creativity, and accountability. As Executive Director of Wide Angle Youth Media, she has guided their transformation from a small local program into an nationally recognized organization for innovation, transparency, and impact. At the core of her work is a belief that nonprofits can be both mission-driven and financially resilient—serving communities not just through programs, but by modeling the systems change we seek to create.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Maria Broom and Sue Malone

THANK YOU

2026 MARYLAND ARTS DAY

MCA SUPPORTERS

William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios

CAAM COUNTY ARTS AGENCIES OF MARYLAND

julie st.marie catering | event coordination

NAACP

WT WHITING-TURNER

MARYLAND CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS

Maryland Citizens for the Arts (MCA) is a statewide arts advocacy organization, founded in 1977 to represent all Maryland artists and arts organizations. MCA works to increase public recognition and support of the Arts and the role they play in the education of our children and in the quality of life and economic vitality of Maryland. MCA achieves this goal by advocating for the arts across the state and by promoting adequate public funding at the local, state and federal levels.

MCA STAFF

Nicholas Cohen, Executive Director
Amanda Morell, Deputy Director
Tracy Stevens, Marketing Manager
H. Cipriana, Intern

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MCA maryland citizens for the arts

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