

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Pursuant to notice, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held as a virtual meeting.

Trustees present: Laura Mears, Jeffrey Buchheit, Julie Earnstein, Albert L. Feldstein, Sarah Kunkel Filkins, LaShay Harvey, Darius Johnson, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., Samuel J. Parker, Jr., Kristine Roome and Rebecca L. Flora.

Area Representatives present: Dean Camlin, Dickerson Charlton, Sakinah Linder, Douglass C. Reed, Lisa Sasser, Charles A. Stek, Tom Vitanza, and Kirsti Uunila.

Office of the Attorney General: Adam Snyder, Rieyn DeLony

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes, Anne Raines, Kathy Monday, Heather Barrett, Grace Davenport, Stacy Montgomery, Bill Hersch, Rod Cofield.

Members of the Public: Christiana Limniatis, Preservation Maryland; Allison Cordell

AGENDA

Q1 CALL TO ORDER

Chair Laura Mears called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM. A quorum of Board members was present.

Q2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Vitanza offered corrections to the meeting minutes.

Mr. Reed made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robinson, to approve the October 17, 2024 meeting minutes as amended. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Q3 PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public offered public comment.

Q4 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Q100 Capital Programs Committee

Q101R African American Heritage Preservation Program Grant Awards – FY25

Ms. Means provided an overview of the history and purpose 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 MHT. She reported

that seventy-one (71) eligible grant applications were received by the July 1, 2024, deadline. The total eligible funding request was over \$14.5 million. The majority of the funding requested was for rehabilitation, with the remainder for pre-development or new construction. Applications represented 21 counties and the City of Baltimore.

Twenty-three projects are recommended for full funding and eight projects are recommended for partial funding, for a total of \$5,000,000. The MCAAHC evaluated, ranked, and recommended funding levels for eligible applicants in accordance with the program project selection criteria. Ms. Means presented the Commission's funding recommendations to the MHT Board of Trustees for action. She explained that following the Board's action, the recommendations will be forwarded to the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning for final approval.

Secretary Flora inquired about the grants rating and ranking process and encouraged the dissemination of information about how that process is undertaken.

Mr. Stek inquired if these funds could be used for historic landscape restoration. Ms. Raines responded that if the project is capital in nature, then funding would be possible.

Mr. Parker asked about the method used for sharing information about these grant awards. Mr. Feldstein suggested that the MPT Outdoors Maryland program might be a good outlet for information about these projects; Ms. Uunila suggested tabling at the annual Baltimore-Washington UMC conference event.

Following discussion, Ms. Uunila offered the following motion, seconded by Mr. Feldstein which was approved unanimously with Mr. Johnson abstaining.

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 FY25 Funds become Available category over the next year, as further described in Exhibit A (African American Heritage Preservation Grant Chart for Fiscal Year 2025); 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 FY2025. Should additional funds from previous years become available, they should be added to this reserve.

Q102R Monument Relocation Working Group Report

Mr. Robinson reported that the Monument Relocation Working Group will be meeting on December 9th to review the draft RFP to be used to solicit interest in host sites for the Baltimore City monuments once they return to Maryland.

Q200 Survey, Registration, Community Education & Museums Committee

Q201 FY24 Heritage Fund Grant Program Report – Preservation Maryland

Ms. Hughes explained 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 to be 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.

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. A “Heritage Fund Program Report: Fiscal Year 2023” was submitted by PM in fulfillment of this requirement of the agreement.

Christiana Limniatis, Program and Outreach Manager for PM, presented highlights of the report and answered questions about the program. In FY24 the Heritage Fund awarded \$119,200 in financial assistance to seventeen projects, leveraging \$716,506 in total funding for preservation projects sponsored by nonprofit organizations and local jurisdictions throughout the state. FY24 also saw the most submitted applications in a single funding cycle since the program’s inception, receiving fifty-one eligible applications.

Ms. Limniatis noted that Preservation Maryland would like to revisit the terms of the agreement and seek up to \$23,000 in operating support to pay for administration of the program.

Q202R JPPM Strategic Plan

This action item was deferred until the January meeting as the full strategic plan document was not included in the Board’s meeting packet.

Mr. Cofield provided an overview of JPPM capital projects and upcoming activities.

Q203R Heritage Preservation Fund – Reallocation of Queen Anne’s County Internship funds

Ms. Barrett explained that at the May 18, 2023 Board meeting, the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust approved \$6,600.00 out of MHT Heritage Preservation Fund fiscal year 2024 funds to support the Queen Anne’s County Research Internship. This internship was envisioned to provide support for the development of a publication documenting the architectural development of pre-industrial Queen Anne’s County. The publication, partially funded by a FY 2024 Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant, is ongoing and currently supported by an editor, a researcher, and a group of well-known architectural historians. Although an intern will be helpful to the project in the future, staff from the Office of Research, Survey, & Registration (ORSR) have identified a more pressing need that is time sensitive.

ORSR requests that the \$6,600.00 be reallocated to extend the current contract of Mary Zell Galen, one of MHT's Data Analysts for the Architectural Survey Data Analysis project – a comprehensive study of MHT's architectural survey program and the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. The work, identified as a priority in the statewide preservation plan and the Maryland Department of Planning's strategic plan, involves an analysis of architectural survey data gaps, re-survey needs, and opportunities for new survey work in the future. The project is also populating new searchable data fields, which will allow comparative analysis of Maryland's built environment. This complex, multi-year project began in February 2018 and will take several additional years to complete. Galen's current contract expires in February 2025.

In August 2024, ORSR staff submitted a National Park Service Underrepresented Communities (URC) grant application to support and fund this critical project. MHT expects to learn the outcome of that application in February 2025. This current request is a stop-gap measure for funding this position, in hopes of positive news from the URC grant program.

Following discussion, Mr. Robinson offered the following motion, seconded by Mr. Parker which was approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust, that an expenditure of up to \$6,600.00 out of the MHT Heritage Preservation Fund in fiscal year 2024 approved by the Board at its May 18, 2023 meeting to fund the Queen Anne's County Research Internship be reallocated to extend the existing contract for one of MHT's Architectural Survey Data Analysts.

Q300 Management & Planning Committee

Q301 Interim Actions of the Executive Committee

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE October 24, 2024 at 9:30 AM

Pursuant to notice, a virtual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held on October 24 at 9:30 AM.

Trustees present: Laura Mears, Franklin Robinson, Albert Feldstein. LaShay Harvey

Office of the Attorney General: Adam Snyder

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mears called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM. She noted that the purpose of the meeting was to take action on those items discussed at the regularly scheduled Board meeting held on October 17, 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 – July 25, 2024

Mr. Feldstein made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robinson, to approve the July 25, 2024 meeting minutes. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

IV. Capital Programs

A. Historic Preservation Non Capital Grant Awards – FY2025

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

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees recommends to the Secretary of Planning the award of MHT Historic Preservation Non-Capital grants to those projects described in **Exhibit A** (MHT Non-Capital Program Approved Grant Chart for Fiscal Year 2025) attached to this Resolution (the “**Chart**”).

B. Heritage Preservation Fund - Emergency Dendrochronology Request

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

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust, that an expenditure of up to \$5,582 from the MHT Heritage Preservation Fund in fiscal year 2025 to support dendrochronological studies of the log barn and house at the Reichard Farmstead in Washington County.

Discussion followed regarding how to manage requests from Trustees and Area Representatives for project support from the Heritage Preservation Fund.

V. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Q302 Equity Working Group Report

Mr. Parker reported that the Working Group is in the process of seeking a consultant who is knowledgeable both in justice, equity, and diversity issues as well as historic preservation. Suggestions of potential candidates are welcome. He also noted that a series of virtual education sessions is being planned as conversations with practitioners in the field. The first of these is a virtual meeting with Jeremy Brown, Executive Director of the LGBTQIA+ Commission for the State of Maryland on December 19th at 1 PM.

Q303 Budget & Legislation

Ms. Hughes reported that the fiscal year 2026 capital and operating budgets have been submitted to the Department of Budget and Management. She noted that while MHT does not expect to put forward any bills this year, there are expected to be a number of bills introduced by advocates that will be of interest to MHT. Legislation related to historic cemeteries, the historic revitalization tax credit program and tribal historic preservation issues are anticipated.

Ms. Hughes also discussed how the new administration in Washington DC could impact state historic preservation offices and addressed potential impacts to the historic preservation fund, the federal rehabilitation tax credit, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and the National Register of Historic Places Program.

Q304 Litigation & Legal Issues

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

Q305 Proposed Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2025

Ms. Hughes shared the list of proposed meeting dates:

January 23, 2025	Virtual Meeting
Thursday, March 20, 2025	100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD
Thursday, May 15, 2025	Location TBD
Thursday, July 24, 2025	100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD
Thursday, October 16, 2025	Location TBD
Thursday, December 4, 2025	100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD

No meeting date conflicts of concern were cited by Board members.

Announcements

Ms. Hughes shared the list of upcoming public hearings being hosted by the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission:

December 7 – Minary's Dream Alliance in Chestertown, MD
January 11 – Howard County, location TBD
January 25 - Bowie State University
February 1 – Carroll County, location TBD

MHT Press is hosting a holiday sale that is ongoing until January 2, 2025.

The 2025 Preservation Awards event will take place in May; award applications will be available in January 2025.

Board members should review funding opportunities provided by the MD Two Fifty Commission which can be found here:

<https://mdtwofifty.maryland.gov/grants-applications/>

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.