Moving Forward with Purpose and Pride

IN THE LAST EDITION OF THE Phoenix, I spoke to this organization’s commitment to tackle the big challenges, no matter the difficulty or perceived impossibility. Since that letter, I am pleased to report that we are making tremendous progress.

Thanks to the support of our donors, we were on the ground in Annapolis for the latest session of the Maryland General Assembly and had one of the best legislative outcomes for preservation in Maryland in nearly 50 years. We continue to make significant headway in Ellicott City, where in partnership with our colleagues at Historic Ellicott City, Inc., we have one of the state’s most significant in Ellicott City, which in the future will contribute to the Maryland Historic Trust.

Despite these major successes, our work is far from complete. While we are gaining ground in Annapolis, we still live in uncertain times in Washington where the debate over tax reform legislation is causing preservationists around the nation concern for the future of our federal historic tax credit. This program alone has rehabilitated more than 41,250 buildings nationwide. The future of this credit is the ultimate advocacy issue which confronts us all and one upon which Preservation Maryland will not rest.

Elsewhere, the challenges may not be as dramatic as those playing out on Capitol Hill, but they remain profound and demand our eternal vigilance. The story of how the College Park Amphitheater came to be is linked directly to the Wright Brothers. Once Origlio and Wilbur Wright secured the contract to produce a “heavier-than-air flying machine” for the Signal Corps of the U.S. Army, they needed a remote location to fulfill the entire contract that included teaching two U.S. Army officers how to fly the machine.

The Maryland Milestones Heritage Area through northern Prince George’s County is home to the College Park Aviation Campus.

THE COLLEGE PARK AIRPORT AND AVIATION MUSEUM

Grant award from Andrea Costello Tracey, Museum Director, College Park Aviation Museum.

The Maryland Milestones Heritage Area through northern Prince George’s County is home to the College Park Aviation Campus.

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF MARYLAND Awardees

UNION AND AMONG US

In honor and among us, this collection of historic aircraft, the Maryland preservation community celebrated the Best of Maryland Awards at College Park Airport, May 10 at the College Park Aviation Museum. The stories told at this Museum showcase perseverance, ingenuity, and dedication—traits essential to aviators and preservationists.

This year, in particular, Preservation Maryland sought to recognize the individuals from a range of industries that make preservation happen, from legislators to future presidents and architects to agency leaders. We’re proud to recognize the following award winners and you can learn about them at PreservationMaryland.org.

DELEGATE BROOKE LEWISNICK—Legislative Champion (District 46), Baltimore County, is a vocal leader in the fight to protect Maryland’s heritage. Delegate Lewisnick is a fierce advocate for the Maryland State Historical Trust Preservation Grant Fund. The legislation passed this year and she is a huge supporter of your organization.

Baltimore County and Senator BILL TROENDLE—Senator (District 46), Baltimore City, Speaker Pro-Tem Jones and Senator Ferguson introduced the Maryland Historic Trust Grant Improvement Act, which seeks to ensure the Maryland Historical Trust’s Grant Fund receives funding every year. The bill passed the Senate and was signed into law by Governor Hogan on June 1, 2017.

DELEGATE BRETT WILSON—Legislative Champion (District 28), Washington County. Delegate Wilson introduced the legislation that raised the funding for the Maryland Heritage Areas Program. This legislation will result in additional resources for the 13 heritage areas across the state.

ALLAN KITTELMEIER—Howard County Executive Elliott City Cityhood President (President’s Leadership Award). Responding to the devastating flood in Elliott City, Executive Kittelmeier initiated an effective approach that provided for the safety of residents, the viability of local businesses, and the preservation of the town’s history.

ELIZABETH HUGHES—State Historic Preservation Officer/Chief Historic Maryland (Heritage Award). Hughes leads statewide preservation efforts through the Maryland Historical Trust and is a member of President of the Board of the National Conference of State Historical Preservation Officers during a critical period of federal advocacy.

COMMUNITY CHOICE Awardee

THE MONTGOMERY MODERN—C&O Canal Trust—Academic Award. This project is currently being restored by the C&O Canal Trust which advocates for the restoration of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The project will involve historical research, public education, and community involvement. The project will result in the preservation of the canal’s historic structures and the enhancement of the park for visitors.

THE PHOENIX—College Park—Preservation Officer/Chief Historic Maryland (Heritage Award). This project involved the restoration of the College Park Field House, which is a significant part of the history of the College Park field house. The project will result in the preservation of the field house for future generations.

THE TOWER CO.—C&O Canal Trust—Academic Award. This project is currently being restored by the C&O Canal Trust which advocates for the restoration of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The project will involve historical research, public education, and community involvement. The project will result in the preservation of the canal’s historic structures and the enhancement of the park for visitors.

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C&O CANAL TRUST—C&O Canal National Historical Park—Preservation Officer/Chief Historic Maryland (Heritage Award). This project involved the restoration of the C&O Canal National Historical Park, which is a significant part of the history of the canal. The project will result in the preservation of the canal’s historic structures and the enhancement of the park for visitors.

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Advocacy Victory Report

Thanks to the support of grassroots advocates, members, partner organizations and legislative champions, funding once considered lost forever returned to the budget. For the upcoming fiscal year, $800,000 was appropriated to the state’s historic preservation fund, which will support both capital grants and survey and research funding. It was the first new appropriation to this fund in almost ten years.

Maryland Historical Trust Director Elizabeth Hughes explained, “[We are] thrilled to see the return of grant funding for both research and survey and capital preservation.”

In addition to an immediate increase funding, Preservation Maryland worked on a bi-partisan bill to increase future funding to the program through the Maryland Historical Trust Grant Improvement Act. This landmark legislation requires $1.5 million annually be appropriated for the program—a massive step forward for preservation.

As the 437th session of the Maryland General Assembly concluded in early April, preservationists from around the state celebrated the advances made during one of the busiest legislative sessions for preservation in half a century.

New Grant Program Aims to Revitalize Ellicott City

The Historic Ellicott City Revitalization Grant Program

This April, in response to the impact of the July 2016 flood, Preservation Maryland and Historic Ellicott City, Inc. announced a new joint grant program to benefit historic Ellicott City.

The Historic Ellicott City Revitalization Grant Program will provide direct assistance for the rehabilitation and preservation of properties, and the promotion of cultural resources within the Ellicott City Historic District boundaries. Non-profit organizations, religious institutions, and county agencies with projects located within the historic district are eligible to apply.

Through the program, $50,000 in funding will be available and will be disbursed in grants ranging from $2,500 to $10,000 to awardees. Projects eligible for funding from the grant program fall into three broad categories: (1) repair and rehabilitation, (2) public programming, and (3) planning. For 2017, the organizations have announced that repair and rehabilitation will be the priority funding category. Grant applications are due to Preservation Maryland by June 2, 2017.

The 13-member Maryland Heritage Area Coalition also worked hard during session to increase funding for the nationally recognized program. As a result of their work, which was supported by the broader preservation community and Preservation Maryland, the funding cap for the program has been increased to $6 million annually, doubling the amount previously available.

Looking ahead to the 438th session of the Maryland General Assembly, Preservation Maryland is prepared to defend these advances and to aggressively advocate for the state’s historic rehabilitation tax credit which still remains mired at a paltry $9 million appropriation—paling in comparison to nearby states’ investments. The work continues; the task remaining before us remains the same: advocating on behalf of Maryland’s irreplaceable heritage.

Maryland’s Annual Preservation Conference

15th A New and Improved Halt—the Old Line State Summit— and the same dynamic learning opportunity, Preservation Maryland will host the Maryland’s annual preservation conference on Wednesday, July 12 at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis.

Sessions will follow two tracks and include a comprehensive discussion of the future of history, preservation advocacy, and recovery efforts in Ellicott City. Additional sessions will introduce best practices for interpreting LGBTQ+ history, new digital fundraising methods, and a walking tour of the historic Naval Academy campus.

If you’re an architect, historian, archivists, planner, engineer, conservator, community volunteer, museum professional, Main Street manager, fundraiser, small business owner, or student—we welcome you to join the conversation about preserving and protecting Maryland.

Additional information and registration information is available at oldlinesummit.org.
PreserveList

A New Resource for Preservation

This spring, Preservation Maryland celebrated the launch of a new digital resource and project long in development–PreserveList.

The new website is a digital directory of companies and individuals that offer an array of services in support of preservation projects. Older homes and historical properties require specialized services, materials, and attention by architects, contractors, and craftsmen. PreserveList will help connect property owners with the service providers that understand historic buildings.

The goal of launching a directory has long been held by Preservation Maryland and was included in the organization’s ambitious 2012 strategic plan. In 2016, a study funded by the 1772 Foundation identified the lack of a comprehensive directory for preservation in Maryland as a weakness that Preservation Maryland should work to address. The site was developed and designed by Younts Design, Inc. of Baltimore, which also serves as Preservation Maryland’s web team for preservemaryland.org, the flagship digital property of the organization.

Funding for the project was generously provided by the Rural Maryland Council and their inclusion was not an endowment but a commitment to Preservation Maryland. Read our full disclaimer at preservelist.org/disclaimer.

Compliments on PreserveList have made a donation in support of the work of Preservation Maryland and their inclusion was not an endowment but a commitment to Preservation Maryland. Read our full disclaimer at preservelist.org/disclaimer.
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Upcoming Events

There are many more events happening across the state posted at presmd.org/events:

JUN 17  WALKING TOUR OF HIGHLAND BEACH, the waterfront community in Anne Arundel County founded by the family of Frederick Douglass. Register at presmd.org/tours

JUL 12  OLD LINE STATE SUMMIT Maryland’s Annual Preservation Conference. US Naval Academy, Annapolis. Find our more at: oldlinestate.org

SEP 15  HERITAGE FUND GRANT DEADLINE Direct funding for preservation projects. Apply online at presmd.org/grants

SEP 17  KAYAK THROUGH HISTORY on Antietam Creek through the Battlefield. Space is limited, reserve now. Reserve your spot at presmd.org/tours

BEST OF MARYLAND AWARDS

Celebrating Maryland’s Best in Preservation

Every year, Preservation Maryland looks forward to bringing together the best of preservation. This year, the College Park Aviation Museum took the event to new heights and guests enjoyed not only the awards program, but the museum’s interactive exhibits. Learn more about the awardees on page 1 and at bestofmaryland.org.

Announcing PreserveList:

A digital directory connecting historic property owners with service providers that understand historic buildings! Learn more on Page 3 and at preservelist.org.

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