



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

Testimony of Eli Schreiber, Montgomery College Rockville Performing Arts Student

Good afternoon, Members of the Montgomery County Council.

I am honored to be here with you today.

My name is Eli Schreiber. I was born at Holy Cross Hospital here in Montgomery County twenty years ago, and now I am a Performing Arts student at Montgomery College's Rockville Campus, just down the road. I grew up in Kemp Mill, where my father owns a Chinese takeout called "Holy Chow" in a shopping center off University Boulevard. You should give it a try. The food is good, I promise.

I came here today, my first time in this building, to thank you for supporting my school and ask you to please support MC's capital budget request, including the Theatre Arts building renovation.

I can't tell you how grateful I am to study at MC. I honestly never saw a path for myself growing up. Now, I know that I want to pursue a career in the theater industry. Ultimately, I want to be an acting professor and help prepare performers for the DMV theater industry.

Through my studies, I have gained much-needed experience in the Theatre Arts building. For example, I was a stagehand for Summer Dinner Theatre and an actor for the play "And So" this past fall. I don't have enough fingers on my hands to count the number of times my professors have been there to support me. We are so lucky to have such a close and supportive community at Montgomery College. I've made industry connections as well as friends, and learned more than I ever thought possible.

What we have in faculty, productions, and opportunity, we lack in quality space.

We students need better classrooms, labs, and performance areas. For example, the Theatre Arts stage has poor sound quality. Because of the building's age, there is no ability to upgrade.

Alongside this, the technology we use for our lighting system is outdated compared to today's industry standard because, again, the old building cannot handle modern technology. The Blackbox has a history of infestations, and the wooden floor has become warped due to moisture from leaks. As an actor who has performed in Theatre Arts *and* on professional stages, I can confidently state that MC's Theatre Arts building does not properly model the working conditions of modern theatres. This out-of-date, worn-out building will not prepare Performing Arts students for the professional world.

MC's Performing Arts department is brimming with life. This is the moment to support students like me. We need relevant, modern, and safe classrooms, labs, and stages in order to move into the professional theater world.

Thank you again for your consideration of supporting Montgomery College and the Theatre Arts building renovation. It means the world to me and to my fellow students.