

# Support the Maryland Historical Trust African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program

*The African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program promotes awareness of the role of African Americans in Maryland's history, culture, and built environment by supporting capital projects.*

The African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program was created during the 2010 session of the Maryland General Assembly. The Program is administered as a joint partnership of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC), a unit of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI), and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), an agency of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP).

The program supports capital improvements, such as the rehabilitation of historic buildings of significance to African American history, or construction of new facilities. Also aids with acquisition or predevelopment costs, such as planning, reports, studies, or design services, for capital projects. In its first year the Program funded 16 projects in 11 counties.

Non-profit organizations and local jurisdictions are eligible to apply for African American Heritage Preservation Grant funding. State and federally-owned properties typically do not receive funding through the program.

Local governments, business entities, and private individuals are required to provide dollar-for-dollar matching funds for their project. Funds from other state programs are not eligible as match. Nonprofit organizations are not required to provide matching funds; however, matching funds are strongly recommended.

Workshops designed to educate interested parties about the grant application drew more than 100 people and 24 eligible grant applications were submitted for FY2012. The total funding request was \$1,972,900; the majority of the funding requested was for rehabilitation, with the remainder for acquisition and predevelopment costs. Applications represented 15 counties and the City of Baltimore.

## Appropriate \$1 million to the African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program

African American Heritage Preservation Grant funds are State funds appropriated annually through action by the Governor and the General Assembly. In FY 2011, the Governor's budget included an appropriation of \$1 million for the African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program, and the General Assembly approved that amount.

**FY2012 Appropriation: \$1 million**  
**FY2012 Program Demand: \$1,972,900**

### The 16 projects funded in FY2012 included:

- Helping fund the restoration and exhibit work for the Maynard-Burgess House in Annapolis. The House provides important insight into the life of African-Americans in the years just before and after the Civil War.
- Helping fund the restoration of the Sphinx Club in Baltimore City. The Sphinx Club was the center of social life along Pennsylvania Avenue during segregation, where African-Americans could enjoy some of America's most famous musicians and entertainers. The finished project will be a multi-use facility including a performance space and African-American sports museum.
- Help fund roof repair /replacement at Old Pomonkey High School in Indian Head. The school served as the first African-American public high school in Charles County. The building will become a cultural center and museum.
- Helping fund the restoration of Wilmer's Park in Prince George's County. Wilmer's Park was a sports and entertainment center for African-Americans during segregation. Site will become a performing arts center, amphitheater, and jazz and blues club, with a heritage and arts museum added in a second phase.

### Maryland Heritage Council

