



## Advocacy Alert!

### Governor O'Malley working on budget for 2010 General Assembly Session Preservation Agenda set

December 30, 2009

Wednesday, January 13 will mark the opening of the 427<sup>th</sup> Session of the [Maryland General Assembly](#).

Preservation Maryland, working with a coalition of statewide heritage interests and organizations, has developed a preservation agenda to guide legislative and budget advocacy efforts in Annapolis during the upcoming session.

Working together in this effort are representatives from: Preservation Maryland, Archaeological Society of Maryland, Council for Maryland Archaeology, Greater Baltimore History Alliance, Main Street Maryland, Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions, Maryland Association of History Museums, Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Maryland Historical Trust, and the Maryland Humanities Council.

The following Budget and Legislative items have been identified for the 2009 session:

- **[Heritage Tax Credit:](#)**  
The Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program is due to sunset at the end of this fiscal year and needs to be reauthorized. While details of the legislation are still being finalized, the Governor will seek to reauthorize this important preservation program.
- **[Main Street Maryland](#)**  
The budget requests for the Community Legacy Program and Neighborhood Business Works for FY2011 will be announced in early 2010.
- **[Maryland Heritage Areas:](#)**  
Level funding for Maryland Heritage Area Grant Program: \$3 million
- **Maryland Higher Education Commission:**  
Due to budget constraints, the MHEC will not request restored funding to [IMPART](#) (Institute for Museum, Preservation, and Archaeology Research and Training).
- **Maryland Historical Trust Grant Programs:**

Restored funding for [Museum Assistance Grant](#) Program to FY08 levels: \$1 million

Provide staffing adequate to administer the [Capital Grant](#) Program in order to restore funding.

Restoration of funds closer to FY08 levels for the [Non-Capital Grant](#) Program: \$500,000

- **[Maryland Humanities Council:](#)**

Level funding for Maryland Humanities Council: \$107,000

Governor O'Malley is currently working on the budget will submit to the General Assembly in January. As always, we will be relying on your assistance to make sure that the final budget reflects the preservation priorities that protect and support our state's unique heritage sites.

**Take Action!**

- 1) **Contact the [Governor's Office](#) to register your support for the budget figures listed above. If you have received a grant or other assistance from the Maryland Historical Trust, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, or DHCD, be sure to emphasize how important those programs are to the success of your project or organization.**

**You do not need to weigh in on every item, but be sure to let the Governor know what program(s) are most important to you.**

**[Click here to access the form to e-mail the Governor](#)**

**Mailing Address:**

The Hon. Martin O'Malley  
Governor of Maryland  
State House, 100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

- 2) **Take time to familiarize yourself with the Legislative and Budget process by visiting the [Maryland General Assembly Homepage](#).**
- 3) **Make sure you know your representatives on a state and federal level by clicking [here](#).**

Thank you for your support in 2009. We look forward to working with you during the upcoming session and wish you a Happy Holiday season!

Tyler Gearhart  
Executive Director