FROM THE DESK OF NICHOLAS A. REDDING

“Let us rather run the risk of wearing out than rusting out.”

2018 will be a hard year to beat for Preservation Maryland. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we have supported preservation at hundreds of sites across the state.

Our Six-to-Fix program reached new heights this year. A compelling example of the growing success of the program came by utilizing our robust legislative advocacy operation in Annapolis—resulting in a six figure state appropriation for the WWII-era crane at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. It was a perfect example of how this small but mighty program is making real impacts. We’re not just interested in talking about preservation—we’re rolling up our sleeves and doing it.

Our grant programs also distributed more dollars to deserving projects than ever before in our history. We distributed nearly $150,000 to projects across the state—and we’re on track to distribute nearly $200,000 in 2019—a 150% increase in grant funding over just the past two years. This increase comes as a result of partnering with groups across the state that now look to Preservation Maryland’s professional staff to support these critical funding programs.

In Elliott City, we led a coalition of local citizens and organizations to push back against an ill-advised and rushed flood mitigation plan.

We are simply not content with keeping pace or holding our ground. In the year ahead, we will be launching a first-of-its-kind historic trades’ redevelopment program focusing on preserving Maryland’s historic and cultural heritage. We will succeed and we will save even more of what Maryland has to offer.

With pride in our past and faith in our future,

Nicholas A. Redding – Executive Director
Progress Made on Preserving Endangered Historic Sites in Maryland

Preservation Maryland is partnering with national and local partners to advocate for two of America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.

On June 26, 2018, the National Trust for Historic Preservation announced that the Annapolis National Historic Landmark District and the Maryland viewshed of George Washington’s Mount Vernon had been added to the list of America’s eleven Most Endangered Historic Places. The listing was a call to action for all Marylanders—and Preservation Maryland immediately swung into action to support the advocacy campaigns to save these historic places. Fortunately, since their listing this summer, there has been significant progress made at both sites—in part thanks to the efforts of Preservation Maryland and its dedicated grassroots advocates around the state.

At Mount Vernon, as a result of significant public pressure and preservation advocacy, earlier this fall Dominion Energy reversed their plans and announced a decision not to build a towering natural gas compressor in Charles County, Maryland just across the Patomac River from George Washington’s Mount Vernon. While the immediate threat is over, Dominion Energy continues to operate their Marshall Hall site in Charles County and is exploring alternative locations for expansion. Mount Vernon and its partners, including Preservation Maryland, remain committed to working with Dominion Energy to identify suitable alternative locations and working proactively to secure more conservation easements within the historic viewshed.

In Annapolis, the proposed rezoning of the waterfront to allow for large-scale development has not been entirely scuttled, but Preservation Maryland’s joint advocacy on that issue has generated significant local opposition and brought the mayor back to the negotiating table. With the support of an emergency grant from the statewide Heritage Fund grant program, Historic Annapolis, Inc. was able to host an Urban Land Institute (ULI) Technical Assistance Panel in late October which provided strategic, multidisciplinary advice about land use and redevelopment alternatives. A final report from the ULI panel is expected soon and will be a powerful tool to frame the conversation and provide an alternative vision for the future of Annapolis’ scenic waterfront.

Together, both issues are a reminder of the power of partnership—between national, statewide and local organizations—and the ability of sustained advocacy to turn the tide against ill-advised plans which threaten our state’s heritage. To learn more, visit presmd.org/mostendangered.

PHOTOS OF THE MOUNT VERNON and rendering of proposed compressor plant in Charles County are courtesy of George Washington’s Mount Vernon. Bird’s eye view of Annapolis harbor, ca. 1853 is from Library of Congress and known as City Dock, from the Library of Congress.

Elliott City Update

In August 2018, Howard County officials announced a five-year, $50 million plan that included demolition, to mitigate the impact of stormwater in Elliott City.

If enacted as proposed, the plan would have decimated the historic district with the demolition of nearly two dozen buildings on lower Main Street. Preservation Maryland responded immediately—and became the de facto leader of the opposition to the county’s rushed and ill-advised plan. Although Preservation Maryland supported some aspects of the plan, including the upstream stormwater retention and mitigation components, the organization emphatically opposed the demolition of historic structures which has never been proven to substantively reduce flood events. In fact, the county’s demolition plan would still leave four to six feet of rushing floodwaters on Main Street during a major flood event.

In response to this unsafe and dangerous plan, the organization has been working hard to change the conversation and provide factual counterpoints to the county’s plan. With the support of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Maryland engaged the national engineering firm of Simpson Gumpertz & Heger (SGH) to conduct an independent third-party review of the county’s plan. In concluding their findings, SGH explained that, “...we believe that flood mitigation strategies which address both life safety concerns and preservation of the historic character of Elliott City have not been fully vetted by public opinion on the demolition plan. Not surprisingly, the overwhelming majority of citizens in Howard County opposed the plan and 74 percent supported alternatives to demolition. The results of the poll created yet another stir in the community—and helped to further reframe the discussion.

Then, on Tuesday, November 6, voters in Howard County went to the polls—and elected an entirely new county council and a new county executive. As a non-partisan organization, Preservation Maryland watched from the sidelines as the flood plan became a major campaign issue. The results of this election give new hope to the preservation community in light of Howard County Executive-elect Calvin Ball’s recent statement that his administration will “take time to evaluate all plans in progress for effectiveness and efficiency...and make a decision from there.”

Unquestionably, this will be a difficult and complex task, but Preservation Maryland stands ready to assist Howard County and the new Ball Administration in this effort. Complex problems rarely are solved by simple solutions. Elliott City deserves a thoughtful and sophisticated planning process—and we are hopeful that process will now begin anew.

Track what’s happening in Elliott City at: presmd.org/elliottcity.

Reserve Maryland

Maryland’s Eastern Shore is an international heritage tourism destination to experience unique African American history.

Reserve Maryland hosted a day long bus tour led by seventh-generation native of Maryland’s Eastern Shore Priscilla Tenken of Chesapeake Tours & Promotions following the life of Harriet Tubman. The group Brooks Farm, Tubman’s birthplace and visited Bucktown Village store, site of a head injury incurred by Tubman, who suffered from seizures for the rest of her life. Malone’s Church, a Preservation Maryland Six-to-Fix project with ties to the Tubman family, welcomed the group who toured the historic church and cemetery. The Caroline County Historical Society showed the group the amazing transformation of the Webb Cabin, the home of a free black man in the mid-1800s. No tour of the Harriet Tubman Byway would be complete without a long visit to the new Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center operated by the Maryland Park Service.

Evidence for steps taken to protect Maryland’s Eastern Shore

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FROM TOP LEFT: GRADUATING CLASS OF 1932 AND HAVRE DE GRACE COLORED SCHOOL BANNER AT 1988 MARCH COURTESY OF CHASE

MAILING: LETTER PERFECT
PRINTING: ADVANCE PRINTING

KIMBERLY GOLDEN BRANDT
DIRECTOR OF SMART GROWTH MARYLAND
JESSICA FELDT
INITIATIVES MANAGER

ELLY COLMERS COWAN
DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY
JANA CAREY
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SAMUEL K. HImMELRICH, JR.
TYLER TATE PE, LEED AP
THOMAS S. SPENCER, ESQ.

PRESIDENT

WILLIAM D. WAXTER, III
HIS PASSION FOR PRESERVATION LIVES ON THROUGH A LEGACY GIFT.
WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?
PRESERVATION MARYLAND

WILLIAM D. WAXTER, III SERVED ON THE PRESERVATION MARYLAND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR MANY YEARS. IN ADDITION TO THE INVALUABLE TIME, EXPERTISE, AND LEADERSHIP HE SHARED WITH THE ORGANIZATION, HE WAS ALSO A GENEROUS FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTOR. BILL’S LEGACY GIFT UNDERWRITES THE INTERIOR PAINTING WITH A FOCUS ON RESTORING THE 1884 APPEARANCE REMOVING SEVERAL MODERN ALTERATIONS TO IMPROVE THE BUILDING’S FUNCTIONALITY AND TO PROTECT THE BUILDING FROM FUTURE DEGRADATION. THE FULL PROJECT COST IS ESTIMATED AT $90,000 AND THE ORGANIZATION HAS ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO COMPLETE THIS PHASE INCLUDING FROM A STATE BOND BILL.

STABILIZATION OF B&O RAILROAD STATION
ABERDEEN, HARFORD COUNTY / ABERDEEN ROOM ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM, INC.
IN 1885 FRANK FURNESS DESIGNED THIS B&O STATION AND SINCE THEN IT HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE AREA’S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. A TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS WHO DESIRE TO ENSURE THIS STATION’S PRESERVATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN A PROGRAM TO REHABILITATE THE BUILDING AND STABILIZE THE SOUTHWESTERN CORNER.

THE COLORSOLVED HISTORY
HARFORD COUNTY / COMMUNITY PROJECTS
HAVRE DE GRACE
THE HAVRE DE GRACE COLORED SCHOOL WAS THE FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN HARFORD COUNTY. BUILT IN 1910 AS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, THE STRUCTURE WAS EXPANDED OVER TIME. THE SITE WAS SERVED BY FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE FAMILY. IN ADDITION TO A SCHOOLS, THE HOUSE THAT NOW SERVES AS AN EXHIBIT AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER, WILL BE UNDERGOING A MAJOR RESTORATION.

THE CIRCUS 1876 CONCORD POINT LIGHT STATION WAS SERVED BY FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE FAMILY. JOHN O’NEILL, A LOCAL WARRIOR FROM THE WAR OF 1812, AFTER MANY CHANGES OVER THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES, THE FRIENDS OF THE CONCORD POINT LIGHTHOUSE RESTORED THE BUILDING TO ITS 1884 APPEARANCE REMOVING SEVERAL MODERN ALTERATIONS. THE FRIENDS’ HOUSE IS NOW IN NEED OF EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR UPGRADES TO ENSURE IT WILL BE MEDITERRANEAN IN APPEARANCE RESPECTFUL TO ITS HISTORIC CONTEXT.

THE HERITAGE FUND GRANT PROGRAM A COOPERATIVE EFFORT OF PRESERVATION MARYLAND AND THE MARYLAND HISTORY TRUST. THESE NEWEST HERITAGE FUND PROJECTS ARE AS DIVERSE AS THE STATE’S TREASURE TROVE OF HISTORIC RESOURCES.

STAFF

DIRECT FUNDING

STABILIZATION OF B&O RAILROAD STATION
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HISTORIC BOUNDARY REPLACEMENT
THURMONT, FREDERICK COUNTY / CATHOLIC FURNISHING HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
THE CONCORD VILLAGE OF CATOCTIN FURNISHING, AN 1820S WOODEN WORKS SITE IS BEING RESTORED TO BECOME THE MUSEUM OF THE FRIENDS. THE PROJECT WILL HELP PROTECT THE BUILDING FROM FUTURE DEGRADATION.


THE HERITAGE FUND GRANT PROGRAM A COOPERATIVE EFFORT OF PRESERVATION MARYLAND AND THE MARYLAND HISTORY TRUST. THESE NEWEST HERITAGE FUND PROJECTS ARE AS DIVERSE AS THE STATE’S TREASURE TROVE OF HISTORIC RESOURCES.
Start your project right. Start with PreserveList.

Connect with preservation service providers you need for your project:

Start your search at: preservelist.org

Discover providers for roofing, painting, energy efficiency, architectural design, window repair, plus many more.

PreserveList

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PRESERVATION RISING
Phoenix Rising was our biggest event yet with nearly 300 guests filling the Baltimore Museum of Industry’s waterfront location in Baltimore City. Each year, this capstone fundraising event showcases the strong connection that Marylander’s have to our state’s rich history and heritage—and supports our work across the state every day. Learn more about the projects that Phoenix Rising supports, at: sixtofix.org.

Upcoming Events

Save the date for these upcoming events and be sure to check out our statewide event calendar online: presmd.org/events.

JAN 2 MONTGOMERY HISTORY will host their annual history conference with sessions ranging from Maryland’s suffrage movement to cemetery conservation. Register at: montgomeryhistory.org.

JAN 9 THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY will reconvene and Preservation Maryland will reopen its Annapolis office at AIA Maryland. Get involved at: presmd.org/advocacy.

FEB 16-18 THE SMALL MUSEUM ASSOCIATION will host their annual conference at The Hotel at the University of Maryland. Register at: smmuseum.org.

MAR 15 DEADLINE FOR HERITAGE FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS to Preservation Maryland and the Maryland Historical Trust. Submit an application at: presmd.org/hf.

Start your project right.
Start with PreserveList.

It’s simple. Window inserts that fit inside your window frames with no mounting brackets.

preservelist.org | 410.466.4276


Clockwise from above: Joe Wojciechowski and Nakita Reed of Encore Sustainable Design; Lauren Halterman and Katie Parks White from the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy with Michael White; Eric Nixon and Mary O’Brien of Brown Advisory; Jacky Jennings with Douglas Rothstein of Ziger/Snead Architects; Jean Anderson with Todd Anderson of Worcester Eisenbrandt.