

Advocacy Alert!

Governor's Budgets Announced. Amendments to the Heritage Tax Credit Proposed.

Governor Ehrlich presented his operating budget to the [Maryland General Assembly](#) on January 18th. The capital budget was released earlier this week. The budgets are very responsive to the needs of the heritage community, proposing substantial increases to most of the funding programs administered by the Maryland Historical Trust.

- \$30 million for commercial projects under the [Rehabilitation Tax Credit](#) program (the residential program remains a true tax credit and does not require a budget appropriation).
- \$3 million for the [Maryland Heritage Area Authority](#) to support the state's 13 Certified and Recognized Heritage Areas
- \$2.386 million for operational support for history museums through the [Museum Assistance Program](#)
- \$700,000 for [capital grant](#) funding for historic preservation projects
- \$458,000 for [non-capital grant](#) funding for historic preservation projects
- \$200,000 for [IMPART grants](#) to fund graduate level internships and assistantships for students in archaeology, museum studies and historic preservation.
- \$53,500 for support of the [Maryland Humanities Council](#).

The Administration is also sponsoring the [Heritage Tax Credit Bill \(HB 314/SB223\)](#) which amends the commercial tax credit program. The changes include extending the program to 2012 and repealing the limit of credit awards available to a single jurisdiction. The [Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund](#) also proposes eliminating a time limitation for funds to be used to pay a specified percentage of Maryland Heritage Areas Authority operating expenses.

The budget items and legislation must be reviewed by committees in the House and Senate, and be approved by both chambers of the General Assembly. With the overall proposed budget spending \$200 million over the affordability limits, the next months will require hard work on all of our parts to protect these critical funding levels.

Take Action!

- [Contact the Governor](#) to thank him for his support of heritage projects throughout the state.

Over the next few weeks, we will be contacting you to take action in response to specific hearing dates. Your input will be critical to the success of advocacy efforts on behalf of the entire preservation community.

Thanks!