



Advocacy Alert!

Advocacy Day Held in Annapolis Budget Numbers Released

On Wednesday, January 27 the Maryland Department of Planning presented an **Advocacy Day** in support of the **Sustainable Communities Act (SB 285/ HB 475)**. In a strong show of support, well over 100 people attended to hear from a diverse slate of speakers including Department of Planning Secretary Richard Hall, Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Ray Skinner, Delegate Maggie McIntosh, and Senator David Harrington.

SB 285/ HB 475 reauthorizes and renames the Maryland Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program as the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit Program. Governor O'Malley has proposed a three-year authorization with a \$50 million allocation. The proposed Act would allow up to 40 percent of the credits to be made available to non-historic structures in established areas, such as Main Street business districts, Transit-Oriented Development areas near light-rail or train stations, and BRAC enterprise zones. The credit will be 10 percent of rehabilitation costs for non-historic structures, 20 percent for historic structures and 25 percent for historic renovations with LEED energy-saving certification. This is believed to be the first program of its kind in the nation to link historic preservation with "green" construction. [Please click here for a summary of the legislation.](#)

No program in Maryland has been as successful at revitalizing existing buildings as the Heritage Structure Tax Credit. It is a model of sustainable development and of public/private partnership. Every dollar of State rehabilitation tax credits generates \$8.53 in economic activity, and each million dollars in rehabilitation generates 72.5 jobs, an [Abell Foundation report](#) concluded last year.

Governor O'Malley has also released his budget numbers for FY2011. Below is a rundown of how preservation-related programs fared.

- **[Main Street Maryland](#)**
 - Community Legacy: \$4.25 million GO Bonds regular FY11 activity and \$400,000 GO Bonds to cover FY10 activity for a total of \$4.65 million *
 - Neighborhood BusinessWorks: \$4.05 million GO Bonds for regular FY11 activity and \$3.57 million GO Bonds to cover FY10 activity for a total of \$7.62 million *
 - * *The FY11 Allowance figures are higher, to reflect the GO Bond replacement of FY10 cash*
- **[Maryland Heritage Areas](#)**: \$3 million (*level funding from FY2010*)
- **Maryland Historical Trust Grant Programs**:
 - The Museum Assistance Grant Program: \$203,259 (*7% increase from FY2010 after cuts*)
 - The Non-Capital Grant Program: \$227,999 (*5% increase from FY2010 after cuts*)
- **[Maryland Humanities Council](#)**: \$53,500 (*level funding from FY2010 after cuts*)

We will keep you posted as more information becomes available on how you can support the passage of the Sustainable Communities Act and the budget items critical to the success of preservation efforts in communities throughout Maryland.

Thank you,

Tyler Gearhart

SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF MARYLAND ANTIQUITIES

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