

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Maryland Historical Trust Invites Public to Participate in Shaping the State's Historic Preservation Plan

First Forum is May 8th in Hagerstown, Maryland

CROWNSVILLE, MD – The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), an agency of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), today announced a schedule of public forums designed to gather input on Maryland's State Historic Preservation Plan. The goal of these forums is to seek and collect public participation on the issues facing historical and cultural resources in Maryland and to identify strategies for their recognition, long term care and enhancement. These sessions will include a summary of public input received to-date and facilitated break out groups designed to focus discussion on the topics of greatest concern to participants. Co-sponsored by the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, the first public forum will be held on Wednesday, May 8th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at The Women's Club, located at 31 S. Potomac Street in Hagerstown, Maryland.

"This is a rare opportunity for the local residents to have a voice in determining the future of our shared heritage," says Tom Riford, president and chief executive officer of the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau. "After the workshop, participants have a wealth of downtown restaurants to visit where the conversations can continue."

All are welcome to attend this free event. Participants are encouraged to register for the Hagerstown meeting at the <u>event website</u>.

Future public forums located at other venues around the state. The schedule and links to register are listed below, or visit mht.maryland.gov/plan.html:

May 22 - Greenbelt Community Center, Greenbelt, MD

May 28 - Washington College, Chestertown, MD

May 29 - The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, Salisbury, MD

May 30 - Courthouse Square, Prince Frederick, MD

June 5 - The Cloisters, Lutherville, MD

State historic preservation plans are prepared periodically, in part, to comply with National Park Service requirements. Plans must be updated in order for state historic preservation offices to remain eligible to participate in the national historic preservation program. The previous plan was published in 2005.

Martin O'Malley, Governor Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor Richard Eberhart Hall, AICP, Secretary Matthew J. Power, Deputy Secretary You may visit the MHT website for a more detailed description of the planning process and many of the key issues that will be covered by the plan at mht.maryland.gov/plan or "like" us on Facebook at PreserveMaryland. To participate in the online survey, visit our website or go to: www.surveymonkey.com/s/MDPRESPLAN. Contact Tim Leahy at (410) 514-7641 or tleahy@mdp.state.md.us with questions and comments.

The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) is a state agency dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. Through research, conservation and education, the Trust assists the people of Maryland in understanding their historical and cultural heritage. The Trust is a division of the Maryland Department of Planning and serves as Maryland's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

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