

Advocacy Alert!

February 13, 2006

Support Historic Preservation Grant and Commercial Tax Credit Programs

The General Assembly is gearing up for the subcommittee hearings which will pave the way for decisions on the [Commercial Tax Credit Program](#) and the Maryland Historical Trust's [Capital](#) and [Non-Capital Grant](#) Programs. Together, these three programs provide critical funding for preservation efforts throughout the state.

- **Capital Grants** provide funding necessary to preserve historical and archaeological resources by providing financial incentives and technical assistance to non-profit and community based projects. These grants leverage significant private and local funds that assist in carrying out “bricks and mortar” preservation projects in Maryland. Since FY2001 the program has provided \$4,848,638 for projects throughout the state. **The Governor’s budget has recommended an allocation of \$700,000.**
- **Non-Capital Grants** provide local governments and non-profit organizations with the resources necessary to develop and operate successful historic preservation programs at the local level. This is the only funding source to support historic resource identification, evaluation and documentation projects that provide the underpinning of local preservation and revitalization efforts. **Funding for this program has dropped by more than 90% since FY2002 and it is critical that we receive the full funding of \$458,000 proposed in the Governor’s budget.**
- **The Heritage Tax Credit** is one of the State’s most powerful economic development and community revitalization tools. For commercial projects alone, the Governor’s Task Force on the Tax Credit Program reported that for every tax dollar paid out by the State, \$1.02 was returned in the first year and \$3.31 the fifth year after the project’s completion. Tax Credit projects have been critical to the success of Maryland’s Main Street and Heritage Area programs. **The Governor’s budget has proposed an allocation of \$30 million.**

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and the Environment will meet on Monday, February 13th at 3 p.m. to determine funding for the **Tax Credit** and **Non-Capital Grant** programs:

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE: Transportation and the Environment

- [Del. Peter Franchot](#) – Montgomery County (chair)
- [Del. Mary-Dulany James](#) – Cecil and Harford Counties (vice-chair)
- [Del. Talmadge Branch](#) – Baltimore City
- [Del. Galen Clagett](#) - Frederick County
- [Del. George Edwards](#) – Allegany and Garrett Counties
- [Del. Melony Griffith](#) – Prince George’s County
- [Del. John Leopold](#) – Anne Arundel County

The Senate Budget and Taxation Subcommittee on Public Safety, Transportation and the

Environment has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 14th at 1 p.m. to determine funding for the **Tax Credit** and **Non-Capital Grant** programs:

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE: Public Safety, Transportation and the Environment:

- [Sen. James DeGrange](#) – Anne Arundel County (chair)
- [Sen. Verna Jones](#) – Baltimore City
- [Sen. Donald Munson](#) – Washington County
- [Sen. Ida Ruben](#) - Montgomery County

The Senate Subcommittee on Capital Budget will meet on Tuesday, February 14th at 4 p.m. to determine funding for the Capital Grant Program:

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE: Capital Budget

- [Edward J. Kasemeyer](#)– Baltimore and Howard Counties
- [Ida G. Ruben](#)– Montgomery County
- [Ulysses Currie](#) – Prince George’s County
- [James E. DeGrange, Sr.](#) – Anne Arundel County
- [Patrick J. Hogan](#) – Montgomery County
- [Gloria G. Lawlah](#) – Prince George’s County
- [Nathaniel J. McFadden](#) – Baltimore City
- [Donald F. Munson](#) – Washington County

Funding for the **Heritage Area Authority** and **Museum Assistance Grants** will also be reviewed by the Senate Subcommittee on Public Safety, Transportation and the Environment and the House Subcommittee on Transportation and the Environment.

- For more information on Museum Assistance Grant advocacy, contact the [Maryland Association of History Museums](#).
- For more information on Maryland Heritage Area advocacy, contact Bill Pencek at the [Baltimore City Heritage Area](#).

Take Action!

Please contact the members of these subcommittees to register your support for these programs. If you have received a grant or other assistance from the Maryland Historical Trust, be sure to emphasize how important the MHT programs are to your success as an organization. **For further information, go to the Preservation Maryland website for fact sheets on the [Capital Grant](#), [Non-Capital Grant](#) and [Heritage Tax Credit Programs](#).**

If your representatives are members of these committees, it is critical that they hear from you this week.

Thanks for your support!

Tyler Gearhart
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