



**Montgomery County Council
FY27 Capital Budget Hearing
Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 1:30 pm**

Testimony of Alie Karambash, Montgomery College Summer Dinner Theatre Alumnus

Good afternoon, members of the County Council.

My name is Alie Karambash. I am a lifelong Montgomery County resident currently living in Burtonsville, a Springbrook High School graduate, and a Montgomery College alumnus.

Thank you for your support of Montgomery College. I am here today to ask for your continued support of MC's capital budget, and the Theatre Arts building renovation.

After earning my associate's degree from MC then my bachelor's degree from University of Maryland, College Park, I have worked as a professional actor, a theatre artist, a teaching artist at non-profit theatre organizations and in arts management. I've worked at Adventure Theater, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Theater Alliance, Smithsonian's Discovery Theater, and more.

The DC region's theatre industry is one of the strongest in the country. Outside of New York City, the Washington Metro Area produces more plays and musicals than anywhere in the country. We are home to many nationally renowned theatres such as Olney Theater, Roundhouse Theatre, Arena Stage, Ford's Theater, Signature Theater, and many more.

I was well-prepared for my career through my studies at MC and especially with my experience with MC's Summer Dinner Theatre. MC's Performing Arts program is stellar, and the Summer Dinner Theatre has a reputation for being the stomping grounds of many DC and NYC actors. I learned so much about professional theatre in Summer Dinner Theatre and gained incredible professional connections, including working under notable DC area actors and directors Evan Casey and Kurt Boehm.

Montgomery College is a strong, well regarded, known entity in the regional and—dare I say, national—performing arts community, known for producing talented and well-rounded artists. Multiple alumni that I know have performed on Broadway as well as in the DC area.

The Theatre Arts Building, home to many stage productions over the years, is in dire need for an upgrade. MC students need to have facilities, classrooms, and studios that set them up for working in the professional world. During my time there, students from different classes often struggled to schedule time to rehearse and competed for use of the arena and black box spaces. If students had up-to-date space for stage building and technical design and more dedicated practice spaces, students would be set up for success. Infrastructure that helps one of the longest-running dinner theatres in the state of Maryland would support what makes MC's Performing Arts program so special.

A renovated Theatre Arts Building would be a promising investment for the Performing Arts students at Montgomery College who will become our region's next actors, producers, set designers, sound technicians.

Please support Montgomery College's capital budget and the renovation of the Theatre Arts building.