



FY 2023

CAPITAL BUDGET TESTIMONY

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Presented by Dr. Aminta H. Breaux, *President*

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Subcommittee on Capital Budget

Senator Craig Zucker, Chair
March 15, 2022

House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Capital Budget

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
March 16, 2022

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY | FY 2023 CAPITAL BUDGET TESTIMONY

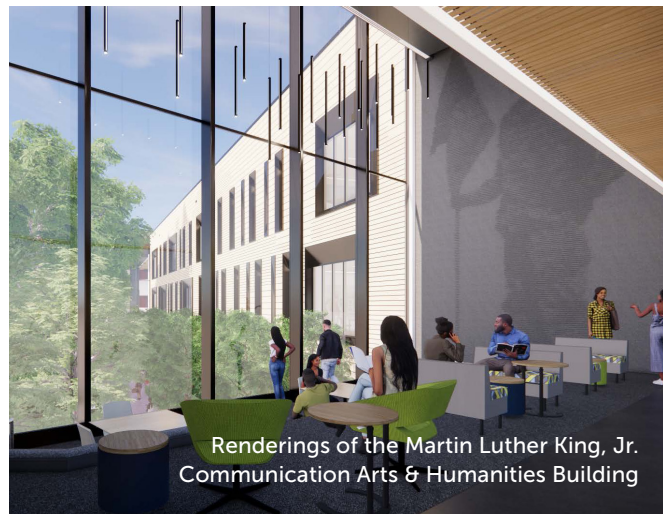
21ST CENTURY FACILITIES TO SUPPORT 21ST CENTURY TEACHING & LEARNING

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMUNICATION ARTS AND HUMANITIES BUILDING

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of Bowie State University, I am pleased to offer testimony in support of the Governor’s proposed capital budget for FY 2023 which includes funding to continue construction and begin to equip our new Communication Arts and Humanities building. This new building will replace the 49-year old Martin Luther King, Jr. Communication Arts facility which will be demolished. We are grateful for your continued support and very much look forward to welcoming students to this critically important new facility in fall 2024.

This project is critical to the success of the university’s strategic plan, entitled *Racing to Excellence*. The

plan is anchored in three main priorities: Academic Excellence, Student Success and Institutional Viability. The five goals of this five-year plan are: (1) Achieve academic excellence supported by curricular as well as co-curricular experiences; (2) Promote a holistic and coordinated approach to student success; (3) Encourage academic and administrative innovation to meet student needs; (4) Enhance our campus culture of diversity, inclusion and civic engagement; and (5) Ensure long-term viability of BSU. In order for the university to meet our goals we must replace outdated facilities with state-of-the-art structures suitable for 21st century teaching and learning. Replacement of the current Martin Luther King Jr. building has been a top priority.

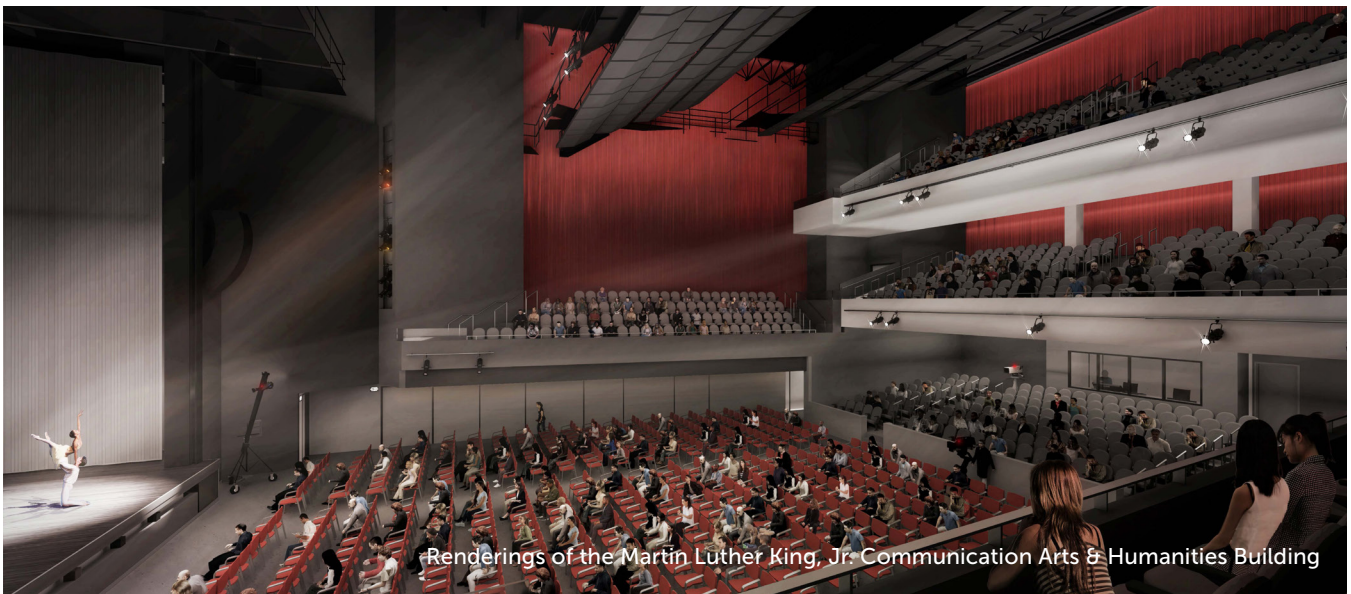


Renderings of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Communication Arts & Humanities Building

Built in 1973 and never renovated, the MLK building houses our Departments of Communications, Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, History and Government and Military Science (our growing ROTC program). The building has structural problems, outdated HVAC and electrical systems as well as ADA accessibility concerns.

It is by far our most heavily used academic building – every BSU student must take general education classes held in the facility. The new building will

feature active learning classrooms and collaborative informal student study space. The specialized class laboratories include audio/video editing and demonstration spaces for media production, broadcast/print journalism, public relations, language, literacy and writing. In addition there will be history, government, and geographic information systems laboratories. The building will also house the administrative functions of each of the departments with general support space and amenities.



Renderings of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Communication Arts & Humanities Building

ENROLLMENT GROWTH

Each year since 2017, BSU received on average more than 11,000 first-time student applications, an increase of over 300% from 2012 through 2016. In spite of downward trends nationwide, enrollment grew by 1% in fall 2021. BSU continues to exceed MHEC projections for degree completion, conferring 882 bachelor's degrees during the pandemic and commissioning a record 23 ROTC officers in FY 2021. The demand for a BSU education remains high.

NEW FACILITIES MASTER PLAN, NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

We completed the update to our Facilities Master Plan to align it with the *FY 19–FY 24 Racing to Excellence Strategic Plan*. The plan (which may be viewed [here](#)) lays the groundwork for continued growth and academic innovation and makes a strong case for major investment in new and renovated facilities. Moreover, with the implementation of SB1/HB1 signed by the Governor in 2021, an infusion of operating funds beginning in FY 2023 will support the development of several new, high demand academic programs to support Maryland's workforce. BSU's new "niche" programs will draw on our strengths in cybersecurity, computer technology, professional studies and education. It is imperative that our infrastructure keep pace with the growth in enrollment and academic program offerings.



BSU continues to exceed MHEC projections for degree completion

THURGOOD MARSHALL LIBRARY RENOVATION

The updated Master Plan informs our capital priorities, key among them, the woefully out-of-date Thurgood Marshall Library. Built in 1975, this 166,869 square-foot facility is the largest building on the campus. With the exception of computer labs added in 1996, many of the essential library spaces have never been renovated. Instead, we have invested significant Facility Renewal funds to simply maintain the building which, over time, has become home to a variety of unrelated administrative offices for which there was no other space on campus. The facility simply has not kept pace with the technological and programmatic demands of a modern academic library. The renovation will transform it into a

state-of-the-art Academic Commons to support our growing enrollment well into the future. This project is especially critical for our commuter student population which currently comprises two-thirds of our enrollment of 6,308 students.

We need to begin work on the library renovation soon after the new MLK Communication Arts and Humanities building is completed in 2024.

Not only do our faculty and students deserve 21st century, first-class academic facilities, but the workforce demands it, and our growth and competitiveness depend greatly upon it. I thank you for your support for funding for our new Martin Luther King, Jr. Communication Arts and Humanities building. We urge your consideration for funding to begin planning for our library renovation.



Thurgood Marshall Library

RESPONSE TO DLS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the \$73,247,000 general obligation bond authorization for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Communication Arts and Humanities building.

Response: The University agrees with this recommendation.

2. Approve the deauthorization of \$1,416,647 in general obligation bonds appropriated in fiscal 2016 for the New Sciences Center. The funds are not needed to complete the project.

Response: The University agrees with this recommendation.

3. Approve the preauthorization of \$61,598,000 in general obligation bonds to continue construction of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Communication Arts and Humanities building.

Response: The University agrees with this recommendation.

4. Approve the preauthorization of \$4,272,000 in general obligation bonds to finish the construction of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Communication Arts and Humanities building.

Response: The University agrees with this recommendation.