



Advocacy Alert!

Governor O'Malley working on budget for 2011 General Assembly Session Preservation Agenda set

December 9, 2010

Wednesday, January 12 will mark the opening of the 428th Session of the [Maryland General Assembly](#).

Preservation Maryland, working with a coalition of statewide heritage interests and organizations, has developed a preservation agenda to guide legislative and budget advocacy efforts in Annapolis during the upcoming session.

Working together in this effort are representatives from: Preservation Maryland, Archaeological Society of Maryland, Council for Maryland Archaeology, Greater Baltimore History Alliance, Main Street Maryland, Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions, Maryland Association of History Museums, Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Maryland Historical Trust, and the Maryland Humanities Council.

The following Budget and Legislative items have been identified for the 2011 session:

- **Sustainable Communities Tax Credit:**
Level funding for the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit Program at \$10 million.
- **Maryland Historical Trust Grant Programs:**
Restoration of funds for the Non-Capital Grant Program at \$400,000
Provide staffing adequate to administer the Capital Grant Program in order to restore funding.
Level funding for Museum Assistance Grant Program at \$203,000
- **Main Street Maryland**
Funding request to be released in January.
- **Maryland Heritage Areas:**
Level funding for Maryland Heritage Area Grant Program at \$3 million
- **Maryland Humanities Council:**
Level funding for the Maryland Humanities Council at \$53,500

Governor O'Malley is currently working on the budget will submit to the General Assembly in January. As always, we will be relying on your assistance to make sure that the final budget reflects the preservation priorities that protect and support our state's unique heritage sites.

Take Action!

- 1) Contact the [Governor's Office](#) to register your support for the budget figures listed above. If you have received a grant or other assistance from the programs above, be sure to emphasize how important those programs are to the success of your project or organization. You do not need to

weigh in on every item, but be sure to let the Governor know what program(s) are most important to you.

[Click here to access the form to e-mail the Governor](#)

Mailing Address:

The Hon. Martin O'Malley
Governor of Maryland
State House, 100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

- 2) **Include Secretary of Budget and Management, T. Eloise Foster in any communication to the Governor or write her directly.**

Mailing Address and Email:

45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1907
efoster@dbm.state.md.us

- 3) **Familiarize yourself with the issues. Below are links to talking points and handouts for legislative visits on a few top issues. Use these to help craft your message to the Governor and Legislators.**
- Sustainable Communities Tax Credit – [Talking Points/ Hand-out for Legislators](#)
 - Non-Capital Grant – [Talking Points/ Hand-out for Legislators](#)
 - Maryland Heritage Areas – [Talking Points/ Hand-out for Legislators](#)
 - Museum Assistance – [Talking Points/ Hand-out for Legislators](#)
- 4) **Use the end of the year to communicate what you do and why it's important to your legislators. If your organization is releasing an Annual Report or mailing a Holiday card, be sure to include your elected officials on the mailing list.**
- 5) **Take time to familiarize yourself with the Legislative and Budget process by visiting the [Maryland General Assembly Homepage](#).**
- 6) **Make sure you know your representatives on a state and federal level by clicking [here](#).**

Thank you for your support in 2010. We look forward to working with you during the upcoming session.

Tyler Gearhart
Executive Director