



The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (as of September 2025)

The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA), an independent unit of government in the Executive Branch, serves as the governing body of the Maryland Heritage Areas Program. MHAA is chaired by the current Secretary of the Department of Planning, Rebecca L. Flora. The 19-member body consists of State officials and community and association representatives. The Authority's structure encourages State agencies to work together to share resources and staff expertise to ensure a diverse array of interests are factored into the Program's governance and activities.

Maryland State Cabinet Members (Voting Members)

Agency	Representative	Proxy Representative
Department of Planning	Secretary Rebecca L. Flora, Chair	NA
Department of Housing and Community Development	Secretary Jacob R. Day	Melissa Archer, Vice Chair
Department of Transportation	Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld	Dr. Julie Schablitsky
Department of Commerce	Secretary Harry Coker, Jr.	Luis Cardona
Department of Natural Resources	Secretary Josh Kurtz	Hilary Bell
Maryland Higher Education Commission	Secretary Dr. Sanjay Rai	Geoffrey Newman
State Historic Preservation Officer	Elizabeth Hughes	NA

Maryland State Cabinet Members (Non-Voting Members)

Agency	Representative	Proxy Representative
Department of Agriculture	Secretary Kevin Atticks	Audrey Broomfield
State Department of Education	State Superintendent Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.	Peter Ramsey

Governor-appointed community and association members

Title	Representative
Maryland Association of Counties	Pete Leshner, Chief Curator, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum
Maryland Municipal League	Nathan Brown, Mayor, Brunswick
Maryland Greenways Commission	Inactive
Maryland Tourism Development Board	Sandy Turner, Cecil County Tourism
Recommended by the President of the Maryland Senate	Nicholas Redding, President and CEO, Preservation Maryland
Recommended by the President of the Maryland Senate	Chief Donna Abbott, Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians
Recommended by the Speaker of House of Delegates	Jonathan Hughes, Principal Deer Park Middle School, Baltimore County Public Schools
Recommended by the Speaker the House of Delegates	Tara Balfe Clifford, Cliftara CD Consultant and Community Volunteer
Member of the public who has significant education or experience in historic preservation	Lawana Holland-Moore, Historic Preservation & Research, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Member of the public who has significant education or experience in heritage tourism	Dr. Dennis Doster, Black History Program Manager, Prince George's County, Maryland