

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING

Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 10:00 AM

Pursuant to notice, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held as an in person the N.S. Savannah at 4601 Newgate Avenue, Baltimore, MD.

Trustees present: Jeffrey Buchheit, Kevin Cabrera, Julie Ernstein, LaShay Harvey, Laura Davis Mears, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., Kristine Roome, Karen Yee, and Secretary Rebecca Flora.

Area Representatives present: Dean Camlin, Sakinah Linder, Douglass Reed, Lisa Sasser, Christopher Sperling, and Harry T. Spikes II.

Office of the Attorney General: Adam Snyder, Rieyn DeLony

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes, Anne Raines, Stacy Montgomery, Bill Hersch, William Kiskowski

MDP Staff: N/A

Guests: Terry Klima, John Zebelean, Betty Hobgood

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Laura Mears called the meeting to order at 10:28 AM. A quorum of voting Board members was present.

Chair Mears then recognized Erhard Koehler, Manager, Nuclear Ship Savannah Programs, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration and Senior Technical Advisor, N.S. Savannah, who welcomed Board members and described the history and significance of the vessel.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Camlin made a motion to approve the March 19, 2026 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Secretary Flora and approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Terry Klima commented that the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) is required under the historic preservation easement that it holds on the Baltimore Confederate monuments to resolve the damage to the monuments. He stated that Baltimore City continues to be non-compliant with the easement and the public remains excluded from having access to the monuments. He stated that MHT has abdicated its responsibility to care for the monuments and develop a plan for monument relocation and in so doing has failed to serve the public.

John Zebelean commented that MHT's failure to protect the monuments that are under easement dishonors the fallen veterans of the Civil War that the monuments are intended to honor. He pointed out that the easement provision which provides for public access to the monuments has been ignored for eight years. He asked when the public will see action to restore the monuments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Z100 Capital Programs Committee

Z101R Historic Preservation Capital Grant Awards - FY2026

Mr. Hersch, Capital Grants and Loans Administrator, presented an overview of the Capital Historic Preservation Grant Program and staff funding recommendations. Fifty-four eligible grant applications were received by the March 16, 2026 deadline. The total funding requested is \$4,925,000. Staff are recommending funding 11 grants at a total award amount of \$1,000,000 which will leverage \$297,227 in grantee contributions. Most of the funding requested is for rehabilitation, with the remainder for restoration, acquisition, or predevelopment costs. Applications received represent 19 counties and Baltimore City.

Mr. Hersch answered Board member questions about projects recommended for award and grant program requirements.

Dr. LaShay Harvey made the following motion, seconded by Dean Camlin, to approve the following resolution. The Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

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 Grant Program - Grant Chart - FY 2025 (the "Chart").

Z102 Monument Relocation Working Group Report

Mr. Robinson began his presentation by thanking all veterans for their service as we look forward to commemorating the Memorial Day holiday. He reported that the Monument Relocation Working Group met most recently on May 11th and that progress was being made in identifying a secure location in Baltimore City for the return of the monuments from the exhibit in California. He then invited Mr. Spikes to provide additional updates.

Mr. Spikes reported that he and Lauren Schiszik, Executive Director of the Baltimore Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation, have had several meetings with the Mayor's office regarding the monuments. He has met with the Mayor's Chief of Staff and the Mayor himself. Mr. Spikes and Ms. Schiszik have visited three sites in Baltimore City that are under consideration for the relocation of the monuments. At this time, the Mayor's Office has asked that the locations under consideration not be disclosed until the final location is approved by the Mayor. Mr. Spikes noted that the monuments are expected to return to Baltimore City in late June.

Z200 Survey, Registration, Community Education & Museums Committee

Z201R Heritage Preservation Fund Project Selection - FY2027

Ms. Raines reported that, based on calculations made according to the Maryland Heritage Preservation Fund Disposition Policy, the Board may award funds for Heritage Preservation Fund projects totaling up to \$139,120.90 in fiscal year 2027.

Staff have submitted funding requests totaling \$107,900 as outlined in the chart provided in the Board meeting packet. These proposals were reviewed and approved by a committee consisting of Board members Mears, Sasser, Charlton and Buchheit.

Dr. Julie Ernstein made the following motion, seconded by Dean Camlin, to approve the following resolution. The Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust, that an expenditure of up to \$107,900 from the MHT Heritage Preservation Fund in fiscal year 2026 to support the following projects is approved.

Up to \$700 for the MHT Maryland History Day Prize;

Up to \$600 for 2026 MAC Lab Collections Intern - cost adjustment;

Up to \$2,000 for MHT Board Meeting expenses;

Up to \$7,200 for JPPM Collections Internship;

Up to \$8,000 for JPPM Conservation Internship;

Up to \$8,000 for the MHT Summer Internship in Archaeology;

Up to \$500 for the Archaeology Merit Badge Workshop;

Up to \$2,400 for JPPM Staff E-Bikes;

Up to \$8,000 for JPPM Public Programs Internship;

Up to \$35,000 for National Register Assistant contractual position;

Up to \$32,000 for MHT / JPPM Staff Training Activities; and

Up to \$3,500 for MHT All Staff Meeting and Staff Recognition Awards (September 2026).

Z300 Management & Planning Committee

Z301R MHT Board Bylaws Update

Ms. Hughes reported that the MHT Board Executive Committee, joined by Board members Roome and Buchheit, met to review the bylaws of the MHT Board of Trustees on April 10 and May 7. This work group reviewed the bylaws, last updated in 2013, to ensure that they reflect current operational practices and consider any changes that may be beneficial. She described 4 substantive amendments to the bylaws that were being put forward for consideration:

Article VII, Section 3: This entirely new section would establish term limits for Area Representatives. The Board suggested that it would be helpful to clarify that Area Representatives represent not only geographic areas not represented by Trustees but also professional disciplines not represented by Trustees.

Article VII, Section 5: This new section adds Conflict of Interest provisions for Area Representatives. The Board expressed no concerns about this provision.

Article IX, Section 2.a.: This new section addresses how the elected trustee position of the Executive Committee is elected should a mid term vacancy occur. The Board expressed no concerns about this provision.

Article IX, Section 3: The requirement that Standing Committees met immediately before Board meetings was proposed for deletion. The Board discussed the benefit of retaining Standing Committees and utilizing them more effectively but agreed that a requirement that Standing Committees meet immediately in advance of Board meetings would not be necessary.

Secretary Flora recommended that Article III, Section I be amended to clarify that the Governor's representative, who serves ex officio, is a voting member of the Board. She also recommended that references to the Governor's appointments portal be removed from the technical amendment section of the resolution background information, as the use of an online portal may not be universally applied going forward.

Ms. Hughes indicated that she would schedule a follow-up meeting with the Bylaws Working Group to discuss these recommended revisions and develop a revised draft for consideration at the Board's July meeting.

Z302 Investment Committee

Dr. Harvey, Treasurer of the MHT Board and Chair of the Investment Committee, reported that inflation continues to be a drag on the economy and that international markets are experiencing a pullback due to energy concerns. Nonetheless, Brown Advisory advises that this difficult financial environment can be managed if investors remaining focused on a long-term investment timeframe, manage their risk exposure, and maintain a diverse portfolio. As of March 31, 2026, the overall MHT Historic Preservation Fund portfolio is valued at \$5.2 million over all three funds. Although the fund was down 3% in the first quarter, it has maintained a 10.4% return over the trailing 12 months.

Z303 Budget and Legislation

Ms. Hughes indicated that there was nothing new to report regarding budget and legislation.

Y304 Litigation & Legal Issues

Mr. Snyder reported.....

Announcements

Chair Mears announced that this meeting is the last meeting for Board members Dr. Julie Ernststein and Karen Yee and Area Representative Sakinah Linder. The Board thanked the members for their many years of service.

Ms. Hughes noted that the Nominating Committee would be meeting in advance of the July Board meeting as Board Officers and Area Representatives would be elected at that time.

The next meeting of the MHT Board of Trustees will take place at the MHT offices in Crownsville on July 16, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 12:17 PM.