

**Institute for Museum, Preservation, and Archaeology Research and
Training (IMPART)**

FY2010 Budget Request: \$136,000

The Institute for Museum, Preservation, and Archaeology Research and Training (IMPART) is a consortium of public and private higher education institutions, State agencies, and State museums that share a common interest in training professionals to work in the rapidly growing Maryland heritage and heritage tourism fields. These organizations joined together to address the gap between the small number qualified heritage professionals produced by the state's colleges and universities and the greater number required to support the growing heritage tourism industry.

The IMPART consortium began in 1998 with educators and other professionals meeting to enhance training in archaeology, museums and historic preservation. The consortium includes representatives of University of Maryland College Park, Morgan State University, Salisbury University, St. Mary's College, Goucher College, Washington College, the Maryland Historical Trust, Banneker Douglass Museum, Historic St. Mary's City, and Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.

Since FY2004, State funding for IMPART has been used to support 300 undergraduate student assistantships and graduate student fellowships. Many partner members have secured matching funds for this State support. IMPART has benefited museums and local nonprofit preservation organizations and provided important career-training opportunities for the students. These students have helped to create museum exhibitions, write information guides, catalogue artifacts, design websites, and create numerous other products of value to Maryland's cultural organizations and their audiences.

Students are drawn to the assistantships and fellowships because they gain valuable experience in their chosen fields and, regardless of income, they can take on projects because the assistantship's compensation. The State hopes that through the job skills and networking opportunities made possible by IMPART, students will remain in the state to work in its burgeoning heritage industry. The majority of IMPART graduates has obtained professional employment in the heritage tourism industry, including many in Maryland.

Funding:

FY 2004 -2005 Awards: \$100,000;

FY 2007 -2008 Awards: \$200,000

FY 2009 Award: \$136,000

FY2010 Award: \$0

IMPART's budget is part of the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Maryland's cultural community seeks to return the Museum Assistance Program funding to FY2009 level of \$136,000.

Maryland Heritage Council

