

The Maryland Historical Trust Museum Assistance Program

FY2010 Budget Request: \$1,000,000

The Museum Assistance Program was created in 1991 to support non-state support public museum activities including:

- Research and care of museums objects
- Exhibition Planning, design, and construction
- Design and implementation of educational programs; and
- Those activities that contribute to professionalism and excellence in museum practice.

Between 2005 and 2009 the Program has funded 145 projects totaling \$4,708,237. These projects have ranged from:

- Upgrading exhibitions at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum;
- Supporting research into the history of Shady Side and creating both a book and exhibition on the early 20th history of the community;
- Underwriting multi-lingual programs for the Montgomery County Historical Society ;
- Initiating a curriculum-based approach to education programs for the B & O Railroad Museum; and
- Providing consultants to 20 museums to develop institutional Long Range Plans that allow small organizations to act professionally.

FY2010 grant opportunities Applications Due: March 27, 2009

Museum Enhancement Grants will provide up to 5% of operating budget for all museum practices such as collections care, school and adult programs, and marketing.

Museum Challenge Grants will support specific projects ranging from collections care to staff training. Museums with budgets less than \$100,000 are eligible for up to \$7,500, those with budgets over \$100,001 are eligible for up to \$15,000

Museum Planning and Assessment Grants provide support for professional assessment activities offered by outside agencies, including Long Range Planning

FY2010 Proposed Funding: \$224,862 (with the possibility that all funds will be eliminated). Maryland's museum community seeks to return the Museum Assistance Program funding to FY2009 level of \$1 million.

Museum Assistance Funds are the only state funding available to historical and cultural museums to support core museum practices. These funds build professionalism within large and small museums, protect museum collections, underwrite vital education programs for Maryland's school students, and insure Maryland's citizens and visitors enjoy rich cultural experiences in communities all across the state.

Maryland Heritage Council

