

Maryland's heritage needs your help!

The State of Maryland is projecting a \$1.6 billion shortfall for FY 2012, and widespread budget reductions are anticipated. Your legislators need to hear from you now about the importance of historic preservation and museums in your community, and how State of Maryland programs provide critical seed funding to make important projects happen!

ACTION CALENDAR

Now	Contact Governor Martin O'Malley and Eloise Foster, Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to ask them to include appropriations for Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) programs
Mid-January	The Governor introduces his budget to the General Assembly
February – April	The General Assembly reviews and possibly reduces the Governor's budget. Contact House and Senate Committee members to ask them to maintain levels of funding for MHT and MHAA included in the Governor's Budget
April	End of Legislative Session
July 1, 2011	FY 2012 State Fiscal Year Begins
Fall 2011	Contact the Governor and DBM Secretary about FY 2013 Funding

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

The chart below outlines the programs, actions requested, and House and Senate committees and subcommittees that are likely take action on that component of the FY 2012 budget. The Subcommittee assignments are those assigned to the program in FY 2011. While these assignments are likely to remain the same for FY 2012, please note that changes may occur. Because of the recent elections, the leadership and membership of the committees has not been determined yet. Check the [Maryland General Assembly's website](http://www.mlis.state.md.us) [www.mlis.state.md.us] for the most current data.

Program	Action	Senate Committee	House Committee
Maryland Heritage Areas Authority	Appropriate \$3 million (level funding from FY 2011)	Budget and Taxation Committee – Public Safety, Transportation & Environment Subcommittee	Appropriations Committee – Transportation and the Environment Subcommittee
Museum Assistance Program	Appropriate \$203,259 (level funding from FY 2011)	Budget and Taxation Committee – Public Safety, Transportation & Environment Subcommittee	Appropriations Committee – Transportation and the Environment Subcommittee
Non-Capital Historic Preservation Grant Program	Appropriate \$400,000 (increase from FY 2011 appropriation of \$0)	Budget and Taxation Committee – Public Safety, Transportation & Environment Subcommittee	Appropriations Committee – Transportation and the Environment Subcommittee
African American Heritage Grant Program	Fund projects included in the FY 2012 Capital budget	Budget and Taxation Committee – Capital Budget Subcommittee	Appropriations Committee – Capital Budget Subcommittee
Sustainable Communities Tax Credit Program [Rehabilitation Tax Credit]	Appropriate \$10 million for commercial projects (level funding from FY 2011)	Budget and Taxation Committee – Public Safety, Transportation & Environment Subcommittee	Appropriations Committee – Transportation and the Environment Subcommittee

Maryland Heritage Council

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HOW IS THE STATE BUDGET CREATED?

The State budgeting process begins well in advance of the Fiscal Year start on July 1. During the preceding fall, State agencies submit their proposed budgets to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). DBM works with the Governor's Office to craft a budget for submission to the Maryland General Assembly at the beginning of each legislative session in January. *The General Assembly may only maintain or reduce appropriations in the budget, not add to it. It is critical for heritage preservation advocates to educate the Governor, DBM Secretary, and Planning Secretary on the importance of heritage preservation issues to ensure that funding is included in the budget at this stage.*

Once the Governor's budget has been introduced into the General Assembly in the form of a bill, it is assigned to a committee for review in both houses of the General Assembly. *The fate of most legislative proposals is determined in committee.* The committees that review the State government's budget are the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee. Each committee has several subcommittees that first review the budget. As these subcommittees vary among programs, see the chart above for the appropriate subcommittee. *During the General Assembly session, it is critical for heritage preservation advocates to educate subcommittee and committee members on the impact of MHT and MHAA programs.*

After a committee reviews a bill, it is taken to the full chamber (i.e., the "House" or "Senate") where it is open to amendment from the floor. Any amendments adopted by the chamber are added to the bill. Then, the chamber will vote to pass or reject the bill. A bill passed by one chamber is next sent to the opposite chamber and the process is repeated. Any amendments made by the second chamber have to be agreed on by the first. If the House and Senate bills differ, a conference committee may be appointed to reconcile the differences. A committee made up of three members from each house will send the resulting report back to each chamber. If rejected, the bill fails. If adopted, a vote will be called for final passage of the bill in each house. When the Legislature is finished with this process, the budget goes to the Governor to sign.

It was during this committee and reconciliation process last year that funding was eliminated for the Non-Capital Grant Program. This is an often hectic time where quick communication is critical. Sign up for Preservation Maryland's e-alerts at www.preservationmaryland.org so you know when to take action!

