Introduction

Maryland Heritage Areas Program Project Grant Application

The Maryland Heritage Areas Program is housed administratively in the Maryland Historical Trust and governed by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) which is an independent unit of government in the Executive Branch of government that operates in the Department of Planning. One of the primary activities of MHAA and the program is to award capital and non-capital project grants that highlight Maryland's diverse heritage, enhance local communities, and promote tourism and economic development within one or more of Maryland's 13 certified heritage areas.

You must submit this application by 11:59 pm on March 31, 2026. Please reach out to your local heritage area to discuss your project prior to this deadline. Contact information can be found [here](#).

Any question marked with a red asterisk (*) must be completed before you can submit your application. Please use plain text. Content will not retain formatting such as bold, italics, or bullets. You may refer to the "Fiscal Year 2027 Project Grant Guidelines for Applicants" to learn more about the program. If you have any questions, please reach out to Maryland Heritage Areas Program staff at martha.waldron@maryland.gov or andrew.arvizu@maryland.gov.

Applicant Information

Applicant Organization

The following fields have populated from the information you submitted in your Intent to Apply form. If the information has changed, you may revise it here.

Organization Name *

Legal Name *
This may be the same as your organization name, but the name provided must match EXACTLY the legal name as registered with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT). You can check your organization's legal name by visiting https://egov.maryland.gov/BusinessExpress/EntitySearch.

Federal Tax ID / EIN *

Primary Mailing Address *

Web Address

Project Contact

Primary Contact Information

Prefix	First name	Last name	Suffix	Email address	Office telephone	Contact title

Administrative Capability *

Please select TRUE in the field below to affirm that the organization and primary project contact have read the MHAA "Fiscal Year 2027 Project Grant Guidelines for Applicants" and can provide the administrative and managerial oversight needed to complete the proposed project. Select one

☐ False
☐ True

This is the person who will manage the grant and serve as the primary contact. They will receive all correspondence, notifications, and reminders regarding the grant.

Project Information

Project Information

Project Title *

The project title should refer to the property and/or specific activity for which funding is being requested. This is what you indicated in your Intent to Apply form. If anything has changed, you may revise your answer.

Is this a Capital or Non Capital Project? *

Please only select one. This is what you indicated in your Intent to Apply form. If anything has changed, you may revise your answer.

☐ MHAA / Capital
☐ MHAA / Non-Capital

Heritage area in which your project will be taking place. Check all that apply. *

This is what you indicated in your Intent to Apply form. If anything has changed, you may revise your answer.

☐ Anacostia Trails Heritage Area
☐ Baltimore National Heritage Area
☐ Beach to Bay Heritage Area
☐ Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area
☐ Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area
☐ Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area
☐ Lower Susquehanna Heritage Area
☐ Montgomery County Heritage Area
☐ Mountain Maryland Gateway to the West Heritage Area
☐ Passages of the Western Potomac Heritage Area (Canal Place)
☐ Patapsco Valley Heritage Area
☐ Southern Maryland National Heritage Area
☐ Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area

Fiscal year *

Project Summary (250 word limit) *

Please provide a short description of your project that includes a list of the specific work and/or deliverables to be completed using the requested grant funds and required match.

Project Description (1,500 word limit) (up to 15 points)   *

Please describe the overall project, including past and future phases of work or any consultants or contractors you plan on hiring, and how this grant request contributes to the overall project's goals and objectives. Be sure to include any pre-planning and preparation work that has already been completed and, if applicable, how the project will be sustained and/or maintained long-term.

Timeline / Schedule (up to 5 points)   *

Please list the proposed timeline of the work that would be funded by this a MHAA grant and the required match. You can also include other phases (identified as outside the grant period), if applicable. Keep in mind that your project start date will be July 9, 2026 and your first payment may not be released until around January 2027.

Project Impact

To explain the potential impact of this project, please explain how your work pertains to the Maryland Heritage Areas Program's desired strategic results:

- Maryland's diverse historic, cultural, and natural assets within heritage areas are enhanced, preserved, and accessible
- Heritage areas support equitable, robust, and sustainable local economies
- Communities and visitors are connected and enriched by experiencing Maryland's heritage and cultural traditions
- Local partnerships and networks across heritage areas are expanded and strong

What type of asset will be enhanced and/or preserved and made publicly accessible by your project? This is what you indicated in your Intent to Apply form. If anything has changed, you may revise your answer. *

- ☐ Historic property or collections
- ☐ Cultural activities/traditions or stories including art/festivals/foodways
- ☐ Natural areas (parks/trails/waterways/greenspaces/etc.)
- ☐ Archaeological activities
- ☐ Other

Who is the target audience for this project, what is the anticipated participation or increased engagement with the project, and how will the project be made accessible to the public? Please include any provisions that will be made for people with various physical abilities. (up to 15 points) *

What information or connections do you want visitors or participants to engage with after experiencing your project? (up to 10 points) *

You are encouraged to provide qualitative examples, such as an increased sense of pride in their community, a deeper understanding of a particular aspect of history, architecture, subject, area of focus, or a new or enhanced body of knowledge that is specific to the heritage area. For capital projects, please explain the importance of it being restored and/or built and how it contributes to (i.e. resource in a historic district, preservation of original historic fabric) and/or will support the surrounding area in the future (i.e. venue for community events and programming, connector trail, etc.).

How will your project help fulfill the mission of your local heritage area, including boosting local and/or regional heritage tourism? Heritage area mission statements can be found here: https://mht.maryland.gov/Pages/MHAA/heritage-areas.aspx (up to 15 points) *

Consider how your project will enhance and/or help sustain (economic, environmental, and/or cultural) the heritage area. Is this a new or refined offering? Provide quantitative examples such as, the cities/towns/communities/neighborhoods within the heritage area where this project will take place, and how many volunteers and/or paid jobs will be supported as a result of the grant.

How will your project help establish or strengthen partnerships and support local, regional, and/or cross collaboration? (up to 10 points) *

What partners will you be working with and how does your project bring them together around a shared or local vision? Partners might include other nonprofits and, businesses, your local heritage area, and/or members of your community.

How does your project address and/or support diverse or inclusive historical narratives and/or practices? (up to 5 points) *

In addition to explaining which aspect of Maryland's diverse historic, cultural, and natural narratives your project will be highlighting, you are also encouraged to consider if the project you are proposing will assist your organization with addressing any work it may be doing to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and access. For capital projects, consider if the project will include hiring small and/or minority owned businesses, and if the new space will eventually hold public programs or events that support diverse and inclusive audiences and narratives.

Why does this project need to proceed at this time? What will happen if this grant is not awarded or only partially funded? (up to 15 points) *

Budget Information

Budget Information (up to 10 points)

The following fields have populated from the information you submitted in your Intent to Apply form. If the information has changed, you may revise it here.

Requested Grant Amount *

This is what you indicated in your Intent to Apply form. If anything has changed, you may revise your answer. The maximum amount you can request is $100,000 for a Capital Grant and $50,000 for a Non-Capital Grant. The minimum is $5,000. Round up to the nearest dollar. Enter numbers only, no commas or dollar signs.

Required Match Amount *

You must provide a 1:1 match to the grant using any combination of cash and in-kind contributions. Salaries and/or benefits of permanent or temporary staff of the applicant organization are considered ineligible grant expenses, but staff and volunteer time working on the grant-funded project can be used as match. You may not use other sources of state funds to fulfill your match requirement, with the exception of staff time for state employees which can be used as match. All grant and match funds must be spent within the term of the grant (July 9, 2026 - Project End Date)

Anticipated Other Project Costs (NOT STATE FUNDS)

If the total project is expected to cost more than the total grant request and required match combined, those additional costs are considered Other Project Costs and should be included in your project budget. If your Other Project Costs are state funds, please do not include them here, instead provide a written description of them in the Additional Budget Information section below.

Total Project Cost *

This should exactly match the amount listed in your Excel budget template

Upload Your Budget Here *

You must use the following budget template: https://mht.maryland.gov/Documents/grants/Grants_MHAA_BudgetDetail.xlsx.

Additional Budget Information, Including Source of Match

Use this section to provide any additional details about your proposed budget, including source of match (if known). Detailed quotes and estimates from contractors are preferred and can be uploaded below. If applicants are unable to provide official estimates, please explain how budgeted expenses were determined. If match funds are still to be identified, please provide any details you can about potential match sources. Proof of match is NOT required at time of application.

Upload Supporting Budget Documents Here

For more information about project budgets, including eligible expenses, in-kind contributions, and Other Project Costs please refer to "Fiscal Year 2027 Project Grant Guidelines for Applicants."

Supplemental Information

Property Information

Property Name and Address *

Supplemental Property Information *

Please share any additional information about the property, such as historical or community significance, or special designations (i.e., listed on the National Register or Maryland Inventory of Historic Places, or located in a historic or arts and entertainment district).

Do you own the property? *

Select one

- ☐ False
- ☐ True

If no, then please select TRUE to affirm that you have notified the property owner of your proposed project and understand that the Maryland Historical Trust may require a letter from the property owner indicating consent to the project should your project be selected for an award. *

Select one

- ☐ False
- ☐ True

People Working on the Project

Use this section to list the people, including the primary project contact, who are actively working on your project, such as staff members, board members, volunteers, partners, and consultants. Include the name, title, company and/or organization name and the role they will play in your project. If you have not yet identified your partners or consultants for this project, please attach a description of the qualifications that you will be looking for below. *

Upload here the resumes/CVs or bios of staff and board members, volunteers, partners and consultants who will be working on the project here, including anyone who will be assisting with the administration or management of the project.

For Nonprofit Organizations

Upload here your articles of incorporation, bylaws, and proof of nonprofit status. If you are a government agency, you may skip this step. All nonprofit applicants are required to submit these documents.

For Projects on DNR Property

If your application is for a project that will take place on Maryland Department of Natural Resources property, you must obtain permission from DNR for the proposed project. Please upload your approval letter from DNR. If you have not yet received approval, upload your request form that was submitted to DNR. A blank form and instructions can be found on the MHAA Guidelines and Resources webpage here. Only one document can be uploaded here.

For Projects Pertaining to Education

If your application is for a Pre-K-12 education project, please upload here documentation that you have consulted with either the Maryland State Department of Education and/or your local school system on this project. In most cases, this documentation should consist of a letter from your local county school system or systems. Only one document can be uploaded here

For Projects Pertaining to Archaeology

Applicants proposing archaeological work will need to align their project with the Maryland Historical Trust's archaeological guidelines, which can be found here.

If you plan to perform archaeology as part of your project, please indicate TRUE below to affirm that you have read and agree to follow MHT's archaeological guidelines. *
Select one

☐ True

For Letters of Support

Upload here letters of support from potential partners, local and state elected officials, or anyone else that you feel is an appropriate advocate for your project. Letters of support are encouraged but not required.

Additional Attachments

Please use this section to upload any additional attachments, such as pictures, planning documents, etc.
Capital project applications are required to submit photographs of properties/structures, maps showing location and boundaries of the project, and/or site plans/drawings.

Release and Consent

Please review your application and make sure it is complete. Once you click "Submit," you will not be able to make edits to your submission.

Release and Consent

The Maryland Heritage Areas Program and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) regularly shares information about projects that have received grant funding. Application materials, including photographs, maps, text, graphics, and forms may be used by the Maryland Heritage Areas Program and MHT for non-profit purposes including, but not limited to, education and publicity via printed material, television broadcasts, and internet postings. The Maryland Heritage Areas Program and MHT do NOT share applicants' financial information unless required to do so by law.

Photographs of the project which have been taken by Maryland Heritage Areas Program and MHT staff may also be made available to the public.

In rare cases, application information may be requested under Maryland's Access to Public Records Act (the "Act").

By executing this release and consent, I hereby consent to the publication of photographs and other application materials relating to the activities for which I have received financial assistance, and I hereby authorize the Maryland Heritage Areas Program and MHT to print, publish or post pictures of the grant-funded activities and to make application materials available to the public.

Upload your letter of objection, if applicable, here.

If you consider information in this application confidential and do not want it made available to the public, please indicate your objections in writing and upload your letter below.

I have read and understand that, by not attaching an objection in writing, I have consented to public use of information in this application and a waiver of any rights I may have under the Act. *

Select FALSE if you uploaded a Letter of Objection above
Select one

☐ False
☐ True

Authorization

I certify that all the information contained in this application is true and accurate and that I am legally authorized to submit this application on behalf of the applicant organization. *
Select one

- ☐ False
- ☐ True

Full Name and Title of Legally Authorized Submitter *
This must be someone legally authorized to sign for your organization. For example: John Smith, Executive Director