



Martin O'Malley, Governor

## PRESS RELEASE



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### **State Planning Secretary Presents Governor's 2010 Smart, Green & Growing Awards to Three Western Maryland Projects**

*Awards Recognize Excellence in Redevelopment and Local Government Innovation*

**BALTIMORE (May 19, 2010)** – Maryland Secretary of Planning Richard E. Hall presented Governor's 2010 Smart, Green & Growing awards to the Frostburg Lyric Theatre redevelopment project, the Allegany Arts Council and Garrett County Municipalities, Inc. The Smart, Green & Growing Award Program is designed to recognize groups and individuals that have gone above and beyond to make Maryland a better place in several areas, including Development & Redevelopment/Revitalization, Government Innovation, Green Building and Natural Resource Protection.

"Smart, Green & Growing is a collective vision for the future of our State, where our children and grandchildren enjoy clean air and water, vast open spaces, and livable communities that support a strong economy, a healthy environment and social well being," Governor O'Malley said. "A smarter, greener, more sustainable Maryland means working together, making sustainable choices every day, delivering results and ensuring that vision becomes our reality."

Secretary Hall presented the three 2010 Smart, Green & Growing awards on behalf of Governor Martin O'Malley prior to the Maryland Department of Planning's ninth public forum around the state for PlanMaryland, the state growth plan that is being developed.

"The three projects being awarded today are representative of the commitment that Mountain Maryland has to its communities, its heritage and its legacy," Secretary of Planning Richard E. Hall said. "I join the Governor in applauding the contributions each of these has made to sustainable growth in the region and to the state."

The following are brief descriptions of the awards presented today and the recipients:

**The Governor's 2010 Smart, Green & Growing Development and Redevelopment award** - Honors commercial or residential projects undertaken in older, established communities

The Frostburg Lyric Building – For the redevelopment of the Lyric Theater, a space which is now home to several university operations, including the Off-Campus Book Store, the Center for Creative Writing, and the FSU Foundation. In early 2004, a fire at 16-24 East Main Street, the Lyric Building, began when radiant heat from a coal-fired boiler ignited. A Washington, D.C. developer, Michael Joy, bought the Lyric in June 2007. Nearly \$2 million from a private donor was invested in a restoration of the building.

The Allegany Arts Council – The 9 North Centre Street property in Cumberland, Maryland was converted into a gallery and performance space for the Allegany Arts Council, with 5,200 square feet of office space

located on the second floor and five residential units on the third floor. Redevelopment of this historic property as a mixed-use facility in the heart of the City's Main Street and Arts and Entertainment District has had a significant positive impact on the local business and arts community. Doug Schwab and Betsey Hurwitz-Schwab purchased the mostly boarded-up and underutilized structure in August 2006 with the vision of creating "a building where arts and people can live and work to make Cumberland a better place."

**The Governor's 2010 Smart, Green & Growing award for Local Government Innovation** - Presented to a local government that demonstrates innovative methods that best manage growth and protect Maryland's natural resources

Garrett County Municipalities, Inc. – Garrett County Municipalities, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 that provides the eight municipalities of Garrett County with a collective voice, greater leverage in implementing projects and the ability to provide shared services. Through this arrangement, the eight municipalities share a code enforcement officer, a grants circuit rider and an attorney. In addition they have hired a consultant to assist the towns with complying with HB1141 by addressing several new elements within their Comprehensive Plans.

The other 10 Smart, Green & Growing award categories are: Green Building, Community Activism and Achievement, Excellence in Agricultural Stewardship Award, Buy Local Agricultural Challenge, Youth Education and Awareness, School Siting/Construction/Renovation, Natural Resource Protection, Economic Development and Job Creation, Smart Moves in Transportation, and Sustainable Infrastructure/ Innovation in Stormwater Management. Details on the nomination process and criteria are available at [www.green.maryland.gov](http://www.green.maryland.gov).

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