



Call for Panelists for the Maryland Heritage Areas Grants Program

The Maryland Heritage Areas Program is seeking panelists to review grant applications!

Serving as a panelist is a unique opportunity to learn about and support Maryland's historic, cultural, and natural heritage resources, get an inside look at the Maryland Heritage Areas Program's grants process, and gain insight into grant proposals. It is also a way to give back to the broader heritage community of Maryland. In previous years, the program has awarded approximately **\$5 million** in grants that support heritage tourism capital and non-capital projects annually, and we anticipate similar funding levels going forward.

Panelists will:

- Participate in annual training sessions for grant review (convened virtually and in-person)
- Review approximately 25 grant applications through an online reviewer portal
- Complete a scoring rubric for each application reviewed
- Participate in two Grants Panel meetings (convened virtually, via video and audio call) to discuss the applications
- Help make recommendations for final funding decisions to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority

Overall, the panelist role requires an estimated commitment of between 40 and 50 hours (depending on your previous experience reviewing grants) over the course of 4 months (primarily March-June of each year). Panelists who are not representing state agencies are eligible to receive an honorarium in recognition of the commitment they make to the review process.

Who is eligible to be a panelist?

We seek to have a broad and diverse array of individuals from across the state of Maryland to serve as panelists. Panelists are selected with a focus on diversity - diversity of experience, as well as professional, geographic, and human diversity. We are looking for people with experience in a broad range of focus areas, from construction and marketing to historic preservation and outdoor recreation. If you have an interest in the heritage of Maryland, we encourage you to apply!

If you are currently serving on the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, the board of directors of one of Maryland's 13 certified heritage areas, or the grants review committee of one of Maryland's 13 local heritage areas, you are not eligible to serve on this grants panel simultaneously. Likewise, if you are currently employed by one of Maryland's 13 local heritage areas, you are not eligible to serve on this panel.

How do I apply to be a panelist, or nominate someone to serve?

Visit our website (<https://mht.maryland.gov/Pages/MHAA/heritage-areas.aspx>) to learn more about the grant program and fill out the application (http://bit.ly/mhaa_panel).

Each spring, newly selected panelists are appointed to a three-year term, which may be renewed one time. For in-person meetings, panelists will receive travel reimbursement for serving. While not all applicants in a given year will be selected, we will keep a pool of eligible candidates for future years and continue to accept applications and nominations on a rolling basis.