

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

Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM

Teleconference

Pursuant to notice, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held by teleconference.

Trustees present: Mmes. Ernstein, Filkins, Mears, and Paca; Messrs. Alberg, Brown, Buchheit, Little, Parker, and Robinson

Area Representatives present: Mmes. Linder, Sasser, and Uunila; Messrs. Azola, Camlin, Charlton, Reed and Stek.

Ex-Officio Members: Senator West, Delegate Gilchrist

Maryland Department of Planning: Robert McCord, Secretary

Office of the Attorney General: Paul Cucuzzella and Rieyn DeLony

MHT Staff: Andrew Arvizu, Collin Ingraham, Barbara Fisher, Elizabeth Hughes, Charlotte Lake, Whitney Mahl, Kathy Monday, Greg Pierce, Anne Raines, and Nell Ziehl.

AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Hughes reported that no members of the public had signed up in advance of the meeting to provide public comment.

V1 CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Franklin Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM and opened the meeting with an indigenous land acknowledgement. Ms. Hughes called the roll. A quorum of Trustees was present.

V2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Laura Mears joined the meeting and called for approval of the minutes. Mr. Reed made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alberg, that the February 19, 2021 Board meeting minutes be approved. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes. Mr. Robinson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reed that the March 18, 2021 Board meeting minutes be approved. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

V3 COMMITTEE REPORTS

V100            Capital Programs

V101R          Capital Historic Preservation Grant Awards

Mr. Brown recused himself from the discussion of this agenda item.

Barbara Fisher, Capital Grant Administrator, presented an overview of the Capital Historic Preservation Grant Program and staff funding recommendations. She pointed out that as per the Board's prior year request, information on past funding awards to applicants was included on the grant chart included in the Board meeting packet.

Mr. Stek and Ms. Paca inquired about how MHT is working to ensure that the Capital Historic Preservation Grant Program is accessible to all applicants and how MHT endeavors to assist owners of severely threatened properties with limited capacity to apply for funds. Ms. Paca expressed concern that certain projects receive repeated fund awards and suggested that this should be a consideration in the grant rating and ranking process. Ms. Sasser inquired if the grant rating and ranking criteria could be adjusted to assist projects that are at a disadvantage. Dr. Ernstein inquired if increased outreach efforts would be desirable. Mr. Buchheit pointed out that increased funding in the program should be considered as one of the solutions to these issues.

Mr. Reed suggested that these issues be addressed in preparation for the next grant round and recommended that the Board take action on the current slate of grant recommendations in order to avoid construction delays related to weather and increasing materials costs.

The following motion was made by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Robinson, and approved unanimously with the exception of Mr. Brown who abstained.

**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 Program Approved Grant Chart for Fiscal Year 2021 (the "Chart").

Chair Mears thanked Ms. Fisher for her presentation and indicated that she would discuss the issues raised during the discussion with Ms. Hughes for future action.

V200            Survey, Registration, Community Education & Museums

V201R          Heritage Preservation Fund Project Selection – FY2022

Ms. Uunila reported that the Board's Heritage Preservation Fund Selection Committee had reviewed staff applications requesting use of Board funds for activities that represented significant new opportunities or that supported high priority projects or programs initiated and conducted by the Trust. All applications submitted for consideration are being recommended for award by the Committee. The expenditure on these awards is less than the funds that are available for award.

The following motion was made by Mr. Reed, seconded by Ms. Uunila, and approved unanimously.

**RESOLVED**, by the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust, that an expenditure of up to \$145,110 from the MHT Heritage Preservation Fund in fiscal year 2022 to support the following projects is approved provided that the April 30, 2021 statement for the Heritage Preservation Fund investment portfolio supports the expenditure.

- Up to \$10,000 for MHT Staff Training;
- Up to \$500 for the MHT Maryland History Day Prize;
- Up to \$3,000 for MHT Staff Recognition Awards;
- Up to \$22,000 for the Easement Processor Position;
- Up to \$6,000 for the 2022 Summer Internship in Archaeology;
- Up to \$6,000 for a JPPM Horticulture Internship;
- Up to \$8,000 for two MAC Lab Internships related to the Archaeology in Annapolis collection;
- Up to \$6,000 for a MAC Lab Public Archaeology Internship;
- Up to \$6,000 for an Inventory of the Architectural Artifact Collection;
- Up to \$55,000 for the Architectural Survey Data Analysis – Data Development Technician position;
- Up to \$2,500 for a one year subscription to TheirStory for the MHT Oral History Project;
- Up to \$1,000 for DEIJ staff development activities;
- Up to \$16,610 for purchase of equipment for recreational paddling at JPPM;
- Up to \$2,500 for sponsorship of Preservation Maryland’s Old Line State Summit.

V202R            Heritage Preservation Fund Agreement Amendment

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 (the “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 Grant Program.

Section II.A of the Grant Agreement states that PM may not use any portion of the Fund to cover PM’s costs associated with administration of the Fund. PM is requesting that the Board amend this restriction to allow a small portion of the Fund, not to exceed \$1,500 annually, to be used by PM to offset costs associated with maintenance of an electronic grants management system. A letter from PM requesting this change was included in the Board packet.

Mr. Parker, who chairs the Heritage Preservation Fund Selection Committee, recommended approval of this action.

The following motion was made by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Parker, and approved unanimously.

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust approves an amendment to the Amended and Restated Heritage Fund Agreement dated April 18, 2017, entered into between the Maryland Historical Trust and Preservation Maryland, Inc., to permit a portion of the Fund, not to exceed \$1,500, to be approved by the Heritage Fund Selection Committee on an annual basis to offset costs associated with maintenance of an electronic grants management system, and authorizes the Director of MHT to execute this amendment to the Agreement.

V203            JPPM Report

Greg Pierce, Director of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, reported on the recruitment of new staff members and on recent activities at JPPM.

V204            MHT Report

Anne Raines, Deputy Director of MHT, reported on the recruitment of new staff members and on recent activities at MHT's Crownsville office.

V205            2022 Maryland Preservation Awards

Nell Ziehl, Chief of the Office of Planning, Education and Outreach, reported on the history of the MHT Board of Trustees annual preservation awards program. In recent years, it has been increasingly difficult to secure the Senate Reception Room for the January awards event. This, coupled with the uncertainty of the public's future interest in gathering in enclosed spaces and the success of the 2021 virtual preservation awards, suggests that the Board's preservation awards program should be reimaged. Ms. Ziehl will be meeting with the Board's preservation awards subcommittee to discuss changes in the preservation awards program and nomination categories for 2022. Recommendations will be submitted to the Board for action at the July meeting.

V300            Management & Planning

V301R          Resolution of Appreciation – Betty Hobgood

Ms. Hughes reported that Betty Hobgood, who served the Maryland Historical Trust for 25 years, had retired in April. The resolution of appreciation put forward for the Board's consideration was then read into the record.

The following motion was made by Mr. Little, seconded by Dr. Ernstein, and approved unanimously.

Whereas the Maryland Historical Trust was created in 1961 as an instrumentality of the State of Maryland for the purpose of preserving, protecting, and enhancing districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in the prehistory, history, upland and underwater archeology, architecture, engineering, and culture of the State, to encourage others to do so and to promote interest in and study of such matters; and

Whereas, Betty Hobgood has served the State of Maryland since 1996, when she was hired as a contractual Assistant Grants Manager, and in 1998 was promoted to Fiscal Officer; and,

Whereas, Betty's degree in Medieval English History and her diplomatic missions in the Phillipines, Gambia, and Kenya prepared her to be a circumspect strategist for the MHT Exchequer and interpreter of State Government Speak, a special language in which words do not mean what they normally do, and when put together into sentences, create black holes of un-meaning; and,

Whereas, all MHT staff know how to sing the song with the chorus of "Let's ask Betty" as we crowd into her one-stop financial counseling service center with all of our unanswerable, unending, multi-faceted questions, starting with "How do we...", "Can we afford...", "How much money does..." or "What happens if..."; and,

Whereas, Betty consistently exhibits patience and unflappable calm in the face of panicky, math-averse colleagues, boundless spreadsheets, reams of reports, and user-unfriendly computer systems that tend to crash during close-out, never showing frustration but occasionally talking out loud to herself; and,

Whereas, Betty's creativity in finding ways to make our federal fund, special fund, general fund, and reimbursable fund shell game always work out in our favor makes her an outstandingly *adequate* member of the MHT team; and,

Whereas, Betty's deep appreciation of and support for the mission and staff of MHT is reflected in her meticulous management of the budget, her keen anticipation of our needs, and her constant monitoring of State government actions for opportunities and threats; and,

Whereas, Betty has served as MHT's financial guardian angel, sustaining our operations with her extraordinary prescience and service as decoder of arcane fiscal procedures and finder of requisite funds;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees wishes to express its deep appreciation to Betty Hobgood for her twenty-five years of service and to wish her a healthy, happy and prosperous retirement and a rewarding next phase of life.

#### V302 Investment Committee Report

Mr. Parker, Chair of the Investment Committee, reported on the performance of the Board's investment portfolio to date which is up 36% over the past 12 months. The Committee remains satisfied with Brown Advisory's management of the fund which includes ongoing rebalancing as needed.

#### V303 Equity Working Group Report

Mr. Parker, Chair of the Equity Working Group, reported that both Board members and MHT

staff members would be working together on this initiative. Funding may be sought from the Board to assist with education and facilitated discussion activities, as determined by the working group. He noted that the issues raised during the Capital Historic Preservation Grant award discussion would be appropriate for the working group to address.

Mr. Azola mentioned that the recent action by Governor Hogan to pardon Maryland lynching victims which took place at the rehabilitated historic Baltimore County Jail, may be of interest to the Committee. He will share news articles about this event, which received national attention, with the Board.

#### V304 Budget and Legislation

Ms. Hughes reported that during the 2021 session of the Maryland General Assembly, the small commercial tax credit received an additional \$1 million reauthorization. Information on the reopening of the small commercial tax credit has been posted on the MHT website.

Ms. Hughes reported that the Joint Chairmen's Report for the 2021 Session included two items that were not anticipated. The report does the following:

1. Restricts \$100,000 in general funds pending the conversion of an administrator I contractual FTE tax credit reviewer to a regular position and the submission of a report on Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program staffing. Actions must be taken by June 30, 2021.
2. Directs MDP and MCAAHC to provide a report on African American cemeteries in consultation with MHT, the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, Preservation Maryland and descendent communities as well as specific descendants of individuals interred in African American cemeteries. The report is due June 30, 2022.

Ms. Hughes reported that a summer intern will assist with background research related to the historic African American cemetery report. Ms. Uunila and Ms. Filkins inquired who would be the point person on this project at MHT. Ms. Hughes indicated that she would serve as the lead on the project for now.

Secretary McCord reported that MDP had received approval from the Maryland Department of Budget and Management to proceed with conversion of the contractual tax credit reviewer to a permanent position. He added that MDP would do all that it could to support preparation of the cemetery report despite the fact that no additional funds or staffing had been provided to support the effort.

#### V305 Litigation and Legal Issues

Ms. Hughes reported that this agenda item would be discussed in closed session, pursuant to State Government Article § 3-305(b)(7), "to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter." The specific topic to be discussed is the on-going litigation in Maryland Division Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc. v. MHT, Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. She noted that once discussion of this matter concluded, the Board meeting would adjourn.

The following motion was made by Ms. Uunila, seconded by Mr. Robinson, and approved unanimously.

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust will enter into closed session pursuant to §3-305(b)(7), State Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, in order to consult with counsel regarding a matter that is subject to on-going litigation, and, following the conclusion of the closed session, will immediately adjourn this meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Following approval of the motion, live streaming of the Board meeting on the MHT YouTube channel ceased.

Meeting adjourned at 12:23 PM.