

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING**  
Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Pursuant to notice, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held in person in the MHT Board Room at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, Maryland.

Trustees present: Jeffrey Buchheit, Sarh Kunkel Filkins, Darius Johnson, Laura Davis Mears, Samuel J. Parker, Jr., Kristine Roome and Rebecca L. Flora.

Trustees participating via Google Meet: Albert L. Feldstein, LaShay Harvey, Franklin Robinson, Jr.

Area Representatives present: Dean Camlin, W. Dickerson Charlton, Douglass C. Reed, Harry Spikes, II, Kirsti Uunila and Tom Vitanza.

Area Representatives participating via Google Meet: Sakinah Linder, Lisa Sasser, and Charles A. Stek.

Office of the Attorney General: Rieyn DeLony, Adam Snyder

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes, Anne Raines, Kathy Monday, Allison Luthern, Rod Cofield.

Guests: Barbara Paca, John Zebelean

**AGENDA**

**O1 CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mears called the meeting to order at 10:21 AM due to some technical difficulties which caused a delay. A quorum of Board members was present.

In her introductory remarks, Ms. Mears recognized the untimely passing of Board member Howard Freedlander and former MHT Board member and MHT Director J. Rodney Little. She asked for a moment of silence in their memory.

Ms. Mears invited Dr. Paca to introduce new Board member Darius Johnson. Board members then introduced themselves.

**O2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Parker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reed, to approve the May 16, 2024 meeting minutes as submitted. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes with Secretary Flora abstaining from the vote.

**O3 PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public offered public comment.

O4 COMMITTEE REPORTS

O100 Capital Programs Committee

O200 Survey, Registration, Community Education & Museums Committee

O201 History Day Prize Winners Report

Ms. Hughes reported on the winners of the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees Maryland History Day prize. The MHT Board makes a donation to the Maryland Humanities Council to sponsor two achievement awards – one in the junior division (grades 6 through 8) and one in the senior division (grades 9 through 12). Winners receive a cash prize and a plaque with the name of the Maryland Historical Trust, and sponsorship is also acknowledged in the Maryland History Day program, the National History Day program, and in press releases containing the names of Maryland History Day winners. In addition, schools receive information about the Maryland Historical Trust award at the time that History Day projects are solicited for the competition.

This year’s prize winners included:

Junior Division Winner in 2023

“D-Day in Dowell”

Category: Junior Individual Exhibit

Student: Dean Western

School: Calvert Middle School, Calvert County

Teacher: Julei Darrach

Senior Division Winner in 2023

“Turning Points in World War II: the Production of the Liberty Ship Led to the Expansion of the Female Work Force and the Distribution of Supplies to Allies”

Category: Senior Individual Exhibit

Student: Sophia Borkowski-Johnson

School: C. Milton Wright High School, Harford County

Teacher: Dru Herbert

Secretary Flora and Mr. Feldstein encouraged Board members to consider participating in the History Day event as judges.

O202 JPPM Report

JPPM Director Rod Cofield reported on ongoing and upcoming events at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum. Capital projects that are underway at JPPM include completion of work at

the Patterson Center which is expected to open to the public in May of 2025 and expansion of the MAC Lab which is expected to be completed by September of 2025.

Upcoming events include the Neon Nights 5K (August 3) and American Indian Heritage Day (November 2) in addition to ongoing summer camps and preparation for the fall school tour season and other workshops and special events.

Finally, he noted that JPPM had received two grants – one from the Southern Maryland Folklife Center totaling \$3,000 in support American Indian Heritage Day and one from the Southern Maryland Heritage Area totaling \$4,000 in support of Patterson Gardens signage and educational material.

#### O203R            Historical and Cultural Museum Regulations

Ms. Hughes reported that the Museum Assistance Program was created in 1990 through the enactment of legislation presently codified in Title 5A, Subtitle 3 of the State Finance & Procurement Article. The purpose of the Program is to provide assistance to museums operated by political subdivisions and non-profit organizations, including through grant funding from the MHT Grant Fund. The Act required museums to meet certain criteria to be eligible for grant-funding, one of which prohibited MHT from making grant awards to State museums, for-profit museums, and to any museum that “currently is receiving operating support from the Maryland State Arts Council.”

In the first 20 years of its existence, the Program was supported by general fund appropriations that varied from year to year, from a high of more than \$2 million in FY2007 to a low of \$200,000 in FY2011. Since 2011, however, the Program has not received any funding, and since 2015, MHT has not staffed the Program.

She explained that during the 2024 session of the Maryland General Assembly, legislation was enacted that authorized, but did not require, the Governor to fund the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program in the amount of \$5,000,000 for FY2025 and thereafter. The legislation also deleted the provision that prohibited a museum from obtaining grant funding if it concurrently received funding from the Maryland State Arts Council. Although the Governor did not include funding for the Program in the 2025 budget, the provision deleting the disqualification of museums that receive funding from the Maryland State Arts Council went into effect on July 1, 2024.

As a result, the program regulations must be amended to reflect the deletion of the statutory prohibition on grants to museums that received funding from the Maryland State Arts Council. The Director, MHT staff, and the Office of the Attorney General have drafted revisions to the Program regulations to account for the 2024 legislation by deleting the corresponding regulatory provision disqualifying museums from grant funding if they receive funding from the Maryland State Arts Council. Should the Board delegate to the Director the authority to adopt the regulations, MHT Staff will submit the revised regulations to the Secretary of Planning for her review under State Finance & Procurement § 5-203(b)(2). If the Secretary approves, the

proposed regulations will then be submitted to the Office of the Attorney General for approval as to form and legal sufficiency, after which the regulations would be presented to the Governor's Office under the Moore Administration's guidelines for promulgating regulations. After gubernatorial review, the proposed regulations would be submitted to the General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review (AELR) and then to the Division of State Documents for publication in the Maryland Register and public comment. Accounting for the various review periods, Staff anticipates that the proposed regulations will be published sometime in late Summer 2024 and finalized in the Fall.

Following discussion, Mr. Reed offered the following motion, seconded by Mr. Buchheit which was approved unanimously.

**RESOLVED**, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees delegates to the Director the authority to adopt amendments to the regulations for the Museum Assistance Program as are appropriate and necessary to implement legislation, enacted as Chapter 494 in the 2024 session, that deleted a provision disqualifying museums from receiving grants if they concurrently receive operating support from the Maryland State Arts Council.

O300 Management & Planning Committee

O301R Election of MHT Board of Trustees Officers

Sarah Filkins, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the Bylaws of the MHT Board require the election of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman and a Treasurer at the first regular meeting of the Trustees after July 1. The term of officers shall be for two years and officers may not serve more than 3 consecutive terms.

Laura Mears, the current Chair, is completing her second full two-year term as Chair. She is eligible for a third two-year term.

Franklin Robinson, the current Vice Chair, is completing his second full two-year term as Vice Chair. He is eligible for a third two-year term.

The position of Treasurer is currently vacant.

The MHT Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officer candidates for election by the Board:

|                |                        |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Chairman:      | Laura Davis Mears      |
| Vice Chairman: | Franklin Robinson, Jr. |
| Treasurer:     | Dr. LaShay Harvey      |

Mr. Spikes offered the following motion, seconded by Mr. Charlton which was approved unanimously.

**RESOLVED**, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees elects the following slate of officers for two-year terms beginning on August 1, 2024:

| <b>Position</b> | <b>Name</b>            |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Chairman        | Laura Davis Mears      |
| Vice Chairman   | Franklin Robinson, Jr. |
| Treasurer       | Dr. LaShay Harvey      |

O302R Election of MHT Board of Trustees Executive Committee “Elected Trustee”

Ms. Filkins reported that the bylaws of the MHT Board stipulate that the Executive Committee shall consist of the officers, the immediate past Chairman (if still a Trustee) or the current Chairman's designee, and one other Trustee elected by the Trustees at the time established for the election of officers. The terms of the Executive Committee members shall be concurrent with the terms of the officers. Albert L. Feldstein currently serves as the Elected Trustee.

She stated that the Nominating Committee recommends that Albert L. Feldstein be re- elected as the Elected Trustee on the Executive Committee.

Mr. Spikes offered the following motion, seconded by Mr. Reed which was approved unanimously with Mr. Feldstein abstaining.

**RESOLVED**, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees elects Albert L. Feldstein to serve as the Elected Trustee on the Executive Committee.

O303R Election of Area Representatives

Ms. Filkins reported that the bylaws of the MHT Board provide for the election of persons to serve as Area Representatives to the Trust. The term of an Area Representative is two years, beginning on the first day of the first month following his or her election. Up to ten Area Representatives may serve at one time. Area Representatives are to be chosen so as to afford, on a regular basis, participation in Trust deliberations by persons from areas of the State not represented by Trustees.

The MHT Board Nominating Committee recommends re-election of all existing Area Representatives.

Mr. Robinson offered the following motion, seconded by Mr. Feldstein which was approved unanimously.

**RESOLVED**, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees elects the following slate of nominees to serve as Area Representatives for two-year terms beginning on August 1, 2024.

| <b>Name</b>         | <b>County</b>       |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Charles A. Stek     | Anne Arundel County |
| Harry T. Spikes, II | Baltimore City      |
| Kirsti Uunila       | Calvert County      |

|                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Dean R. Camlin        | Carroll County         |
| Lisa Sasser           | Kent County            |
| Sakinah Linder        | Harford County         |
| Tom Vitanza           | Montgomery County      |
| W. Dickerson Charlton | Prince George's County |
| Douglass C. Reed      | Washington County      |

Following the vote, Ms. Filkins noted that the Nominating Committee had discussed potential changes to the bylaws in the future that would require a term limit on the Area Representative positions. The purpose of this change would be to ensure that there is sufficient opportunity built into the system for new candidates who wish to serve on the Board. The Nominating Committee will come back to the Board with a specific recommendation.

Ms. Filkins also encouraged Board members to share information about service on the Board with their networks as the Board may make appointment recommendations to the Governor's Office.

Mr. Vitanza inquired if a list of former Board members exists. Mr. Buchheit offered to assist in the creation of that information.

Mr. Spikes suggested that the Board consider creation of an Advisory Committee as a way to retain institutional knowledge.

O304 MHT Board Conflict of Interest Overview – Presentation by Adam Snyder

Ms. Hughes reported that she had asked Mr. Snyder to provide a brief presentation on the Maryland Public Ethics Law and how it relates to MHT Board members. Background materials were distributed to the Board for their review in advance of the meeting.

Mr. Snyder made his presentation to the Board and answered questions.

O305 Interim Actions of the Executive Committee

Interim Actions of the Executive Committee

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
 VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
 Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm

Pursuant to notice, a virtual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm.

Trustees present: Laura Mears, Howard Freedlander, and Albert Feldstein.

Office of the Attorney General: Rieyn DeLony

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes

## AGENDA

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mears called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm. She noted that the purpose of the meeting was to take action on those items discussed at the regularly scheduled Board meeting held on May 16, 2024 at which a quorum was not present.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present to provide comment.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 21, 2024

Mr. Freedlander made a motion, seconded by Mr. Feldstein, to approve the March 21, 2024 meeting minutes. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

### IV. Capital Programs

#### A. Historic Preservation Capital Grant Awards – FY2024

The following motion was made by Mr. Feldstein, seconded by Mr. Freedlander, and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees recommends to the Secretary of Planning the award of Historic Preservation Capital Grants to those projects described in Exhibit A - Historic Preservation Capital Grant Program - Grant Chart - FY 2024 (the “Chart”).

#### B. FY2024 MHT Capital Loan Program - Transfer to Preservation Maryland

The following motion was made by Mr. Freedlander, seconded by Mr. Feldstein, and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees recommends to the Secretary of Planning the approval of a transfer from MHT of up to Three Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$300,000) (the “Transfer”) to fund the Project.

#### C. FY2024 African American Heritage Preservation Program Grant Awards – revised

The following motion was made by Mr. Feldstein, seconded by Mr. Freedlander, and approved unanimously.

WHEREAS, the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees passed resolution K101R at its December 7, 2023 meeting, concurring with the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture in the recommendation to the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning to (1) fund those projects in the “A=Recommended for Funding” category and “AR=Recommended for Funding Should Additional Funds become Available” category, as further described in Exhibit A from the December 7, 2023 meeting (African American Heritage Preservation Grant Chart for Fiscal Year 2024 or the “Chart”); and (2) maintain a reserve of \$14,545.17 to be used for emergency project grants during FY2024; and

WHEREAS, since the date of the resolution, \$100,000 has become available through cancellation of a prior year AAHPP grant;

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees concurs with the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture in a revised recommendation to the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning to (1) maintain a reserve of \$100,000 to be used for emergency grant projects for Fiscal Year 2024; and (2) provide partial funding to Turner Station History Center, Inc. in the amount of \$14,545.17 for the “Osceola Smith Life-Size Bronze Statue” project, the first project in the “AR=Recommended for Funding Should Additional Funds become Available” category, as further described in the Chart.

V. Survey, Registration, Community Education & Museums

A. Heritage Preservation Fund Project Selection – FY25

The following motion was made by Mr. Freedlander, seconded by Mr. Feldstein, and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust, that an expenditure of up to \$140,100 from the MHT Heritage Preservation Fund in fiscal year 2025 to support the following projects is approved.

- Up to \$6,600 for JPPM Public Archaeology Intern;
- Up to \$50,000 for Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab – Collections Assistant position;
- Up to \$3,000 for MHT Board Meeting expenses;
- Up to \$6,600 for the MHT Summer Internship in Archaeology;
- Up to \$1,000 for the FY2025 Archaeology Merit Badge Workshop;
- Up to \$47,000 for Architectural Survey Data Analysis Project positions;
- Up to \$400 for Architectural Fieldwork Symposium Honoraria;
- Up to \$1,500 for Communications & Outreach Funding;
- Up to \$500 for the MHT Maryland History Day Prize
- Up to \$20,000 for MHT Staff Training Activities; and
- Up to \$3,500 for MHT All-Staff Meeting and Staff Recognition Awards Program.

VI. Management & Planning



A. Resolution of Appreciation – Margaret Drake (see attachment)

Mr. Feldstein made a motion to approve a Resolution of Appreciation for Margaret Drake. The motion was seconded by Mr. Freedlander and approved unanimously.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

O306 Investment Committee Report

Mr. Charlton reported that our investment strategy has been excellent in these uncertain times and that Brown Advisory is not recommending broad changes across portfolios given the current environment.

O307 Equity Working Group Report

Mr. Parker reported that at the MHT All Staff meeting in September, the Equity Working Group will be reporting out on survey findings, identifying next steps, and will invite new staff participation in the ongoing work of the group.

O308 Budget & Legislation

Ms. Hughes reported that the fiscal year 2026 operating budget will be due sometime in late August or early September. She noted that while a number of state agencies had sustained reductions recently, Secretary Flora had been successful in protecting MDP from cuts. It is unclear what the 2026 operating budget target will include but budget reductions are possible.

Ms. Hughes reported that MHT does not expect to put forward any bills this year. While there may be legislation proposed by advocates related to the Maryland Heritage Area Program, the African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program, and the Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program, no proposals have been shared with MHT staff to date.

O309 Litigation & Legal Issues

Mr. Snyder indicated that there are no litigation or legal issues to report at this time.

Announcements

Ms. Mears noted that the next meeting of the Board will take place on October 17<sup>th</sup> at the historic B&O Railroad Station in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Mr. Feldstein recognized the work of the MHT Archaeology staff in undertaking the annual Field Session at Cresap's Fort in Allegany County which was well attended and received a strong positive response from the community.

Ms. Mears invited Mr. Johnson to discuss his interest in serving on the Board and his experience in the field of historic preservation. The Board again welcomed Mr. Johnson.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 PM.