

The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority

FY2010 Budget Request: \$3,000,000

(Governor's Budget Request and Level Funding from FY 2009)



Maryland's Heritage Areas are locally designated and State certified regions where public and private partners make commitments to preserving historical, cultural and natural resources for sustainable economic development purposes through heritage tourism. Research shows that **every dollar invested in heritage tourism in Maryland returns \$4.61 in on-going State and local tax revenues.**

Created by legislation in 1996, and now entering its 13th year of operation, the Maryland Heritage Areas program has **awarded approximately \$19 million** to local governments and non-profit organizations through a competitive grants process for heritage tourism projects.

State competitive grant funds must be matched by non-State investments. From FY 2005 to FY 2009 MHAA awarded **\$10,590,312 that was matched by \$28,416,760 in other funds –almost 3: 1 match!**

The program is governed by the 17 member Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA), including representatives from 7 state agencies to encourage **collaborative work and cooperation** in the diverse interests of history, culture, natural resources, agriculture, recreation, economic development, and education.

Maryland's certified and recognized Heritage Areas include portions of every county and Baltimore City. Non-profits, local governments, and citizens within the 11 State Certified Heritage Areas receive the following benefits:

- ✓ **Competitive Matching Grants:** Non-profits and local governments are eligible to apply to the MHAA for heritage tourism project grants that must be matched, at minimum, dollar for dollar.
- ✓ **Loans to small businesses** to create heritage tourism opportunities and product
- ✓ **Marketing grants** to Heritage Area and Destination Marketing Organizations to bring visitors to the region
- ✓ **Operating support** to local Heritage Areas to build partnerships amongst heritage institutions, enhance the quality of heritage tourism product, and provide technical assistance to communities.
- ✓ Eligibility to apply for Heritage Preservation **Tax Credit**. Buildings in Heritage Areas do not have to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places if the MHAA certifies the project as having a heritage tourism impact

The Maryland Heritage Area Authority has received \$3 million annually since FY 2006 through the Maryland Department of Planning budget.

Please support the Governor's \$3 million FY 2010 budget request for Maryland's Heritage Areas

Maryland Heritage Council

