Good evening. My name is Barbara Argyros, a local resident conducting independent research on economic development opportunities surrounding Baltimore County's video game industry.

Baltimore County has had a significant game-development presence for decades, but recent global industry layoffs are creating both a challenge and an opportunity. Through my recent fieldwork with local game-developers I have learned that experienced developers affected by layoffs are now forming new independent studios in this area.

One challenge for these very small companies is having affordable, flexible space where they can work, collaborate, meet investors and mentors, and grow before they are ready for a traditional commercial lease.

I am asking the Planning Board to consider whether the FY2028 Capital Improvement Program could provide adaptive reuse of an existing public facility or other appropriate space for a technology and game-development innovation hub.

This would not simply be office space. Expansion of these hubs will provide shared technology, flexible workspace, mentorship and connections to Baltimore County's economic-development programs, while also supporting partnerships with our colleges and workforce organizations.

The goal would be straightforward: help talented developers who are already here turn new companies into Baltimore County employers—and eventually into permanent commercial tenants.

This is especially pertinent now since Maryland has established a State-approved CTE pathway in Animation and Game Development for high school students for FY27-28, thus driving a larger need for incubator space when these individuals graduate.

I am proposing a win-win situation that helps both the game industry in Baltimore County, and local Baltimore County government, and I am calling out that this goal aligns with the Department of Economic and Workforce Development's Final Report that was released to the public in June 2026.

Also note The Towson RISE Zone's FY2025 report attributed "108 businesses, 916 jobs and more than $12.5 million in funding raised by accelerator ventures to the broader associated business ecosystem."

I've attached a summary to help the Planning Board facilitate further communication regarding this.

Thank you.

Barbara Argyros
bargyros1@gmail.com
410-790-9696