

CAMPAIGN FOR MARYLAND HISTORY

LEADING THE FIGHT TO PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE



July 30, 2015

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

Dear Governor Hogan,

On behalf of the **Campaign for Maryland History**, we greatly appreciate your efforts to put Maryland's unparalleled history front-and-center from the beginning of your administration. From your Inaugural address in which you described Annapolis as a "historic and majestic backdrop," to quoting America's 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, "We cannot escape history," your appreciation for our shared heritage is very clear.

We are therefore very optimistic that with your deep passion for Maryland history, your administration will be willing to take the necessary steps to enhance & preserve our state's rich heritage. Unfortunately the current situation is dire.

Since 2010, funding for Maryland's key history related grant programs has been **completely zeroed out**. In 2015, each of the state's key preservation and history programs (Historic Preservation Capital Grant Program, Historic Preservation Non-Capital Research & Survey Grant Program, and the Historical and Cultural Museum Advancement Grant Program) received absolutely no funding or support from the state.

These programs have been pivotal in preserving and interpreting some of the state's finest resources. From the Antietam Battlefield to Historic St. Mary's City to Smith Island – these programs have touched every corner of the state and provided the necessary funding to allow Marylanders to preserve the places that matter to them.

Specifically, these programs have traditionally supported the following types of projects:

Historic Preservation Capital Grant Program: Capital upgrades and repairs to certified historic structures owned by non-profits or local governments. *Example: Harford County's Susquehanna Locks Project included stabilization of the historic canal walls and reinstallation of working gates.*

Historic Preservation Research & Survey Grant Program: Funding architectural and archeological research, survey and documentation, public education, and planning projects. This program directly supported local governments' efforts to preserve places important to their constituents. *Example: Queen Anne's County Historic Sites Survey – identifying important 19th and 20th century historic sites in the County to assist with local planning efforts.*

Historical and Cultural Museum Advancement Grant Program: Under Governor Ehrlich, this program received tremendous support and has been used to enhance museum exhibits, visitor facilities and provide educational programming across the state. *Example: Exhibit enhancement and updates for the Frederick County Historical Society – a destination for heritage tourism in downtown Frederick.*

In addition to preserving the rich heritage of our state, these programs also enhance heritage tourism resources and draw more tourists to the “Land of Pleasant Living.” According to the American Alliance of Museums, Seventy-eight percent of all U.S. leisure travelers participate in cultural or heritage activities such as visiting museums. These travelers also spend 63 percent more on average than other leisure travelers. Not surprisingly, the same study also found that Governments that support the history & culture find that for every \$1 invested in museums and other cultural organization, \$7 is returned in tax revenues.

Historically. Culturally. Economically. It all makes sense to support these important projects.

The Campaign for Maryland History is a diverse collection of organizations from across the state; rural, suburban, urban and we need your leadership. Once our history is lost – it’s lost forever. With Maryland’s population expected to explode over the next 50 years, we need to find ways to save the best of this state for the next generation and generations to follow.

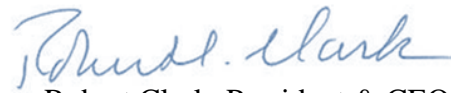
As you prepare to draft the next budget for the State of Maryland, we therefore write to request that you seriously consider increasing the state’s investment in these three programs. **A state appropriation of \$1.5 million** (split evenly between the three programs) would spur a renewed interest in the history of this state and create a catalyst for heritage tourism. The member groups of this Campaign stand ready to applaud your work and publicize the efforts of this new administration to save our history. We are also prepared to explore innovative ways of partnering with our colleagues in state government to fund these efforts without increasing the size of staff or workload for state agencies.

We thank you for your consideration. If you or your staff requires additional information about the Campaign or this important program, please do not hesitate to contact us directly: Nicholas Redding, 410-685-2886 x306, nredding@presmd.org

Appreciatively yours,



Nicholas Redding, Executive Director
Preservation Maryland



Robert Clark, President & CEO
Historic Annapolis

Aberdeen Room Archives and Museum
AIA Maryland
Archaeological Society of Maryland
Brunswick Heritage Museum
Calvert Marine Museum
Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

Chesapeake Children's Museum
City of Frederick Historic Preservation
Commission
Commissioners of Leonardtown
Dundalk Patapsco Neck Historical Society
and Museum

Evergreen Heritage Area
Fire Museum of Maryland
Gaithersburg Historic District Commission
Gibson Island Historical Society, Inc.
Great Blacks in Wax Museum
Hancock's Resolution
Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area
Historic Sotterley, Inc.
Historical Society of Cecil County
Howard County Historical Society
John F. DeWitt Military Museum
Julia A. Purnell Museum
Lutherville Historical Colored School Museum

Maryland Museums Association
Montgomery County Historical Society
Montpelier Mansion
Mt. Zion Historical Society
National Capital Historical Museum of Transportation
Old Bohemia Historic Society, Inc.
Reginald F. Lewis Museum
Sandy Spring Museum
Snow Hill Historic District Commission
Turkey Point Light Station
Westminster Historic District Commission
Westside Historical Society

cc:

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Maryland Senate President
The Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Maryland Representatives
The Honorable David R. Craig, Maryland Secretary of Planning
Ms. Elizabeth Hughes, Acting-Director, Maryland Historical Trust