



**Martin O'Malley, Governor    Anthony Brown, Lieutenant Governor  
Israel C. Patoka, Executive Director**

**Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture  
Theodore Mack, Chair**

*The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture serves as the statewide clearinghouse for preserving evidence of and documenting the African-American experience in Maryland. It specializes in research assistance and collection of historical materials - art objects, memorabilia, manuscripts, photographs, and other articles of significance to African-American history and culture. The Commission provides exhibits, programs and resource materials for education systems, institutions and the community at large.*

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## **Governor O'Malley Signs Bill Establishing African American Heritage Preservation Program**

Governor Martin O'Malley today signed into law a bill that establishes the African American Heritage Preservation Program to identify and preserve buildings, communities and sites of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland. The program will be administered as a joint partnership of the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC).

“The heritage preservation program will help restore a multi-cultural landscape while capturing the uniqueness of Maryland’s rich and diverse history and stimulating increased dialogue among individuals, groups, and sites,” said Commission Chair, Theodore Mack.

Governor O'Malley was joined at the bill signing ceremony by Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, Speaker of the House Michael Busch and sponsor of the bill, Senate President Thomas V. “Mike” Miller.

“This program provides us with a new opportunity to celebrate the diversity of the State's communities and to tell the story of the African American experience in Maryland for the benefit of residents and visitors alike,” said Maryland Department of Planning Secretary Richard E. Hall.

The African American Heritage Preservation Program also provides support for the acquisition, construction, and capital improvement of buildings and communities of importance to the history of African Americans in Maryland. This competitive program, offered once per year, is supported through an annual appropriation from the Maryland General Assembly. The legislation requires the Governor to include \$1,000,000 in the annual capital budget submission for the program for specified fiscal years. Grant awards generally range from a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$100,000.

For assistance in the development of project scope and purpose, contact Dr. Joni Jones, (MCAAHC) at (410) 216-6190. For assistance with capital project and technical preservation issues, contact Michael Day (MHT) at (410) 514-7629.

Application materials for the upcoming grant round will be available in the coming weeks, pending the approval of the final program regulations.

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The Maryland Historical Trust is a state agency dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. Through research, conservation and education, the Trust assists the people of Maryland in understanding their historical and cultural heritage. The Trust is an agency of the Maryland Department of Planning and serves as Maryland's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.