WELCOME!

FY27 African American Heritage Preservation Program

General Overview Webinar

Today's Agenda

- Introduction
- Eligibility
- Getting Started
- Project Scope
- Budget Requirements
- Grant Administration
- Selection Process

Henry Hotel, Ocean City

Program Background

africanamerican.maryland.gov

mht.maryland.gov

Program Basics

- Grants fund construction-related projects

- Properties contributing to Maryland's African American history and culture

- Maximum grant = $250,000

- $5,000,000 available this year

Orchard Street Church, Baltimore City

Application Deadline

You must submit your online application online by

11:59 pm EST on

July 1, 2026

Eligibility Overview

Eligible Applicants

- Non-profit organizations

- Local governments

- State and Federal agencies

- Business Entities

- Private Individuals

Old Pomonkey High School, Bryans Road

Eligibility Requirements for Applicants

- All Applicants (except individuals) must be registered and in good standing with SDAT https://egov.maryland.gov/BusinessExpress/EntitySearch.

- Applicants must provide organizational documents, including Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and proof of non-profit status from the IRS.

Eligible Properties

- Properties contributing to Maryland's African American history or culture

- Historical designation is NOT required

Henry Hotel, Ocean City

Property Owner Consent is REQUIRED!

Your application will be rejected unless:

- You submit a letter of property owner consent – even if the owner and the applicant are the same
  - ➢ Use the <u>template</u> on the program webpage

- MHT will confirm the property owner
  - ➢ Check <u>SDAT's property database</u> online

Eligible Activities

Acquisition

Rehabilitation

New Construction

Pre-development

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Eligible Activities - Acquisition

- Acquisition must directly contribute to the preservation and protection of the property;

- **Timeline and seller must be flexible;**

- Can be combined with rehabilitation funding request;

- Contact staff before applying!

Catoctin Furnace African American Cemetery, Thurmont

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Eligible Activities – Rehabilitation

- Focus on most important building features first;
- Protect historic building elements;
- May require architectural plans or building conditions assessment.

Blandair Slave Quarter, Columbia

Eligible Activities – New Construction

- Includes new buildings, additions and outbuildings;

- Can be combined with other requests;

- Existing buildings should be prioritized.

Sanaa Center Renderings, Baltimore City

Eligible Activities – Pre-Development

- Includes construction documents, archeological investigations, historic structures reports, conditions assessments;

- Must inform a capital project;

- Must be necessary for construction to take place;

- Can be combined with other requests.

Trail to the George E. Rice House at the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, Calvert County

Project Considerations

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Lappans

- Most projects require an architect, engineer or archeologist - don't forget this in your budget!
- Focus on the most urgent projects first.
- All work must last at least 15 years.
- Work that has already started is **not eligible.**

What are the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards*?

Your project must protect historic features.

St. Paul Church, Denton

Ineligible Costs

- Landscaping

- Staff salaries

- Insurance

- Maintenance

- Research, exhibit design, websites

- Master plans and feasibility studies

- Temporary installations

- Work that is not bid per MHT requirements

Religious Properties

- Religious sites can receive funds for exterior or structural work.

- Repairs to religious imagery are not eligible.

- Work on interior spaces that are not used for religious purposes may be eligible.
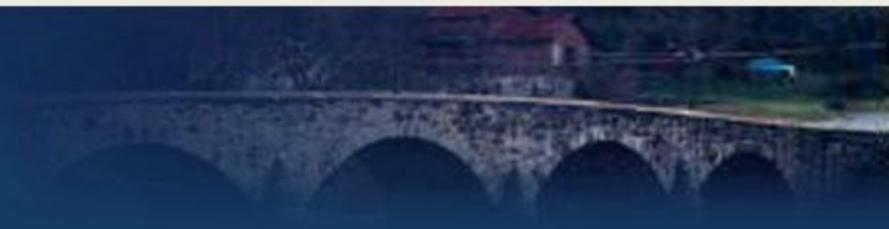

Tyree AME Church, Berlin

Cemeteries

Cemetery Project Examples:

- Resetting and repair of grave markers;

- Identification of unmarked burials using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR);

- Repair or installation of paths, walls, or fences;

- New commemorative markers;

- Cemetery conservation plans.

Boys Village of Maryland Cemetery, Cheltenham

Getting Started

Where to Begin?

American Hall, Hagerstown

Frederick Douglass Summer Home, Highland Beach

- Read the Grant Guidelines
- Identify application items that may take a while to get back:
  - ✓ Letter of property owner consent
  - ✓ Signed letters of support
  - ✓ Estimates for budget
- Investigate necessary approvals and permits
- Keep the deadline in mind!

How to Download the Application

Download

African American Heritage Preservation Program Grant Application

Instructions | Overview | Applicant | Project Description | Budget | Public Benefit | Significance & Impact | Property Information | Project Management | Support | Release & Consent | Attachments

FY2027 African American Heritage Preservation Program Grant Application

FY2027 AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE PRESERVATION PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

Application Deadline (online submission):
11:59 pm on July 1, 2026

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

Please note, this application is for organizations, non-profits, businesses, etc. If you are interested in applying for the African American Heritage Preservation Program Grant Program as an individual, please use this link.

Please read the following instructions before beginning your application:

- Review the **Grant Guidelines** available HERE before beginning your grant application.
- The program webpage can be found HERE and has webinar information and other application documents.
- Award announcements for this application round will be made no sooner than December of 2026.
- We strongly recommend that you **contact MHT and MCAAHC staff** before applying to be sure your project is eligible.
- If you need additional guidance on your application:
  - Please contact Alexandria Anderson, MCAAHC Research Specialist, at alexandria.anderson@maryland.gov for assistance in the development of the project's purpose and scope, and interpretation.
  - Please contact Stacy Montgomery, Capital Programs Administrator, at stacy.montgomery@maryland.gov or 410-697-9559 for assistance with construction questions, budget, online application, or questions about eligibility.

Notes on completing the online application:

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Develop Your Application

- What is the **project scope**?

- **Project Urgency**: What is the most urgent work that needs to be done?

- Are **pre-development** or pre-construction services required?

- **Project Timeline**: Should the project be broken into phases?

- **Project Photos**: Submit at least 10 clear and compelling photos into the photo template.

Greenbury Howard House, Brookeville

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Developing Your Project Description

- What construction will you do?

- Will your project description be clear to reviewers?

- Be clear about what the grant will pay for.

- Is all work eligible?
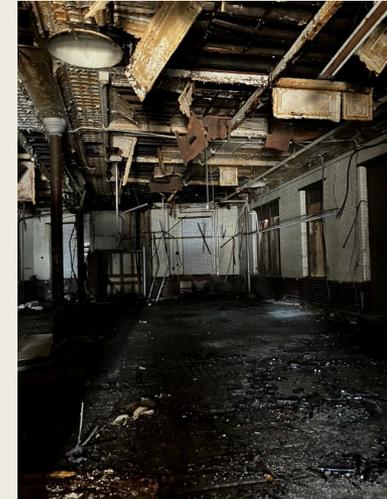
Historic Oliver Community Firehouse, Baltimore City

Construction Project Description vs Grant Scope of Work

Construction Project Description:
The fellowship hall rehabilitation project began with a roof repair last year. <mark>The next phase of work will continue the exterior rehabilitation of the hall. The brick foundation piers will be repointed with appropriate mortar. The historic wood window frames and sashes will be repaired. The gutters and downspouts will be replaced, and the entry ramp will be upgraded to be ADA-compliant.</mark> The final phase will include interior work on the floors and bathrooms.

Grant Project Scope of Work (YOUR BUDGET SHOULD MATCH THIS LIST):
- architectural drawings for phase two
- repoint foundation piers
- repair historic wooden windows
- replace gutters and downspouts
- bring entrance ramp into ADA compliance
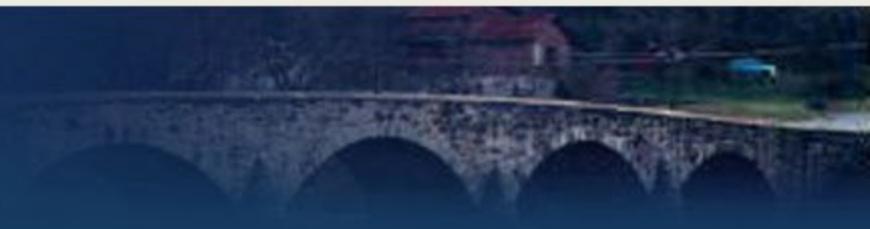
Developing Your Budget

- Submit estimates from architects or contractors.

- What additional funds and resources do you have?

- Can you manage the project, or will you hire an architect or general contractor?

- Include all items listed in Grant Project Scope of Work

- Requests should be in $1,000 denominations

- Plan for price increases – include a contingency!

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Match & Other Project Funds
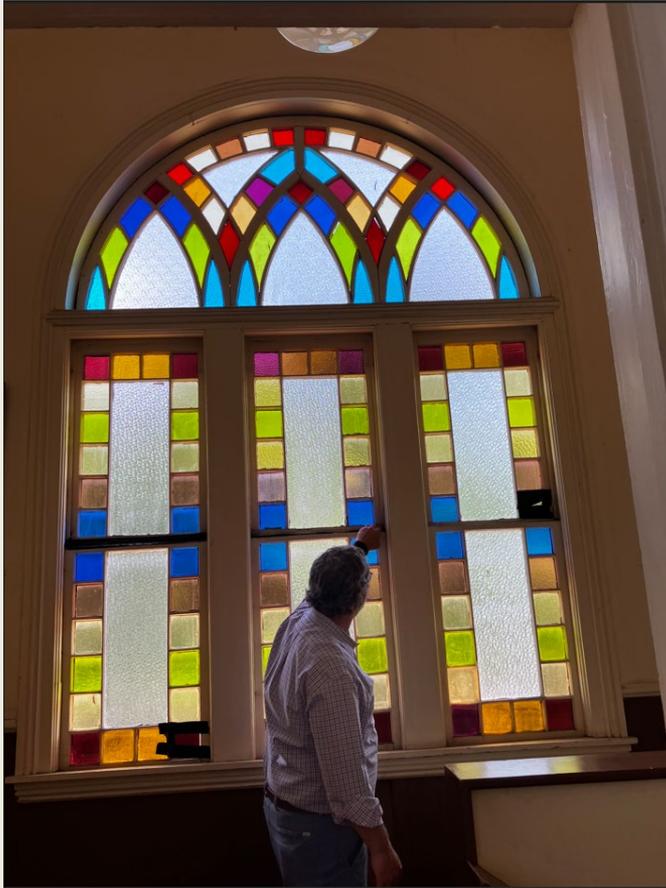
Chipman Center, Salisbury

- No match is required.

- Any other funds you are providing please list under "Other Project Funds".

- Please make sure to include any additional state funds received in "Funds" category.

Budget Spreadsheet

SAMPLE Budget
AAHPP Grant Application

Item #	Work Item (Description)	AAHPP Grant Funds Requested	Other State Funds (State Bond Bill)	Other Project Funds (non-state only)	Total Project Funds
1	ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES	$0.00	$12,000.00	$4,000.00	$4,000.00
2	MASONRY REPAIRS & REPOINTING (FOUNDATION)	$6,000.00		$1,000.00	$15,000.00
3	CARPENTRY (WINDOW REPAIR)	$8,000.00		$4,000.00	$12,000.00
4	ROOFING (DOWNSPOUTS & GUTTERS)	$2,000.00		$0.00	$2,000.00
5	ADA COMPLIANCE (ENTRANCE RAMP)	$2,000.00		$2,000.00	$4,000.00
6					
7					
8					
9					
	TOTALS	$18,000.00	$12,000.00	$11,000.00	$37,000.00

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE · MCAAHC

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Project Schedule

- Will your project be ready to start as soon as the grant paperwork is complete?

- What are the phases of your project?

- Have you included time for design, permits, and hiring?

- Can you finish within the 2-year grant period?

- Utilize the Sample Timeline in Exhibit 2 of the Grant Guidelines.

Project Urgency

- Why is your project urgent?

- Does your property have other urgent needs?

- Is there a time-limited opportunity?

- Is the project shovel-ready?

Scotland AME, Potomac

African American Historical Significance

- How is your site tied to African American History and Culture in Maryland?

- How does your site and organization benefit the broader public?

- How does or will your site educate the public?

- How will your project impact your ability to provide a public benefit or share important history with the public?

- Answer the ASALH Theme Question
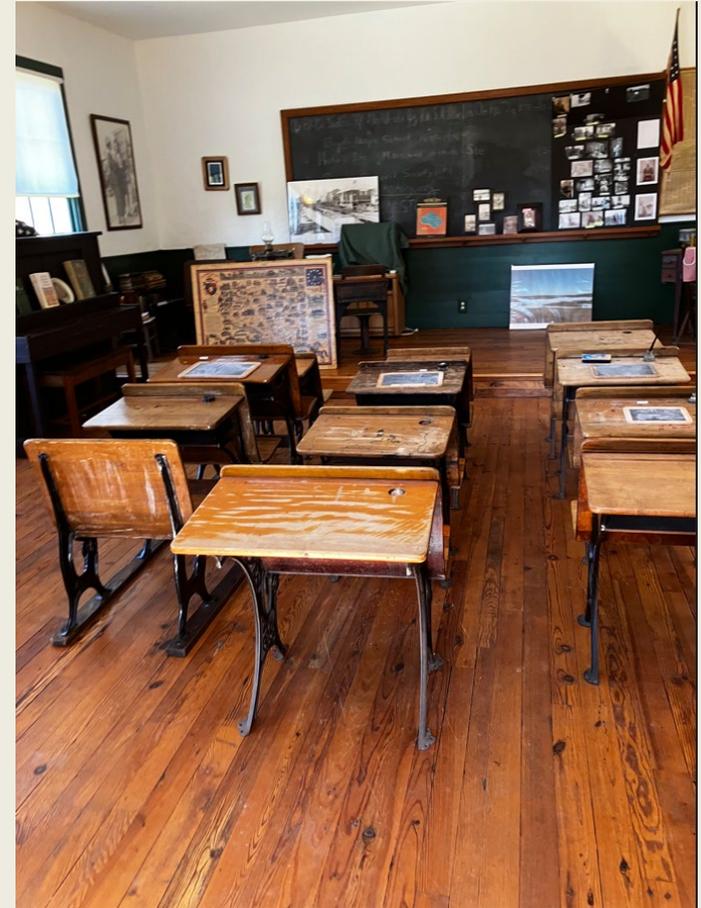
Boyds Negro School, Montgomery County

Grant Administration
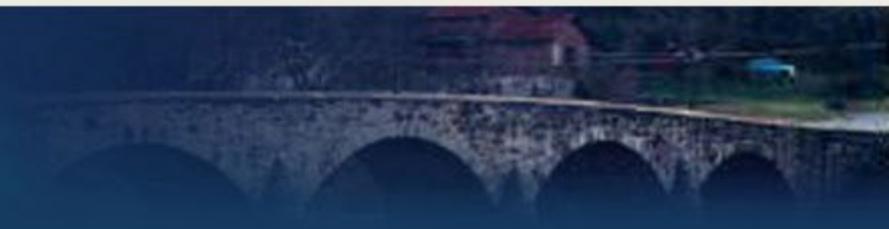
Grant Administration Schedule

JULY 1, 2026: Applications due **11:59 pm EST**

The following dates are approximate:

- **December 2026:** Grant Awardees Notified
- **January 2027:** Grant Awards announced
- **February - March 2027:** Grant Agreements completed
- **March - April 2027:** Initial Meeting with Project Monitor & Grantee
- **April - May 2027:** Begin MHT procurement for Architects or Contractor
- **December 2028:** Project completed

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Easements

MHT will let grantees know if a preservation easement is required.

Parren Mitchell House, Baltimore City

The Customs House, Chestertown

Ridgley Methodist Church, Landover

What is an easement?

- An easement is a legal contract between MHT and the property owner.

- The easement is recorded in the local land records.

- The easement usually protects buildings, structures, and associated archaeological resources on the property.
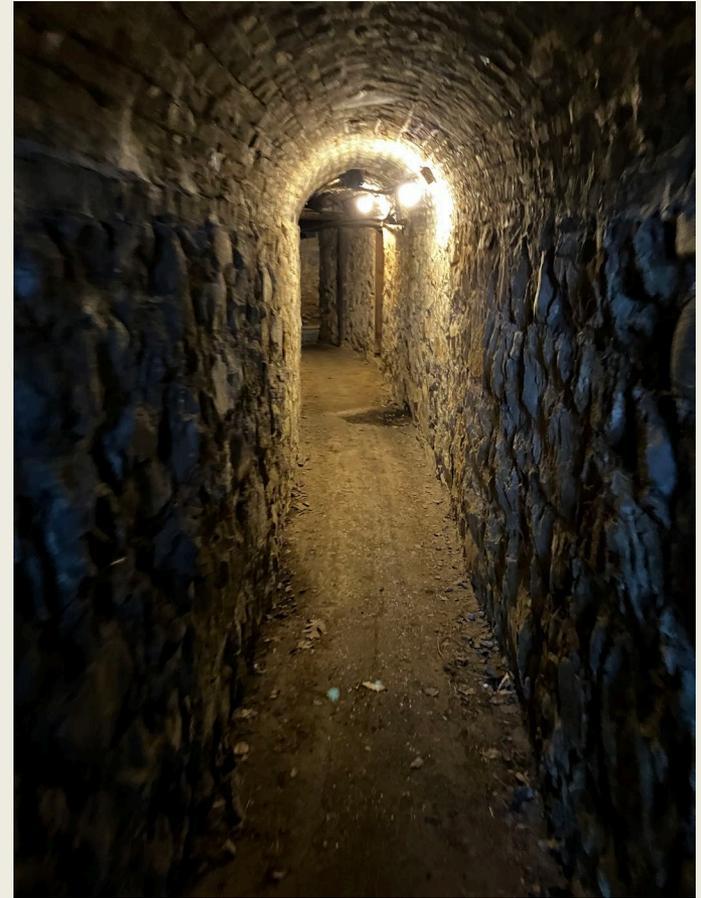
Emmanuel Episcopal Church Tunnels, Cumberland

Easement – What Are the Owner's Responsibilities?

- The owner must get MHT approval before any work is started.

- The owner must maintain the property, keeping it in good condition.

- Insurance may be required.

Harlem Theatre, Baltimore City

Easements & Grants

- Property Owner Letter of Consent must state willingness to convey an easement.

- The easement must be conveyed before work begins or grant funds are released.

- Legal fees related to drafting the easement are NOT eligible for grant funding.

- For more information contact mht.easements@maryland.gov or visit https://mht.maryland.gov/Pages/easement/easement.aspx.

What else should I know if I get a grant?

- ALL work must be approved by MHT BEFORE construction starts;

- Grant funds can only pay for contractors hired through a competitive bidding process approved by MHT;

- MHT can only pay the grantee, who will be responsible for paying contractors.

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Selection Criteria & Tips

Selection Criteria

- Significance & Need

- Project Design

- Project Management

- Public Benefit, Impact, & Local Commitment

- Special Initiatives

Mander House, Worton

Grant Selection Process

- JULY 1 @ 11:59 PM – Applications due!

- Grants staff review application for eligibility and missing attachments.

- Grant Review Committee reviews and ranks applications

- MCAAHC & MHT Board review selected recommendations

- Secretary of Planning approves final award list

- Awardees are notified via email

Tips for a Successful Grant Application

- What are your goals for the project? How do they relate to the goals of MCAAHC and MHT?

- Show that your project will be ready to start as soon as the award is made

- Explain how your project/property will be sustained into the future.

- Demonstrate local support for your project

- Review the Grant Guidelines & Scoring Rubric

- Clearly and concisely state all responses. Make it easy for reviewers!

Online Resources

- [AAHPP Program Website](#)

- [Grant Guidelines](#)

- [How to Apply for a Grant](#)

Contact Info

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