

## **MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING**

Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Pursuant to notice, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held as an in-person meeting with certain members of the Board attending virtually. The meeting was held at the MHT Board Room at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD.

Trustees present: Jeffrey Buchheit, Kevin Cabrera, Julie Earnstein, Benjamin Ford, LaShay Harvey, Darius Johnson, Christopher Logsdon, Laura Davis Mears, Franklin Robinson, Kristine Roome, Karen Yee, and Secretary Rebecca Flora.

Area Representatives present: Dean Camlin, Dickerson Charlton, Sakinah Linder, Douglass Reed, Lisa Sasser, Harry Spikes, and Tom Vitanza

Office of the Attorney General: Adam Snyder, Rieyn DeLony

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes, Anne Raines, Stacy Montgomery, Bill Hersch, Collin Ingraham, Rod Cofield, Matthew Migliozi, Dana Marks, Kate Jaffe, William Kiskoski

MDP Staff: N/A

Guests: Terry Klima, Jim Dunbar, John Zebelean, Clarence Woods, Christiana Limniatis, Chanel Compton Johnson, Alexandria Anderson

### **AGENDA**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Laura Mears called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. A quorum of voting Board members was present.

Ms. Mears welcomed new Board members Christopher Logsdon and Kevin Cabrera.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the October 16, 2025 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Dr. Roome and approved unanimously.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Dunbar, Co-Chair of the Confederate Memorial Park, extended an invitation to the MHT Board to visit the site. He commented on the history and significance of the site, noting that the property includes a small pox lot that includes burials of both USCT and white soldiers. He stated that the Park now includes the installation of additional monuments and that this location would be an appropriate site for the Baltimore Confederate Monuments

John Zebelean inquired as to what the plan will be for the Baltimore Confederate monuments once they return to Maryland and expressed his desire that the Board address how they will be cared for upon their return. He commented that Congress enacted a law in 1958 that would permit the award of pensions to Confederate veterans and widows, thereby redefining the definition of a U.S. veteran to include members of the Confederate army. In this way, the Baltimore Confederate Monuments should be understood to be monuments to U.S. veterans.

Terry Klima commented that the vandalism to the monuments and their plinths remains unresolved and that Baltimore City has failed to file an insurance claim for the vandalism. He expressed his concern that there has been no reply from Baltimore City regarding the draft RFP submitted to the City for consideration by the MHT Board and that CHAP has failed to supply MHT with monthly reports on the status of the monuments, as previously required by the Board. He commented that the MHT Board has denied Maryland tax payers access to the monuments and that the Monument Relocation Working Group must be empowered to take action.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

W100            Capital Programs Committee

W101R           FY27 African American Heritage Preservation Program Grants

Ms. Alexandria Anderson provided an overview of the African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program, which is administered as a joint partnership of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). She reported that seventy eight (78) eligible grant applications were received by the June 30, 2025 deadline. The total eligible funding request was over \$14.7 million; the majority of the funding requested was for rehabilitation, with the remainder for predevelopment or new construction. Applications represented 21 counties and the City of Baltimore. Twenty-seven projects are recommended for full funding and two projects are recommended for partial funding, for a total of \$5,000,000.

She reported that the MCAAHC has evaluated, ranked, and recommended funding levels for eligible applicants in accordance with the program project selection criteria and then proceed to present their funding recommendations to the MHT Board of Trustees for action.

Dr. Roome made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Robinson, to approve the following resolution. The Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees concurs with the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture in the recommendation to the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning to fund those projects in the “A=Recommended for Funding” category and “AR=Recommended for Funding” category should Additional FY26 Funds become Available category over the next year, as further described in Exhibit A (African American Heritage Preservation Grant Chart for Fiscal Year 2026); and

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees concurs with the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture in the recommendation to the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning to maintain a reserve of \$100,000 to be used for emergency project grants during FY2026.

#### W102 Monument Relocation Committee Report

Ms. Hughes shared a powerpoint presentation illustrating how the Baltimore Confederate monuments are being displayed at the MONUMENTS exhibit which is now open to the public at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, California. Mr. Spikes discussed his experience attending the exhibit opening and answered Board member questions.

#### W200 Survey, Registration, Community Education & Museums Committee

#### W201 Preservation Maryland/MHT Heritage Fund Report

Ms. Hughes reported that a Grant Agreement was entered into on December 15, 1994, and subsequently extended in 2002, 2004, and 2017, by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and Preservation Maryland (PM) to establish a fund (known as the Heritage Fund) held and managed by PM and dedicated for historic preservation projects throughout the State. Interest earned on the Fund supports the Preservation Maryland Heritage Fund Grant Program.

The Agreement stipulates that PM must provide to MHT on an annual basis a report documenting the management and investment of the Fund including: 1.) interest and dividend earnings and all other income attributable to the Fund, 2.) grant disbursements; and 3.) all other transactional activity that has occurred during the reporting period.

Ms. Christiana Limniatis, Program and Outreach Manager for PM, provided a written report on Heritage Fund activities in FY25. She noted that in 2026 the fund will be celebrating its 30th anniversary and PM will plan to publish a special report on the Heritage Fund's achievements in order to celebrate that milestone.

#### W202 JPPM Report

Mr. Rod Cofield, Executive Director of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, provided an overview of projects and programs currently underway.

#### W203 Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program Overview

Ms. Kate Jaffe, Administrator of Preservation Financial Incentives in the MHT Office of Preservation Services, provided an overview of the Maryland Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program.

#### W300 Management & Planning Committee

##### W301R Election of Area Representative

Ms. Hughes reported that the MHT Board bylaws 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. Kirsti Uunila, who had been serving as the Area Representative for Calvert County, recently resigned from this role.

Mr. Buchheit, chair of the MHT Board Nominating Committee, reported that the Nominating Committee had met to consider Christopher Sperling to replace Ms. Uunila on the Board. The Committee is recommending Mr. Sperling's election to the Board.

Mr. Johnson made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Robinson, to approve the following resolution. The Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees elects Christopher Sperling to fill Kirsti Uunila's unexpired term as Area Representative for Calvert County.

W302R            Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority Designee

Ms. Hughes reported that in 1993, the State of Maryland created the Canal Place Preservation & Development Authority (CPPDA) to oversee the preservation, development, and management of the Canal Place Preservation District, a designated heritage area in Cumberland around the western end of the C&O Canal. The ongoing mission of the Canal Place Heritage Area is to honor and preserve local heritage and the C&O Canal and bring history to life for visitors and residents.

Membership on the CPPDA consists of:

Six members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate;

One representative of the United States Department of the Interior, as designated by the Department of the Interior; one representative of the Maryland Historical Trust; and, one representative of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Cumberland.

MHT Area Representative Douglass Reed served as MHT's representative on the CPPDA until 2011 when he was replaced by MHT Board Trustee Albert L. Feldstein. With Mr. Feldstein's retirement from the MHT Board on June 30, 2025, Douglass Reed was appointed to resume this role until such time as a resident of Allegany County was again appointed to the Board. Christopher Logsdon, a resident of Allegany County, was appointed to the Board in November and is recommended to replace Douglass Reed.

Mr. Reed made the following motion, seconded by Dr. Earnstein, to approve the following resolution. The Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees designates Christopher Logsdon as the representative of MHT to the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority (CPPDA) effective December 4, 2025.

W303            Interim Actions of the Executive Committee

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 31, 2025

A virtual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held on October 31, 2025 at 11:30 AM.

Trustees present: Franklin Robinson, LaShay Harvey, Laura Davis Mears

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes

OAG Staff: Rieyn DeLony

## AGENDA

### CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mears called the meeting to order at 11:32 AM.

### Meeting Minutes

Dr. Harvey made a motion to approve the July 24, 2025 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Franklin and approved unanimously.

### Reallocation of funds for Board JEDI engagement / facilitation

Ms. Hughes reported that in 2022 the Board approved up to \$2,000 for Board JEDI engagement / facilitation which were to be used to hire a consultant or enter into an interagency agreement for JEDI engagement and discussions with MHT staff and Board members. A proposal from the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture was provided in support of the proposal and cost. However, due to staffing changes at the museum, the project did not move forward as envisioned, and none of the money has been expended.

In 2021 the Board approved up to \$1,000 for DEI staff development activities. The funds are to be used to pay modest honoraria (\$250 each) to four speakers as part of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Staff Development series. Board members are also welcome to participate in these learning sessions. Speakers will include historians, preservationists, archaeologists, authors, community members, and other experts whose work or service relates to MHT's mission. Potential topics include Native/Indigenous, LGBTQ+, Asian American, and Latinx/Hispanic histories and cultures in Maryland, historic African American cemeteries, and book talks on current issues in preservation. Thus far, one speaker has been paid an honorarium and one is pending, which would leave a balance of \$500 for two additional speakers. Rather than make a new request from the Board, staff would request to reallocate the \$2,000 to DEI staff development activities.

Mr. Robinson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Harvey, to approve the following resolution. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust, that an expenditure of up to \$2,000 from the MHT Heritage Preservation Fund in FY2023 for Board JEDI engagement / facilitation, approved by the Board at its October 22, 2022 meeting, is reallocated to supplement the expenditure in FY2022 for DEIJ staff development activities as approved by the Board on May 13, 2021.

#### Heritage Preservation Fund Project Selection for FY2026 – Round 2

Ms. Hughes reported that \$73,466.62 in funds from the Board's Maryland Heritage Preservation Fund remain available for award in FY26. Disbursement requests for use of those funds include the following projects which total \$73,400.

Dr. Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robinson, to approve the following resolution. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust, that an expenditure of up to \$73,400 from the MHT Heritage Preservation Fund in fiscal year 2026 to support the following projects is approved.

Up to \$7,200 for the 2026 MHT Summer Internship in Archaeology;

Up to \$6,000 for JPPM Program Consulting with Indigenous Tribal Groups;

Up to \$12,600 for JPPM Woodland Indian Village Summer Educator position;

Up to \$30,500 for a National Register Assistant - contractual staff position;

Up to \$7,200 for a JPPM Archaeology Intern; and

Up to \$9,900 for MHT Staff Training Activities.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM.

W304            Budget and Legislation

Ms. Hughes reported that the federal fiscal year 2026 appropriations process is still underway. The continuing resolution enacted by Congress in November will expire on

January 30, 2026 at which point the government will again shut down, a continuing resolution will again be enacted, or the FFY26 budget will be passed. As a reminder, MHT receives approximately \$1 million in federal Historic Preservation Fund monies to support its operations.

Ms. Hughes reported that the MHT state fiscal year 2027 operating budget will not be available for review until the Governor releases his budget proposal in January of 2026. At this time, MHT does not have concerns about significant reductions to MHT operations included within the budget.

Ms. Raines, who serves as President of NCSHPO, reported that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, chaired by Senator Mike Lee (UT), hosted a hearing on October 29, 2025 at 9:30 am to “examine the Section 106 consultation process under the National Historic Preservation Act.” NCSHPO is monitoring this issue closely as legislative proposals or regulatory changes designed to weaken Section 106 may be under development.

#### W305 Litigation & Legal Issues

Mr. Snyder indicated that there is no litigation and no legal issues to report.

#### W306 2026 Meeting Calendar

Ms. Hughes proposed the following meeting dates and locations for Board meetings in 2026. Meetings will begin at 10 AM and all meetings will provide a virtual option for attendance although in person attendance is strongly encouraged for the May meeting. No objections were raised.

January 22, 2026 - Virtual Meeting

March 19, 2026 - 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD

May 21, 2026 - Nuclear Ship Savannah, Baltimore, MD

July 16, 2026 - 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD

October 15, 2026 - MAC Lab at JPPM, 10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard, MD

December 3, 2026 - 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD



**Announcements**

Ms. Mears announced that a work group would be formed to review and potentially update the MHT bylaws in the spring of 2026. Board members should contact Ms. Mears to express interest in serving on the work group.

Meeting adjourned at 12:44 PM.