

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING**
Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Pursuant to notice, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held in the MHT Board Room on the third floor of 100 Community Place in Crownsville, Maryland.

Trustees present: Howard Freedlander, Laura Davis Mears, Barbara Paca, and Samuel J. Parker, Jr.

Trustees participating virtually: Jeffrey Buchheit, Sarah Kunkel Filkins, LaShay Harvey, Kristine Roome, Julie Ernstein, Al Feldstein, Senator Chris West, Franklin Robinson and Jim Delgado.

Area Representatives present: Dean Camlin, W. Dickerson Charlton, Lisa Sasser, Harry Spikes, II, Tom Vitanza, and Kirsti Uunila

Area Representatives participating virtually: Sakinah Linder, Douglass C. Reed, Charlie Stek

Office of the Attorney General: Rieyn DeLony, Adam Snyder

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes, Collin Ingraham, Kate Jaffe, Kathy Monday, Rod Cofield, Nell Ziehl, Dana Marks, Barbara Fisher, Allison Luthern, Carey Jones, Tracy Verzi

Guests: Terry Klima, John Zebelean, Clarence Woods, Elizabeth Groszer.

AGENDA

I1 CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mears called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. She welcomed three new board members – Mr. Howard Freedlander, Dr. LaShay Harvey, and Dr. Kristine Roome – and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

I2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Parker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Uunila, to approve the May 18 meeting minutes with corrections. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

I3 PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Klima acknowledged that this year marks the six-year anniversary of the removal of the Baltimore City Confederate monuments. He stated that MHT had failed to uphold its obligations under the historic preservation easement. He expressed concern about the display of the monuments at the LAX Art exhibit and indicated that conservation of the monuments was needed.

Mr. Zebelean stated that the military is having difficulty with recruitment and that the poor

treatment of veteran memorials such as the Baltimore City Confederate Monuments was in part to blame. He noted that the City has failed to meet deadlines set by MHT to relocate the monuments. He expressed support for the proposal put forth by the Confederate Memorial Park located in St. Mary's County which had offered to display the monuments and urged the Board to take action to protect and restore public access to the monuments.

I4 COMMITTEE REPORTS

I100 Capital Programs Committee

I101R Capital Historic Preservation Grant Awards – FY23

Ms. Fisher, Capital Grants and Loans Administrator, presented an overview of the Capital Historic Preservation Grant Program and staff funding recommendations. Forty-eight eligible grant applications and eight ineligible grant applications were received by the May 1, 2023 extended deadline. The total funding requested is \$4,111,082. She reported that the total amount proposed for funding is \$604,000. Most of the funding requested is for rehabilitation, with the remainder for restoration, acquisition, or predevelopment costs. Applications received represent 21 counties and Baltimore City.

Mr. Freedlander inquired if these grants could be accessed through an electronic application. Ms. Hughes confirmed that while all MHT grants could be accessed by means of an electronic portal, the electronic application for historic tax credits was still under development and expected to roll out at the end of the summer.

Mr. Spikes observed that this round of applications indicated strong demand for funding from all over the state and suggested that an increase in funding for the Capital Historic Preservation Grant Program is needed.

Mr. Feldstein noted that four projects from Allegany and Garrett County are on the reserve list and encouraged staff to consider geographic distribution when recommending projects for funding.

Mr. Parker indicated his appreciation for the approach to these grant recommendations which considered not only the architectural significance of buildings but also their significance to local history and how their redevelopment will serve future community needs.

Mr. Freedlander inquired about MHT's grant award communications strategy and encouraged MHT to publicize these projects and grant awards broadly and through local news outlets.

The following motion was made by Mr. Freedlander, seconded by Ms. Uunila, and approved unanimously.

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 2023 (the "**Chart**").

Mr. Robinson, Chair of the Monument Relocation Working Group, reported that Eric Holcomb had provided the Board with an update on the City's activities related to the Confederate Monuments which was distributed to the Board in advance of the meeting. In that report, Mr. Holcomb indicated that the loan agreement from LAXArt had not been received yet but would soon be forthcoming and would be shared with MHT for review. He noted that Mr. Holcomb has requested a copy of the police report related to the 2022 vandalism of the monuments but it has not been received yet. He noted that the City is continuing to review the proposal submitted by the Confederate Memorial Park which offers to take possession of the monuments and display them at their site in St. Mary's County.

Mr. Spikes reported that he recently visited the LAXArt facility in California and that the building where the Baltimore City monuments would be displayed was well positioned to accommodate them.

Senator West requested that the Office of the Attorney General and the Baltimore Museum of Art be asked to review the lease agreement from LAXArt once it is received to ensure that it meets best practices.

Mr. Charlton stated his position that the City of Baltimore should accept the Confederate Memorial Park proposal and expressed his displeasure that the monuments would be placed on display in California. Mr. Charlton offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Reed, that would urge the City of Baltimore to favorably consider the proposal submitted by the Confederate Memorial Park. Discussion followed and opinions in favor and against this motion were expressed. New members to the Board stated their concerns that they did not have sufficient background information to take a position at this time. Chair Mears asked to table action on the motion and directed staff to compile a briefing document for Board members in advance of the next meeting which would address the history of MHT's involvement with the issue. The Board agreed to proceed in this way.

I200 Survey, Registration, Community Education & Museums Committee

I201R Amendment to Heritage Preservation Fund Project Selection – FY24

Ms. Hughes reported that at its May 18, 2023 meeting, the Board approved an expenditure of up to \$224,800 from the MHT Heritage Preservation Fund in fiscal year 2024 to support a number of projects as proposed by MHT staff. This commitment represented almost the entire amount available for expenditure in FY2024 per the Maryland Heritage Preservation Fund Disposition Policy (\$224,873.87).

Subsequent to the May 18th Board meeting, funds were identified in the Maryland Department of Planning's budget that could be used to pay for one of the items proposed for Board funding - the JPPM 6-person electric vehicle. Therefore, MHT Board funds totaling \$12,500 are no longer required for this purpose. The release of this reservation of funds is addressed by the following motion.

At the same time, an increase in Board funds is being requested to support the annual MHT and JPPM All Staff Meeting, which will be held in September at the Calvert Marine Museum. This annual event is supported in full by Board funds. Prior year funds of \$2,390.09 approved by the Board remain available; an additional \$1,200 is requested to ensure sufficient funds for this year's event. Any balance remaining will be rolled over to the next All Staff Meeting and Recognition Awards or be returned to the fund.

The following motion was made by Ms. Uunila, seconded by Mr. Spikes, and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust, that Resolution H201R from the May 18, 2023 meeting be amended as follows:

Reduce approved amount as follows:

- Up to \$12,500 for the JPPM 6-person electric vehicle;

Add as an approved use of funds:

- Up to \$1,200 for the MHT/JPPM All Staff Meeting and Staff Recognition Awards.

I202 Maryland History Day Prize Winners Report

Ms. Hughes stated that the MHT Board makes a donation to the Maryland Humanities Council to sponsor two achievement awards for the annual Maryland History Day competition – one in the junior division (grades 6 through 8) and one in the senior division (grades 9 through 12). Winners receive a cash prize and a plaque with the name of the Maryland Historical Trust, and sponsorship is also acknowledged in the Maryland History Day program, the National History Day program, and in press releases containing the names of Maryland History Day winners. In addition, schools receive information about the Maryland Historical Trust award at the time that History Day projects are solicited for the competition.

Ms. Hughes reported that the 2023 award winners included:

Junior Division Winner in 2023

“Shaping History with Architecture”

Category: Junior Group Documentary: <https://www.wevideo.com/view/3028398427>

Student: Sana Shenoy and Sruthi Madhusoothanan

School: Windsor Knolls Middle School, Frederick County

Teacher: Lori Saylor

Senior Division Winners in 2023

“The Works of Madam C.J. Walker”

Category: Senior Group Exhibit:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_YS9JLZvPjOtE3c_R9JwA9uJleRSTrv0LnZYPxjNz5o/edit

Student: Aanya Singh, Angela Avalos, Cecilly Nelson, Hephzibah Ikpe

School: DuVal High School, Prince George's County

Teacher: Patrick Wilborn

I203 State Historic Preservation Plan Update Report

Ms. Ziehl reported on State Historic Preservation Plan outreach activities.

I204 JPPM Report

Mr. Cofield, Director of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, provided an update on capital projects and educational programs underway at JPPM. He reminded the Board that the 40th anniversary celebration of the creation of JPPM is scheduled for September 29, 2023.

I300 Management & Planning Committee

I301R Election of MHT Board Treasurer

Ms. Filkins, Chair of the MHT Board Nominating Committee, reported that J. Rodney Little was appointed to a two-year term as Treasurer of the Board in June 2022. Mr. Little's term on the Board ended on June 30, 2023 and the position of Treasurer is now vacant.

The MHT Board Nominating Committee sought volunteers to serve as Treasurer of the Board for the remainder of this unexpired term. The Committee is recommending the appointment of Board member Howard Freedlander to serve in this position.

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

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees elects Howard Freedlander to serve as Treasurer of the Board for the remainder of the unexpired term which ends on August 1, 2024.

The Board thanked Mr. Freedlander for volunteering to serve the Board in this capacity. Ms. Filkins noted that one Area Representative seat remains vacant. She encouraged Board members to identify potential candidates that would bring increased diversity to the Board.

I302 Investment Committee Report

Ms. Mears reported on behalf of the Investment Committee. At last week's meeting with Brown Advisory, the investment firm reported that the performance of the funds remains positive and that the current balanced approach of cash, equities and fixed income requires no adjustment at this time.

I303 Interim Actions of the Executive Committee

Maryland Historical Trust
Executive Committee Teleconference
Friday, May 19, 2023

Present: Joshua Brown, Al Feldstein, Laura Mears, J. Rodney Little, MHT Board; Anne Raines, MHT Staff; Rieyn DeLony, OAG.

I. Call to Order

Laura Mears called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

II. Minutes of March 23, 2023

The following motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Little and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the March 23, 2023 meeting of the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees are approved as submitted.

III. Heritage Preservation Fund Project Selection for FY2024

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

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust, that an expenditure of up to \$224,800 from the MHT Heritage Preservation Fund in fiscal year 2024 to support the following projects is approved.

- Up to \$38,000 for MHT/JPPM Staff Training Activities;
- Up to \$500 for the MHT Maryland History Day Prize;
- Up to \$28,000 for the MHT Easement Processor position;
- Up to \$62,700 for the MHT Easement Inspector position;
- Up to \$6,600 for the 2024 MAC Lab Public Archaeology Internship;
- Up to \$6,600 for the 2024 MHT Summer Internship in Archaeology;
- Up to \$1,000 for the Archaeology Merit Badge Workshop;
- Up to \$400 for speaker honoraria for the Architectural Fieldwork Symposium;
- Up to \$6,600 for the MHT Library Internship;
- Up to \$27,000 for the JPPM MAC Lab Collections Assistant Position;
- Up to \$6,600 for the ORSR – Queen Anne’s County Research Internship;
- Up to \$6,600 for the ORSR – Mason-Dixon National Register Internship;
- Up to \$16,500 for the JPPM 8-person electric vehicle;
- Up to \$12,500 for the JPPM 6-person electric vehicle;
- Up to \$5,200 for JPPM Strategic Planning.

Meeting adjourned at 3:08 PM.

I304 Budget & Legislation

Ms. Hughes reported that staff will begin work on the fiscal year 2025 budget for submittal to the Department of Budget and Management by September 1st. She noted that proposals for administration legislation is due by the same deadline. Although she does not believe that MHT

will have any legislative proposals to put forward this year, she is aware of interest among certain legislators in the development of a historic cemetery program. While she is generally supportive of that concept, any new program that is to be housed at MHT will struggle unless dedicated staffing is provided.

Mr. Freedlander recommended that MHT discuss any budget or legislative proposals with Senator Elfreth as she serves on the General Assembly's Budget and Taxation Committee.

I304 Litigation & Legal Issues

Mr. Snyder reported there is no active litigation and no legal issues to report on at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM