

**LETTER FROM THE HONORARY CHAIRPERSON  
FIRST LADY KATIE O'MALLEY**



Greetings,

On behalf of the State of Maryland, I am delighted to invite you to participate in One Maryland One Book, our state's community reading project. Last year's inaugural One Maryland One Book programs took place in 22 of 24 jurisdictions across Maryland and drew over 6,000 participants. We are looking toward greater success this year, having confirmed community partners in every Maryland district. This is a great project that offers an opportunity for residents around the state to connect through the shared experience of reading the same book, and then opening new dialogues with one another.

This year's selection is *Song Yet Sung* by James McBride, the award-winning author of *The Color of Water*. Set on the Eastern Shore in the 1850s, *Song Yet Sung* is a fictional story of slavery and freedom in antebellum Maryland. Mr. McBride spent countless hours on the Shore, learning about its history and people. The story reveals interesting characters whose lives provide a springboard for discussing our identity, our relationships, and our families today.

A program of the Maryland Humanities Council, One Maryland One Book is only possible due to the generosity of our community partners and sponsors, whom we thank for their enthusiastic support. I encourage you to take this opportunity to make a little time for reading and conversation in your life, and hope that you will join me and thousands of Marylanders by going to your local public library or bookstore to get a copy of *Song Yet Sung*.

Thank you for being a part of this special project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katie O'Malley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Katie O'Malley  
*First Lady of Maryland*

