

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE PRESERVATION PROGRAM

FISCAL YEAR 2022

GRANT GUIDELINES

*completed grant applications
must be submitted ONLINE by
July 1, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.*

Access the online grant application from:

<http://mht.maryland.gov/grants.shtml>

**Maryland Commission on
African American History and Culture**
84 Franklin Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
www.africanamerican.maryland.gov

Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
www.mht.maryland.gov



The **African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program** (or the "Program") was created by the General Assembly in 2010 as a vehicle to encourage the identification and preservation of buildings, sites, and communities of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland. Administered as a joint partnership of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), the Program offers assistance to non-profit organizations, local jurisdictions, business entities and private citizens in their sponsorship of successful acquisition, construction, or improvement of African American heritage properties.

THE MARYLAND COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) is to interpret, document, preserve, and promote Maryland's African American heritage; to provide technical assistance to institutions and groups with similar objectives; and to educate Maryland's citizens and visitors about the significance of the African American experience in Maryland and the nation. MCAAHC is housed within the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MISSION STATEMENT

The Maryland Historical Trust is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. Through research, conservation and education, the Maryland Historical Trust assists the people of Maryland in understanding their historical and cultural heritage.

The Maryland Historical Trust is a unit of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP).

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General Information

The **African American Heritage Preservation Program** (the Program) encourages the identification and preservation of buildings, sites, and communities of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland. The program is administered as a joint partnership of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT).

Individual grant awards will range from a suggested minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$100,000. An applicant entity may only submit one application per property; however, each applicant entity may submit separate applications for properties on different parcels.

Getting Started / Contact Info

Before beginning your application, please review these guidelines, also available on the program webpage here: https://mht.maryland.gov/grants_africanamerican.shtml

We strongly recommend that you contact MHT and MCAAHC staff before applying to confirm that your project is eligible and to obtain appropriate guidance.

- For assistance in developing project purpose, programming, and advice on site interpretation please contact Chanel Compton, Director of the MCAAHC, at chanel.compton@maryland.gov or 410-216-6190.
- For assistance with developing technical preservation, construction, and budget components of your project, or with technical questions about the application, please contact Dr. Charlotte Lake, MHT Capital Grant and Loan Programs Administrator, at charlotte.lake@maryland.gov or 410-697-9559.

Eligible Applicants

The following entity types are eligible for this program. The project must have a demonstrated public benefit in order to be competitive.

- Nonprofits
- Local governments
- Business entities
- Individuals

State and federal government entities are eligible to apply as nonprofits. However, projects involving state and federally owned properties cannot comply with the requirement to convey a preservation easement to MHT and therefore are not expected to rank highly enough for funding.

See “Applicant Tab” section of this document for more information on applicant eligibility.

Eligible Projects

Construction-related projects are eligible for assistance. Projects must also have a strong public benefit in order to be competitive. Projects may include:

- Acquisition
- Rehabilitation / capital improvements
- New construction
- Predevelopment costs such as studies, surveys, plans and specifications, and architectural, engineering, or other special services **directly related to a capital project**

Work, or a discrete phase of work, that is already underway or completed is not eligible for grant funding. See Exhibit 3 of this document for a complete list of eligible and ineligible costs.

All projects funded through this program are subject to MHT review before project work commences and must comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR 68), found at <http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm> .

See "Project Description Tab" section of this document for more information on eligible projects.

Eligible Properties

- Eligible properties include buildings, sites, or communities of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland.
- The property owner must provide written permission to undertake the project and willingness to convey the preservation easement.
 - The owner of a property listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places may be required to convey a preservation easement to MHT. Visit <https://mht.maryland.gov/easement.shtml> for more information.

See the "Property Information Tab" section of this document for more information on property eligibility.

Application Process

Grant applications will be due at 11:59 pm on July 1, 2021.

Access the online application portal at: <http://mht.maryland.gov/grants.shtml>

Access the program webpage here: https://mht.maryland.gov/grants_africanamerican.shtml

What to know about the online application:

- The application is organized in tabs by topic. These guidelines are organized in sections that correspond to the application tabs.
- All questions with a **red asterisk (*)** require answers. You will not be able to submit your application without answering these questions.
- When you have submitted your application successfully, you will see a confirmation message on the screen, and you will receive a confirmation e-mail.

Resources:

- A sample application is available on the program webpage at in the left-hand menu.
- A "Quick Start" guide is available on the program webpage in the left-hand. This guide has instructions for using the online application system and uploading files.

“Project Description” Tab

In this section you will describe the **proposed construction project**. Please describe **ONLY** the construction project in this section. Other sections of the application will provide the opportunity for you to describe your organization, the history of the property, and how your property benefits the public.

Construction Project Description – describe your overall construction project, including work that will be funded through other sources.

Grant Project Scope of Work – provide a list of **ONLY** work items that will be paid for with grant funds or required matching funds.

Urgency – describe the urgent needs of the property in order of priority. Will this project fund the most urgent needs, or will those needs be addressed in an earlier phase of work? Alternately, does this project provide a unique, time-limited opportunity?

Key Steps and Timeline – provide bullet points of the major steps in the project. Be sure to note which steps will be paid for with grant funds. Demonstrate that you can complete the project within the two-year grant window. See **Exhibit 1 for the application and award schedule** to inform your project timeline. See **Exhibit 2 for a sample timeline**.

Please ensure that the proposed grant project is an eligible project.

- **To be eligible, work must consist of construction-related costs with an expected useful life of at least 15 years.**
 - Rehabilitation, restoration, or repair of a building.
 - Construction of a new structure or addition.
 - Acquisition of a property.
 - Pre-development costs that are part of a construction project, for example:
 - historic structure reports
 - architectural plans, specifications, and construction documents
 - archaeological investigations necessary for construction
 - Examples of ineligible costs: staff salaries, landscaping, legal fees, insurance premiums, appraisal fees, pest treatment, master planning, and feasibility studies. **See Exhibit 3 for a more in-depth list of eligible/ineligible costs.**
- **Work must adhere to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties** (36CFR Part 68).
 - If your application does not and cannot meet the *Standards*, your application will not be considered for funding.
 - The *Standards* are available on the National Park Service website:
<https://www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm>

- **Grant funds may only be used for a new phase of work.**
 - Projects must meet MHT's competitive procurement process, so grant funds may not be used for work that is already underway or complete.
 - Contact the MHT program administrator if you need help describing a discrete phase of work.
- **Special property types:**
 - **Religious properties**
 - usually only eligible for exterior and/or structural work
 - spaces used primarily for religious purposes are not eligible
 - interior work is only eligible in spaces that are not used for worship or religious purposes (e.g. bathrooms, a sanctuary that has been converted to a secular use, or a fellowship hall mainly used for non-religious activities)
 - religious symbolism is not eligible for funding
 - eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis so contact the MHT program administrator for more information
 - **Cemeteries**
 - examples of eligible capital expenses:
 - cleaning or repair of grave markers
 - repair or installation of cemetery features like paths or protective walls
 - installation of new monuments or markers for unmarked burials
 - pre-development that will lead to a capital project, like a cemetery conservation plan or ground-penetrating radar to identify unmarked burials
 - make sure the owner(s) of the cemetery can be identified and will support the project

Scoring criteria applicable to this section:

- **PROJECT SCOPE & PROTECTIVE VALUE:** Does the proposed project contribute to or assure long-term preservation of the resource or of Maryland's culture and heritage? Does the project provide concrete action to protect the resource(s)? Does the project address the most pressing needs and assure continued viability of the resource(s)? Will the project provide a complete product? (If one phase of a multi-year project, this refers to the completeness of this year's phase alone.) Will this be the final phase of a project that is nearing completion?
- **URGENCY:** Is the resource imminently endangered (i.e., by development pressures, erosion, neglect) or is there a unique window of opportunity to complete the proposed project?
- **PROJECT SCHEDULE:** Can the project begin when indicated, i.e. does the applicant reflect an awareness of when grant funding will be available (no sooner than December following submission of an application)? Can the work be completed within 2 years? Has a realistic sequence with appropriate work steps been developed?

“Budget” Tab

On this tab, you will be asked to describe the **budget for your grant project in detail**. Make sure that the line items in your budget spreadsheet match the project narrative you described on the “Project Design” tab.

Project Budget Information You Will Provide

- **Upload a budget spreadsheet using MHT’s form.**
 - The spreadsheet can be downloaded within the application, or from the MHT website in the left-hand menu at https://mht.maryland.gov/grants_africanamerican.shtml
 - The spreadsheet contains a sample budget, a blank form, and instructions for filling out the form.
- **Application questions:**
 - **Grant Funds Requested**
 - Grant requests should range from a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$100,000.
 - Grant requests should be in an even increment of \$1,000.
 - Make sure all items in your grant request are eligible. For example, costs like insurance, utility bills, and legal fees are not eligible. **See Exhibit 3 for a table which describes eligible and ineligible costs.**
 - **Match**
 - All applicants **except for non-profit organizations** are required to provide 1:1 match and documentation of that match. See below for detailed instructions if you must provide match.
 - Non-profit organizations should leave this section blank.
 - **Other Project Funds**
 - Document any **non-state funds that are committed** to the grant project above and beyond the required match. Identify the source and amount of these funds and also include them in the “Other Project Funds” column of the budget spreadsheet.
 - Non-profit organizations should include any additional non-state funds in this category, rather than as match.
 - **Other Financial Components**
 - If you have received state funds that will be used for this grant project, describe them here. Some examples include MHAA grants, MHT Capital grants, CORE funds, or bond bill funds.
 - If you are actively seeking funds to pay for this phase of the project, describe your fundraising and needs here. This helps reviewers understand your efforts to complete the entire proposed phase of work.

Matching Fund Requirements (for applicants required to provide match)

- **Required match can be any combination of cash or in-kind services/donations.**
- **Eligibility of match**
 - See **Exhibit 3** for a detailed table of eligible and ineligible match.
 - State funds are ineligible as match.
 - Funds may not be match for any other state program.
 - The cost to acquire a property may not be used as matching funds unless the grant project is exclusively for acquisition purposes.
 - Match must be necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of the grant project.
 - Match must be verifiable (see documentation requirements below).
 - Match must be incurred and contributed within the grant period.
 - Match must be provided for in the scope of work.
- **Documentation of match**
 - **Half of required match must be documented as in-hand/committed at the time of application.** The remaining half must be documented to MHT before the grant project is allowed to commence. *Failure to provide all proposed matching funds may result in a reduction or forfeiture of grant award funding.*
 - Match documentation may consist of one or more of the following. If you have any questions or situations which are not covered here, please contact the program administrator:
 - A bank statement or official treasurer's report showing cash in hand.
 - Letters from donors; the letter needs to show clearly that the intended donation may be used toward the grant project and must be signed.
 - Award letters for non-state grants; documentation must be included to demonstrate that the grant may be used toward the grant project.
 - Loan commitment letters; documentation must be included to demonstrate that the loan proceeds may be used toward the grant project.
 - For donated materials, a signed statement or receipt / invoice from the donor attesting to the value of the materials.
 - For a government entity, a budget document clearly showing the line item(s) from which match is committed – highlight the relevant sections.
 - For volunteered time or donated services, a signed statement from the donor stating the number of hours expected to be donated, the hourly rate, the total amount of the donation, and a description of the services.
 - Use the current hourly rate of volunteer time set for the state of Maryland by the organization Independent Sector:
http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time
 - Donated professional or construction services may count as in-kind match and should be calculated based on the individual's customary hourly rate.
 - Members of your organization's board may use their professional rate only if donating professional services to the project (e.g. architectural services) but should use the Maryland volunteer rate for board time spent on the grant project (e.g. meetings).

Scoring criteria applicable to this section:

- **PROJECT BUDGET:** Is the overall budget realistic for the proposed project? Are the costs reasonable and necessary? Are all costs eligible?
- **FINANCIAL CAPABILITY:** Does the sponsoring group provide any other documented (i.e. accompanied by commitment letter, bank statement, etc.) project funding? How much cash and/or in-kind commitment is being offered by the sponsor? Is the match eligible per grant requirements?

“Public Benefit” Tab

On this tab you will discuss the **public benefit, educational value, and public access of your property and project.**

Property use

- Include a brief explanation of how the property is currently used.
- If the grant project will cause a change in use, or a major change is anticipated in the near future, please also briefly describe that here.
- If this is a religious site, please explain whether it is actively used for worship or has been converted for secular use. See the previous “Project Description Tab” section for information on project eligibility for religious sites.

What is the benefit of the property and/or project to the public and local community?

- Public benefit can be broadly defined, but special emphasis should be placed on benefit related to MCAAHC’s and MHT’s missions and African American heritage in Maryland.

How is the property used to educate the public?

- How does (or will) the site contribute to increase public awareness and understanding of African American heritage in Maryland?
- How do the goals of the project relate to MCAAHC’s and MHT’s missions?
- How will this project and use of the site help protect the resource in the future?
- How will you ensure that the general public will learn about your property or project?

Public Access

- What provisions exist or will be made for physical or programmatic access by individuals with disabilities?
- When/how often is the property open to the public?

Scoring criteria applicable to this section:

- **PROJECT GOALS:** Are project goals and scope consistent with the mission and goals of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and the Maryland Historical Trust?
- **PUBLIC BENEFIT:** What is the planned use of the project and what are its benefits to the general public? What level of public access will be provided? How will information about the project be made available to the public? Will the project be accessible to individuals with disabilities?
- **EDUCATIONAL & DEMONSTRATION VALUE:** How permanent and far reaching is the educational component of the project? Does the project offer interpretation of the site, heritage, or resource? What opportunities are available for participation of or benefit especially to African Americans? Does the project have the potential to be a model or an innovator?

“Significance & Impact” Tab

On this tab you will **describe the property, its history and significance, and the impact of the project.**

Property Significance

- For properties that relate to African American history or culture in Maryland, explain this relationship and significance.
- For new construction or properties that do not have a historical association with the African American experience in Maryland, explain how your organization will relate the site to African American history or culture. For example, will this involve the construction of a new museum, or the conversion of an existing building to a museum? How is this project significant to African American heritage?

Impact

- Will this project use unique or innovative techniques that may be a model for other projects, particularly projects related to African American heritage?
- Does this site support community groups or is it used to promote unique partnerships or community opportunities?

Special Initiative

Each year, MCAAHC, at its discretion, selects a special initiative which may be addressed by applicants.

- The special initiative is ASALH’s annual theme, which can be found here: <https://asalh.org/black-history-themes/>
- If applicable, describe how that initiative or theme is related to your project.

Scoring criteria applicable to this section:

- **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT:** To what extent will the project identify and preserve buildings, sites, resources, or communities of historical or cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland?
- **LEVERAGE:** Will the project stimulate or prompt other preservation projects or programs throughout the community and/or professional preservation support?
- **SPECIAL INITIATIVES:** How does this project contribute to understanding the initiative, criterion, or theme indicated?

“Property Information” Tab

On this tab you will provide information about the **assisted property and the property owner**.

Required Information

- **Address of the project property**
 - This should be the physical address of the property where the grant project will be undertaken, NOT your organization’s address. Please include the full street address **and city**.
 - If there is no street address, please attach a map showing the exact location of the property. Be sure there are identifying landmarks on the map, like street names.
- **History of Construction / Alterations** – If known, please provide the approximate date of construction of the property, as well as the dates of any significant alterations or additions completed in the past.
- **Property Owner Information**
 - Provide the name and address of the property owner.
 - Briefly describe the relationship between your organization and the property owner – are you a fiscal sponsor, a lessee of the property, the property manager?
- **Property Owner Consent**
 - You **MUST** provide a letter of property owner consent, even if the owner and applicant are the same. This letter **MUST** include the language in the sample letter in Exhibit 5. You can download a template of this letter on the program webpage.
 - **Without this letter indicating the property owner’s willingness to allow the project and to convey a preservation easement to MHT, your application will NOT be considered for funding.** MHT must be able to confirm that the individual or organization identified in the letter of property owner consent is the correct legal owner of the property or your application will not be considered for funding.
- **Photos of the Property**
 - Be sure all photos are labeled or you include a reference sheet.
 - Due to file size limits, the easiest way to submit photos is to paste them into an MS Word document and upload that.

MHT will use the property listing in the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) to confirm the name of the property owner. MHT will also compare this information with what is provided in the letter of property owner consent. If MHT cannot find your property on the SDAT website, or the information does not match what you have provided, your application will not be considered for funding. Please check here to ensure there are no issues: <https://sdat.dat.maryland.gov/RealProperty/Pages/default.aspx>

“Project Management” Tab

On this tab you will address the **ability of your organization to administer projects and grants** of this type.

- **Your organization’s experience**
 - Have you successfully managed other grant projects, or similar projects requiring reporting and financial documentation?
 - Has your organization successfully managed a construction or renovation project?
- **Future maintenance:** What are your plans for maintaining the site in the future?
- **Administrative capability:** Identify up to three individuals in your organization who will be involved in managing the project and provide either a short resume or narrative paragraph explaining their relevant expertise.
- **Consultants and partners**
 - Are there professionals outside of your organization who have provided assistance with developing your project? For example, architects, contractors, or archaeological consultants?
 - Optional: you can upload ballpark estimates in this section if an architect or contractor has provided you with information to help inform your project or budget.
 - ***Please note that once a grant is awarded, all contractors or consultants whose services are to be paid out of the grant funds must be selected through a competitive procurement process acceptable to MHT. For the purposes of this grant application, it is acceptable for you to obtain a cost estimate from a single firm for planning purposes; however, please be aware that competitive procurement will need to be conducted once a grant is awarded.***

Scoring criteria applicable to this section:

- **ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITY:** Do the project sponsor and administrative personnel demonstrate the capability to successfully administer grant monies, meet project deadlines, and follow established procedures? Does the project sponsor have the capability to maintain the project over time?
- **PROFESSIONAL CAPABILITY:** Has the applicant sought advice from personnel with the necessary training, education, and experience to carry out specific project goals (i.e., recognized in field, does high quality work, experience applicable to the subject)?

“Applicant” Tab

On this tab you will enter information about the **organization that is applying for the grant**. MHT uses this information to confirm your organization’s eligibility to receive a grant.

Non-profit organizations (state and federal government entities may apply as nonprofits) and **local jurisdictions**, as defined in COMAR 34.04.09, are eligible to apply for Program funding. **Private individuals** and **business entities** may also sponsor grants; however, they should be aware that the selection criteria typically favor the selection of projects and properties owned or sponsored by non-profit organizations and local jurisdictions. In order to be competitive, projects sponsored by private individuals and for-profit business entities must involve a predominantly “public purpose” use, rather than a private benefit.

Required Applicant Information

- **Legal Name** – non-profits and business entities must be registered to do business with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT):
<https://egov.maryland.gov/BusinessExpress/EntitySearch>
 - The name you provide must match EXACTLY the legal name as registered with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT). Check your organization’s legal name to confirm. If MHT cannot find your organization in SDAT, you may be deemed ineligible.
 - If your organization is not already registered, contact SDAT to register, allowing time to ensure the registration process can be completed before the application deadline.
 - Your organization must be in good standing with SDAT. When looking up your organization on the website, clicking on the “Department ID” next to your organization’s name will show the status. “Active,” “Revived,” or “Incorporated” means your organization is in good standing. “Forfeited” or “Dissolved” means you must contact SDAT to resolve any outstanding issues.
 - Your SDAT information must be up to date – make sure the Resident Agent is correct.
- **TAX ID / Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN)**
 - Non-profits, businesses, and government agencies will have a 9-digit number.
 - Individuals / private owners will use their social security number.
- **Proof of Non-Profit Status (if applicable)**
 - Upload a copy of your IRS determination letter.
 - If your tax-exempt status is through a larger organization, you will need what the IRS calls an umbrella letter that documents your permission to use the larger organization’s status. This is particularly common for churches and fraternal organizations.
- **Organizational Documents** – non-profits and businesses must upload organizational documents like bylaws and articles of incorporation. If you have applied for an MHT grant within the last 5 years, you do not need to submit these again unless they have changed.
- **Project Contact** – The project contact you designate in your application will receive ALL correspondence and notifications regarding the grant application and award status. Be sure to keep this information up-to-date with MHT.

“Support” Tab

On this tab you will provide information about **letters of support** for your project.

Please submit or request to be submitted at least two letters of support. One of these should be from an elected official from your project’s local jurisdiction. Others may be from community leaders or state representatives.

- Letters of support may be sent directly to MHT or MCAAHC. If you have a signed copy, you may upload it in the online application. Electronic letters are preferred.
- **Do NOT upload unsigned letters.**
- Letters of support should be addressed to:

Charlotte Lake, Ph.D.
Capital Grant and Loan Programs Administrator
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place, 3rd Floor
Crownsville, MD 21032

Scoring criteria applicable to this section:

- **LOCAL COMMITMENT:** Is the project supported by Legislative, County, and local government representatives? Is there other community support for the project?

“Release & Consent” Tab

This tab includes disclosures for your response as well as an electronic signature. If you have any questions about the content of this tab, please contact the program administrator.

“Attachments” Tab

This tab allows you to upload documents in support of your application.

- Other documentation is **OPTIONAL** but may strengthen your application. Other documents may include structural reports, historic structures reports, archaeological reports, etc.
- Please only include documents which are referenced on the "Attachments" tab and which are directly relevant to the grant application.

Grant Terms and Conditions

All applicants awarded grants through the Program will be required to enter into a Grant Agreement with MHT, which generally contains the following standard terms and conditions:

- Easement / Preservation Agreement
 - An easement must be conveyed to MHT on any historic real property awarded a grant through this program. A preservation agreement must be conveyed to MHT on any historic property OTHER THAN real property that is awarded a grant through this program.
 - For more information, see "Property Owner Consent to Project and Consent to Easement" in **Exhibit 5**.
- Project Scope & Budget
 - Award of grant funds does not mean automatic approval of your project scope and budget. After award, minor adjustments may be made by MHT to ensure that only eligible expenses and eligible work are paid for through grant or matching funds. Do not commence work on this phase of the project without contacting your project monitor.
- Grant Disbursements
 - Grant funds will not be disbursed "up front." Disbursements will be made as the project progresses, proportionate with expenditure of matching funds and other project funding.
 - Grant disbursement will occur based upon Requests for Payment submitted by the grant recipient in a form satisfactory to the Trust and upon fulfillment of the other requirements of the grant as provided in the Grant Manual.
 - Please note that all contractors, architects, craftspeople, etc. whose services are to be paid for (or partially paid for) with State funds will need to be selected by a process approved by the Trust. This requires those services to be publicly advertised or widely solicited. *It is not expected that grant applicants have already conducted competitive procurement at the time of application.*
- Insurance
 - The Grant recipient will be required to insure the assisted property against loss or damage by fire, flood, or other hazards, casualties, and contingencies as may be required by MHT, in amounts satisfactory to MHT and with MHT as named additional insured. Similarly, General Liability Insurance will be required for all construction efforts.
- Standing with SDAT
 - Your organization must maintain good standing with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation before MHT will execute a grant agreement and must maintain good standing throughout the course of the project. To verify your organization's standing, please check here:
<https://egov.maryland.gov/BusinessExpress/EntitySearch>

Exhibit 1: Application Evaluation & Grant Administration Schedule

*****All dates are approximate*****

The application and selection process will follow a prescribed schedule, outlined below. Please be sure to take this schedule into consideration when developing your schedule for the grant application.

Spring 2021 Official announcement of Grant Application availability and workshop schedule. MCAAHC and MHT staff assistance is available for help completing applications, for project planning, and for identifying sources of alternate and matching funding.

July 1, 2021 Full Grant Application must be submitted ONLINE by 11:59 p.m. Submission must include a completed application and all required attachments.

August 2021 – November 2021 Application Evaluation and Scoring: After an initial "threshold" review (for application completeness and project and applicant eligibility) conducted by MHT staff, the MCAAHC will evaluate, rank, and recommend funding levels for eligible applicants. The Commission will then transmit to the MHT Board of Trustees eligible application summaries, rankings, and funding levels recommended by the Commission. The MHT Board of Trustees will review each grant award recommended by the Commission. *Please note that MHT and MCAAHC cannot discuss the evaluation of your grant application, or disclose whether or not your project will be funded, until the approval process is complete.* See **Exhibit 5: Scoring Criteria**.

December 2021 Once the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning approves the final funding recommendations, grant awards will be announced:

December 2021 – January 2022 MHT will provide grant management guidelines to assist successful applicants, schedule an Organizational Meeting, and distribute the Program Grant Manual (outlining all required steps of the process before funds may be drawn-down).

January – April 2022 Execution of Grant Agreements: Legal Documentation is submitted by grant applicant for review by MHT staff. Grant Agreements are executed. Grant agreements are submitted to the Board of Public Works for approval.

June 2022 Deed of Preservation Easement or Preservation Agreement for the property, *if required*, is recorded, or Preservation Agreement signed, completing the final step in the award process.

December 2023 Deadline for completion of project. If a time extension is needed, the grantee must obtain an extension of the grant from MHT before this date or the grant will automatically expire.

Exhibit 2: Sample Timeline

The text below is a sample of the kind of project timeline you might enter into the appropriate box in the "Project Design" tab on the application. Please note that while the AAHPP-funded work must begin no earlier than December 2019 and must be complete by December 2021, your timeline may include project benchmarks before and after those dates, particularly if you have a complex, multi-phase project. Please show dates outside of the two-year project period or outside the scope of this grant request in [brackets] for clarity. Not all of the work steps shown in this example will necessarily apply to your project.

- [October 1, 2021: scheduled date for settlement on purchase of the Smith County Rosenwald School]
- [October - December 2021: Phase One: Replace roof on the school using our own funds]
- December 2020: Notification from MHT regarding grant award
- January 2022-February 2022: Review MHT-provided grant agreement and provide necessary grant and easement documentation to MHT.]
- January - May 2022: Phase Two: Hire an architect to develop plans and specifications for the work to be funded from the potential AAHPP grant. The architectural services will be paid out of a grant from the Smith County Preservation Society. Submit architectural plans and specifications to MHT for review. Submit architectural plans and specifications to County for review by Historic Preservation Commission.
- July 2022: Apply for AAHPP funding for next phase of project.
- July - October 2022: Conduct RFP for contractor to undertake the work. Submit plans and specifications for building permits.
- October 2022: Record easement and submit final documentation to MHT. Contractor begins work on Phase Two: Exterior Rehabilitation to be funded through this AAHPP grant.
- October 2022 - February 2022: Phase Two construction is ongoing and AAHPP grant funds are being drawn down.
- March 2023: Phase Two construction is completed. Submit final report to MHT and close out the current grant.
- [March - December 2023: Continue into Phase Three: Interior Rehabilitation if funds are available.]

[December 2023: Target date for completion of rehabilitation project and grand opening of the Smith County Rosenwald School Museum.]

Exhibit 3: Grant & Match Expenditure

Grant Funds CANNOT be used to pay for:	Items which CANNOT be counted as match:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenditures outside the grant period as defined in the grant agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenditures outside the grant period as defined in the grant agreement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenditures outside the scope of the grant agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenditures outside the scope of the grant agreement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-capital expenses such as research, studies, or predevelopment activities that are not part of a capital project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-capital expenses such as research, studies, or predevelopment activities that are not part of a capital project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insurance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appraisals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appraisals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment that is not inherent to the capital project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment that is not inherent to the capital project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor or outdoor exhibits with an expected useful life of less than 15 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor or outdoor exhibits with an expected useful life of less than 15 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings (venue rentals, food, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings (venue rentals, food, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscaping that is not related to necessary work scope 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscaping that is not related to necessary work scope
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General office expenses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General office expenses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting or audit costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting or audit costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property tax or personal property tax 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property tax or personal property tax
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee salaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other state funds (bond bill, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project / grant management, if it can be reasonably included in staff job duties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds which have been used as match for any other state assisted program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal fees, including legal fees involved in conveying an easement to MHT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs to acquire a property, unless the grant is for acquisition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to any area of a site or building, or a building element, that is used for religious purposes (i.e. interior of worship space, Sunday School classroom), unless the work is required to make repairs to the building structure 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any work that is not properly bid (see separate information on procurement process for design and construction services). Contracts to be paid out of grant funds CANNOT be sole-sourced. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some permit or approval fees 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reimbursing volunteer time 	

Eligible Match

Items which CAN be counted as Match:	Items which CAN be counted as In-Kind Match:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenditures within the grant period as defined in the grant agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenditures within the grant period as defined in the grant agreement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenditures within the scope of the grant agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenditures within the scope of the grant agreement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer time (with documentation) calculated at the current rate of volunteer time set by the organization Independent Sector (see "Project Design" section)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash purchases such as materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donated professional or construction services (with documentation) calculated based on the individual's customary hourly rate (see "Project Design" section)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding from a loan that is NOT from the state government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donated materials (with documentation) (see "Project Design" section)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services which have not been bid through the appropriate procurement process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discounted materials (clear breakdown of market price and applicable discount must be provided)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee salaries if the employee will be directly performing work on the grant project (e.g. construction, management of the grant project); non-capital expenses (e.g. research, legal services) may NOT be included in this calculation 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permits 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal fees which are directly related to the grant or the requirements of the grant (i.e. easement) 	

Exhibit 4: Selection Criteria

- In accordance with the Project Selection Criteria, as provided for in COMAR 34.04.09.06, grant proposals will be reviewed using criteria outlined under five general headings listed below. For the process and timetable of application evaluation, please see [Exhibit 2: Application Evaluation & Grant Administration Schedule](#).

SCORING CRITERIA

I. SIGNIFICANCE & NEED

A. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT: To what extent will the project identify and preserve buildings, sites, resources, or communities of historical or cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland?

B. URGENCY: Is the resource imminently endangered (i.e., by development pressures, erosion, neglect) or is there a unique window of opportunity to complete the proposed project?

II. PROJECT DESIGN

A. PROJECT SCOPE & PROTECTIVE VALUE: Does the proposed project contribute to or assure long-term preservation of the resource or of Maryland's culture and heritage? Does the project provide concrete action to protect the resource(s)? Does the project address the most pressing needs and assure continued viability of the resource(s)? Will the project provide a complete product? (If one phase of a multi-year project, this refers to the completeness of this year's phase alone.) Will this be the final phase of a project that is nearing completion? Will the project design minimize long-term maintenance costs?

B. PROJECT GOALS: Are project goals and scope consistent with the mission and goals of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and the Maryland Historical Trust?

C. PROJECT BUDGET: Is the overall budget realistic for the proposed project? Are the costs reasonable and necessary? Are all costs eligible?

D. FINANCIAL CAPABILITY: Does the sponsoring group provide any other documented (i.e. accompanied by commitment letter, bank statement, etc.) project funding? How much cash and/or in-kind commitment is being offered by the sponsor? [Note: Projects sponsored by local jurisdictions, business entities, and individuals must provide a full 1:1 cash match.] Has the applicant documented that the full cash and/or in-kind commitment will be in hand when the grant is awarded? Is the in-kind match eligible per grant requirements?

E. PROJECT SCHEDULE: Can the project begin when indicated, i.e. does the applicant reflect an awareness of when grant funding will be available? Can the work be completed within 2 years? Has a realistic sequence with appropriate work steps been developed?

III. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

A. ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITY: Do the project sponsor and administrative personnel demonstrate the capability to successfully administer grant monies, meet project deadlines, and follow established procedures? Does the project sponsor have the capability to maintain the project over time?

B. PROFESSIONAL CAPABILITY: Has the applicant sought advice from personnel with the necessary training, education, and experience to carry out specific project goals (i.e., recognized in field, does high quality work, experience applicable to the subject)?

IV. PUBLIC BENEFIT, IMPACT, & LOCAL COMMITMENT

A. PUBLIC BENEFIT: What is the planned use of the project and what are its benefits to the general public? What level of public access will be provided? How will information about the project be made available to the public? Will the project be accessible to individuals with disabilities?

B. EDUCATIONAL & DEMONSTRATION VALUE: How permanent and far reaching is the educational component of the project? Does the project offer interpretation of the site, heritage, or resource? What opportunities are available for participation of or benefit especially to African Americans? Does the project have the potential to be a model or an innovator?

C. LOCAL COMMITMENT: Is the project supported by Legislative, County, and local government representatives?

D. LEVERAGE: Will the project stimulate or prompt other preservation projects or programs throughout the community and/or professional preservation support?

V. SPECIAL INITIATIVES

A. ASALH Theme: Will the project address the annual Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) theme?

B. GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION: This is completed by MHT staff and compares:

each county's share of MHT grant funds awarded to African American heritage projects, based on MHT grants from FY2006-FY2017 --to-- a mathematically equitable distribution of available funds to all counties.

Exhibit 5: Property Owner Consent to Project and Consent to Easement

Background Information, Instructions, and Sample Letter from Property Owner

- **Owner consent to the project and commitment to a preservation easement or preservation/maintenance agreement is required for the project to be eligible for a grant. Failure to submit the required letter using the required language will result in your application being ineligible for funding.** Using the sample text provided on the following page, attach a letter indicating the willingness of the property owner(s) to support the project and to convey to MHT a preservation easement or a preservation agreement on the project property.
- If MHT already holds an easement on the property, you must still attach a letter confirming willingness to execute a modification to the existing deed of easement if one is necessary, as required by MHT.
- The Grant recipient will be required to provide to MHT certain legal documents per MHT's request. The costs incurred by the Grant recipient in providing these documents are typically not eligible for reimbursement out of grant funds. The required documents may include a boundary survey, metes and bounds description, and Title Insurance or Certificate of Title acceptable to MHT, certifying the owner's title to the easement real property. In addition, an update of the title work will be due after the recordation of the Deed of Preservation Easement but prior to the disbursement of funds.
- **The easement / agreement is executed between the owner of the property and MHT and must be completed before capital improvements begin and before any grant funds can be released.**
- A preservation easement is a binding legal document that is recorded in the local land records for a particular property. It covers not just the buildings on that property, but the entire area of land that is included within the easement boundaries (this could include parking areas, gardens, etc.). The easement generally covers both the interior and exterior of all buildings on the property. The easement protects historic buildings, structures, and associated archaeological resources, and it confers approval authority to MHT for any changes to the property.
- The easement or preservation agreement must be in form and substance acceptable to MHT and the extent of the interest to be encumbered by the easement must be acceptable to MHT.
- The easement imposes obligations upon the owner and a legal encumbrance/ lien upon the easement property. Once the easement is in place, the owner (and all subsequent owners, in perpetuity) must submit to MHT for review and approval all proposed changes that go beyond routine or general maintenance. The easement also requires that land and improvements covered by an easement be maintained in good condition.
- A preservation agreement carries the same terms and obligations as an easement but applies only to properties which are personal property, not real property (e.g. ships). Since the subject property is not real property, the preservation agreement cannot be recorded in land records, so the preservation agreement is a contract between MHT and the current property owner only.
- Approximately 800 historic properties in Maryland are protected by easements or preservation agreements held by the Trust. The staff of the Trust is available to owners of easement properties to offer technical preservation expertise in the maintenance and upkeep of these historic resources.
- More information about MHT's easements, including a sample easement template, can be found here: <http://mht.maryland.gov/easement.shtml>

Sample Letter from Property Owner

**Johnnytown Historical Society
P.O. Box 1
Johnnytown, MD 00000**

April 1, 2021

Charlotte Lake, Ph.D.
Capital Grants and Loans Administrator
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032

Dear Dr. Lake,

As the owner(s) of the property located at **[insert property's physical address including street number/name, city, and zip code]**, for which an MHT Capital Grant is being sought, I/we confirm my/our willingness to support the project and convey to the Maryland Historical Trust or other eligible entity a preservation easement or easement modification on the property or enter into a preservation/maintenance agreement. I/we understand that my/our confirmation is a requirement of the grant application and that the preservation easement or preservation/maintenance agreement imposes a financial obligation upon the property owner(s) and a legal encumbrance/lien upon the easement property.

[The letter must also identify all less-than-fee simple interests (mortgages, leases, mineral rights, reversionary interests, etc.) in the property. Your letter MUST include ONE of the two paragraphs below:]

I/we hereby confirm that there are no less-than-fee simple interests (mortgages, leases, mineral rights, reversionary interests, etc.) in the property.

OR

I/we hereby confirm the following less-than-fee simple interests in the property:

- **Loan from Bank of Johnnytown, \$5,000**
- **Lease agreement with Johnnytown Toy Museum**

[The letter must be signed by an authorized officer of the property owner organization; substitute their mailing information for the sample below.]

Sincerely,

Johnny Q. Johns
President, Board of Trustees
Johnnytown Historical Society