"History is a guide to navigation in perilous times."

As we wade through these uncertain times, we are inspired by the prospects in our state capitol and our projects in the field.

As we wade through these uncertain times – we are living in complex and unusual times. For Marylanders, the impact of the recent government shutdown was undeniable. Preservationists around the country and here in Maryland felt the shutdown’s odd embrace. At Preservation Maryland, we worked with our partners at the National Historic Preservation Training Center, a furloughed unit of the National Park Service, to help identify temporary work opportunities for employees and apprentices. We also joined with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Parks Conservation Association, and many others to call on leaders in Washington to end the shutdown which had a disastrous impact on historic resources in National Parks across the nation.

Here in Maryland, we have continued to push forward as the General Assembly sprints through its fast-paced 90-day session. We have worked with preservation champions in both houses to introduce improvements to our state historic tax credit program including an $11 million overall increase in funding. Additionally, the legislation proposes pilot programs to support rehabilitations of historic agricultural buildings and mid-century modern structures. We are also leading the charge for our state’s preservation grant programs and to make certain the Maryland heritage areas continue to receive full funding.

Our latest efforts are also breathing new life into our diverse Six-to-Fix projects and helping tell often overlooked stories. From a lecture series about the history of Maryland’s suffragists to our first-of-its-kind statewide research of LGBTQ history, the organization is making major strides and helping to preserve and interpret important history. Since the start of the New Year, we’ve also launched an effort with the State Highway Administration to identify and digitally mark 100 cemeteries—the first step in a multi-year effort to document Maryland’s historic cemeteries.

As we wade through these uncertain times – we are inspired by the prospects in our state capitol and our projects in the field – and we are reminded by the lessons of history to remain steadfast in our hope for the future. History is perhaps more relevant than ever and our work to preserve historic places remains critical as ever. Our job as a statewide preservation group is to make the case for the value and relevance of our heritage and to remind legislators, advocates, and friends alike that our history is a powerful, positive, and necessary guide in these perilous times.

With pride in our past and faith in our future,
This January, citizen advocates from across the state traveled to Annapolis for Maryland History Advocacy Day to let their legislators know that preservation matters.

The busy day was co-hosted again this year with AIA Maryland and began with a briefing at their headquarters, located in downtown Annapolis in the shadow of the State House. Advocates were updated on the ambitious preservation priorities platform before heading out to speak with their legislators. After addressing the long-term economic viability of the historic community and threatened prosperity by proposing demolition of the historic streetscape.

For these reasons, Preservation Maryland applauded County Executive Ball and his administration for this new plan and for the substantive steps it takes to address flooding by accelerating upstream mitigation and retention; reviewing existing studies and alternatives and investigating the structural integrity of historic buildings; providing seed funding for flood resiliency projects on privately owned structures; hiring a full-time main street economic development ombudsman, and establishing a community development corporation (CDC) to help lead a long-term public/private partnership to revitalize the community. The makeup of the exploratory committee spans a range of experiences and includes members of the local business, real estate, environmental, and non-profit communities. Preservation Maryland Executive Director Nicholas Redding was appointed by County Executive Ball in recognition of his significant preservation and community revitalization experience.

These are reasonable and sensible next steps for Ellicott City, many of which Preservation Maryland previously proposed, and the organization looks forward to working with the Ball Administration, Howard County Council, and State representatives in pursuing the actionable items in this plan. Preservation Maryland intends on making preservation a part of the long-term solution to creating a safe, vibrant, and prosperous Ellicott City and this new plan is a good first step. Learn more and donate to our sustained efforts in Ellicott City, at: presmd.org/ellicottcity.

HE PROJECT was a Six-to-Fix priority of Preservation Maryland, for which the organization served as project manager. With maps, architectural renderings, historic photographs—and an anecdote or two—the signs relate the history of the area’s intact 19th- and 20th-century mills and nearby villages. Built first to harness the water power provided by the Jones Falls Valley. More information and multi-media content is available online.

Tour these mill sites and explore their history: Visit these mill sites and explore their history: Baltimore Mills,Clipper Mill Property Owners Association, and donate to our sustained efforts in Ellicott City, at: presmd.org/ellicottcity.

New Ellicott City Plan
In December 2018, newly-elected Howard County Executive Calvin Ball announced his new “Safe and Sound” plan for Ellicott City.

UNQUESTIONABLY, efforts must be made to make the community safer during dangerous flood events. Although previous plans, including those released under the Kittleman Administration, partially addressed this concern, they failed to substantially address safety—still leaving four-to-six feet of floodwaters on lower Main Street during a major flood event. Previous plans also fell short on

SIX-TO-FIX SUCCESS
New Signage Offers History Tour of Baltimore’s Jones Falls Valley
Over two years, with grant funding from the Baltimore National Heritage Area, Preservation Maryland has completed research, design, and installation of eight new interpretive signs.

The project offers visitors an opportunity to conduct self-guided tours of the Jones Falls Valley. More information and multi-media content is available online. Historically, the site is hosted by Baltimore Heritage, Inc. on their Explore Baltimore geocoded online map and mobile app. With the signs and the digital tour together, this project serves as an example of inclusive and interactive interpretation for historic resources in Maryland’s neighborhoods.
STATEWIDE LECTURE SERIES

Lecture Series Looks at the History of Maryland’s Women’s Suffrage Movement

As America approaches the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote, Preservation Maryland will host a traveling lecture series with historian Kacy Rohn.

**THE SERIES** will highlight the activist history of the suffrage movement in Maryland and a look at the historic places where this incredible campaign unfolded. Each of these four programs will explore the history and current preservation efforts aimed at better representing this important moment in American history. This lecture series is a part of Preservation Maryland’s Six-to-Fix project to document Maryland’s women’s suffrage history and is supported by a grant from the Maryland Historical Trust. Learn more and register at: presmd.org/suffragelectures

**FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND IN MARYLAND**

Statewide LGBTQ History Documentation Project to Begin

Preservation Maryland has been awarded a substantial research grant to begin a project to research historic places important to LGBTQ history across the state.

**IN OCTOBER 2018,** Preservation Maryland announced the discovery and inclusion of Maryland’s LGBTQ history as a Six-to-Fix project and organizational priority. The $55,000 in funding from the state’s Non-Capital Grant Program administered by the Maryland Historical Trust will support groundbreaking work in collecting, organizing, and analyzing the major historic themes for Maryland’s LGBTQ community. In addition to property-based research, Dr. Susan Ferentinos, an expert in LGBTQ history will research and develop a comprehensive context study of LGBTQ life in Maryland. This report will utilize Dr. Ferentinos’ extensive research for the National Park Service and her award winning book, Interpreting LGBT History at Museums and Historic Sites. To contribute to this project, the public is invited to add locations to the LGBTQ America interactive map on HistoryPin or contact Preservation Maryland’s Six-to-Fix project to document Maryland’s women’s suffrage history and is supported by a grant from the Maryland Historical Trust. Learn more and register at: presmd.org/suffragelectures

Creating a Plan to Protect and Preserve Brunswick’s Historic and Cultural Resources

Smart Growth Maryland will focus on Brunswick’s Historic District as part of ongoing efforts to support community revitalization across the state.

**KIMBERLY GOLDEN BRANDT,** Director of Smart Growth Maryland, was recently appointed to serve on the City of Brunswick’s Preservation and Revitalization Committee, which met for the first time on February 5, 2019. The committee’s formation was the result of sustained advocacy by Preservation Maryland following several high-profile demolition proposals in the historic community. The new committee is tasked with creating a plan for protecting and preserving Brunswick’s rich historic and cultural resources.

Brunswick’s Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 for its contributions to the history of transportation in Maryland and the region. Brunswick was once a hub for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, which operated a sizable railroad yard. Unfortunately, there is currently no local legislation in place to protect the city’s historic resources from demolition or neglect. Cities and towns in Maryland and throughout the country employ demolition ordinances, conservation districts, and local historic preservation districts to protect their historic resources. Brunswick’s Preservation and Revitalization Committee will consider a variety of preservation tools and ultimately recommend to the Mayor and City Council a course of action for protecting the city’s wealth of historic and cultural resources.

**SMART GROWTH MARYLAND** appreciates the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive effort to protect and enhance one of Maryland’s most delightful downtowns.
2018 was an exceptional year for preservation in Maryland. As the state’s oldest and largest non-profit preservation organization, we have seen dramatic changes over our 88-year history—but this past year was truly an extraordinary year for our movement. We are pleased to share the enclosed report as a testament to the impact of each and every gift from our generous donors and supporters. Together, we are protecting the best of Maryland.