



Maryland 250 Commission
2023 Annual Report and Action Plan

Maryland Department of Planning

Maryland Historical Trust

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Crownsville MD 21032

mdtwofifty.maryland.gov/

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MD TWO FIFTY

December 31, 2023

Governor Moore, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones

Executive Order 01.01.2023.10 charges the Maryland 250 Commission with developing, encouraging, and executing an inclusive statewide observance of the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation in 2026, with three themes- history, civics, and service. Maryland is one of more than 40 states that have launched similar initiatives.

This Executive Order rescinds and replaces the previous Executive Order 01.01.2021.03, Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission.

We are pleased to report strong progress in 2023, including:

- The hiring of Commission Director Michele W. Johnson in April.
- A branding and website development contract executed in June.
- A new Executive Order in July, which can be found at this link mdtwofifty.maryland.gov/assets/pdf/EO-01.01.2023.10-Maryland250-Commission.pdf.
- The development and launch of a logo in September and a website landing page mdtwofifty.maryland.gov/ in October, with a full website in development for an early 2024 launch.
- The appointment of the Commission leadership and members in November.
- The Commission's inaugural meeting on December 4, 2023, and the first meetings of the working groups by mid-December, content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MDMDP/bulletins/37e270e?reqfrom=share
- The launch of local, organizational, and site-based 250th initiatives statewide.

In accordance with Executive Order 01.01.2023.10, we hereby submit the first Annual Report and Action Plan of the Maryland 250 Commission for the calendar year 2023. We thank all who have contributed to our progress, including Governor Wes Moore, Secretary Edwards of the Governor's Appointments Office, Director David Turner of the Governor's Communications Office, Secretary Rebecca Flora of the Department of Planning for her endless tenacity in bringing this important Commission to reality, and everyone else who has helped along the way.

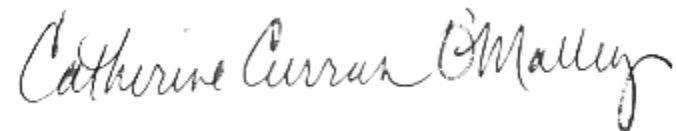
Since the Commission held its first meeting less than four weeks before the due date of this report, the work plan and funding sections included herein are preliminary and based on discussions at these initial meetings, with further details to follow.

We proudly state that the Maryland 250 Commission is fully committed to our work ahead. Thank you for your past and future support.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Parris N. Glendening". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "G" at the end.

Governor Parris N. Glendening, Commission Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Curran O'Malley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "O" at the end.

Judge Catherine Curran (Katie) O'Malley, Commission Vice Chair

2. Background

On July 22, 2016, the United States Congress passed Public Law 114-196 <https://www.congress.gov/114/plaws/publ196/PLAW-114publ196.pdf> , the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016, establishing the United States Semiquincentennial Commission to plan the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. This act required coordination with states, particularly the thirteen original colonies.

State Commissions began to launch soon after and on January 24, 2021, Governor Larry J. Hogan, Jr., signed Executive Order 01.01.2021.03 <https://www.preservationmaryland.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/250th-Commission.pdf> , authorizing the creation of the Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission to commemorate Maryland's role in the American Revolution.

On July 3, 2023, Governor Wes Moore signed Executive Order 01.01.2023.10 [https://governor.maryland.gov/Lists/ExecutiveOrders/Attachments/14/EO%2001.01.2023.10%20Maryland%20250%20Commission%20\(1\).pdf](https://governor.maryland.gov/Lists/ExecutiveOrders/Attachments/14/EO%2001.01.2023.10%20Maryland%20250%20Commission%20(1).pdf), rescinding the 2021 Executive Order, and authorizing a new Maryland 250 Commission to develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive observance of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the nation that recognizes all Marylanders' struggle for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, before, during, and after the Revolution, and identified three themes - history, civics, and service.

Via the appointments process, Governor Moore named Governor Parris N. Glendening as Commission Chair and Judge Catherine Curran (Katie) O'Malley as Vice Chair. Additional seats on the Commission were named in the Executive Order with appointments by Governor Moore, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Counties, and the Executive Director of the Maryland Municipal League. A full Commission list is included in this report.

The Commission held its first meeting on December 4, 2023.

Staffing for the Commission is provided by the Maryland Department of Planning and the Maryland Historical Trust. The staff contact is Director Michele W. Johnson, Michele.Johnson1@Maryland.gov.

3. Mission and Goals

The mission of the Maryland 250 Commission is to develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive statewide observance of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the nation that recognizes all Marylanders' struggle for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, before, during, and after the Revolution, with the themes of history, civics, and service.

The goals are to:

- Invite broad-based public input on the meaning, significance, and opportunities of this anniversary that will inform the development of commemoration activities, programs, and events.
- Acknowledge that the confiscation of Indigenous land and displacement of Indigenous people is central to the United States origin story and recognize the persistence and contributions of these communities today.
- Honor the legacy of both free and enslaved African Americans in the making of Maryland and the nation, whose untold stories of heroism and perseverance are critical to the understanding of our shared past and present.
- Support the identification and enhancement of cultural assets that tell the story of who we are as Marylanders and promote place-based visitor experiences for residents and visitors alike.
- Engage youth, new Americans, and lifelong learners in programs designed to encourage the search for meaning behind America and deepen engagement in civic life.
- Celebrate service to the country and community, and create opportunities that promote social responsibility, compassion, and understanding that will unite and strengthen Maryland's diverse communities for the benefit of all.

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) has provided a national vision and informational resources for the 250th, which match up well with the mission and goals of the Maryland 250 Commission. Their 2021 publication, "Making History at 250: The Field Guide for the Semiquincentennial" and their 2022 technical leaflet, "Forming a Local 250th Commission", are available with the permission of AASLH on the Maryland 250 Commission website, <https://mdtwofifty.maryland.gov/>. These and other resources are available on the AASLH website, <https://aaslh.org/programs/250th/>.

4. Commission Members

Executive Committee

- Governor Parris N. Glendening, **Commission Chair and Executive Committee Chair**
- Judge Catherine Curran (Katie) O'Malley, **Commission Vice Chair and Executive Committee Vice Chair**
- Elizabeth Hughes, Director, Maryland Historical Trust, and State Historic Preservation Officer, **History Working Group Chair**
- Secretary D. Paul Monteiro, Maryland Dept. of Service and Civic Innovation, **Service Working Group Chair**
- Robin V. Sproul, Executive Vice President, Javelin, **Communications, Fundraising, and Events Committee Chair**
- Dr. Antonio Ugues, Jr., Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for the Study of Democracy, St. Mary's College of Maryland, **Civics Working Group Chair**

Members

- Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller
- Senator Jack Bailey, District 29, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties
- Senator Benjamin Brooks, District 10, Baltimore County
- Mayor Takisha James, Town of Bladensburg
- Councilman Pete Leshner, Talbot County Council
- Secretary Rebecca Flora, Maryland Dept. of Planning
- Secretary Susan Lee, Office of the Secretary of State
- Secretary Anthony Woods, Maryland Dept. of Veterans Affairs
- Assistant Secretary Luis Luna, Department of General Services
- Elaine Rice Bachmann, Maryland State Archivist
- Robert Bailey, Historian/Historic Planner, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
- E. Keith Colston, Administrator, Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs,
- Chanel Compton, Executive Director, Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture
- Raquel Coombs, Chief of Staff, Maryland Dept. of Management and Budget
- Judi Emmel, Member, Maryland Commission for Women
- Liz Fitzsimmons, Managing Director, Maryland Dept. of Commerce/Tourism and Film
- Dr. Joni Floyd, Curator, Maryland/Historical Collections, Univ. of Maryland Libraries

- Peter Phineas Ramsey, Director of Social Studies, Maryland Dept. of Education
- Steven Skerritt-Davis, Executive Director, Maryland State Arts Council
- Rev. Lawrence E. Walker, Sr., Executive Director, Governor's Office of Community

Initiatives

- Katie Caljean, President and CEO, Maryland Center for History and Culture
- Alexandra Cenatus, Director of Programs, Maryland Humanities
- Brenda B. Coakley
- Terri Lee Freeman, President, Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture
- Steve Kearney, Founding Partner, KO Public Affairs
- Nicholas Redding, President and CEO, Preservation Maryland
- Reggie Turner, Co-Chair, Western Maryland Community Development Corporation

5. Accomplishments to Date

a. Staffing

Director Michele W. Johnson was hired by Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) Secretary Rebecca Flora, and began service on April 19, 2023. Intern Erin Bode was hired by Director Johnson, and began service on June 14, 2023. Oversight is by Elizabeth Hughes, Director of the Maryland Historical Trust and Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer.

b. Executive Order

On July 3, 2023, Governor Wes Moore signed Executive Order 01.01.2023.10, which rescinded previous Executive Order 01.01.2021.03. Governor Moore's Executive Order authorized the Maryland 250 Commission to develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive observance of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the nation that recognizes all Marylanders' struggle for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness before, during, and after the Revolution, and identified three themes - history, civics, and service.

c. Commission

(i) Meetings of Commission

The Commission held its first meeting on Monday, December 4, 2023, in Crownsville at the office of the Maryland Historical Trust. Led by Governor Parris N. Glendening, Chair, and Judge Catherine Curran (Katie) O'Malley, Vice Chair, twenty-eight of thirty-three Commissioners were present or represented.

The agenda included a welcome from the Chair, a Land Acknowledgement read by the Vice Chair, and votes to approve draft bylaws and a draft public comment policy. The Chair gave an overview of the working group and committee structure and appointed a Chair and members for the civics, history, and service working groups, and the communications, fundraising, and events committee. The Director presented an overview of the Executive Order, and guest speaker Dr. John Marks, Director of the Public History Research Lab at the American Association for State and Local History, aaslh.org/programs/250th/, offered a national perspective on the 250th, after which Commission members introduced themselves and shared thoughts on what speaks to them about the 250th.

Though authorized by the Executive Order to meet a minimum of twice each year through December 31, 2027, the Commission plans to meet at least three times annually, with the next meeting to be scheduled in April 2024 after the adjournment of the 2024 state legislative session.

(ii) Commission Structure

As authorized by the Executive Order, the Commission shall adopt administrative and financial procedures for the transaction of business, including, but not limited to, the establishment of advisory groups, committees, or working groups that address the themes of history, service, and civics.

The Commission bylaws authorize the Chair to create committees, advisory groups, or working groups, as needed to support its work, and designates the Chair as the appointing authority for any groups or committees established.

The Executive Order also authorizes the Commission to solicit, accept, use, and dispose of donations, funds, and gifts in conformance with the Public Ethics Law, to support its goals and purposes.

With these authorizations, at the first Commission meeting on December 4, 2023, Chair Glendening established and appointed three working groups on history, civics, and service, and a Communications, Fundraising, and Events Committee, and appointed Chairs and members for each.

The bylaws also require an Executive Committee with at least three members consisting of the Chair, the Vice Chair, and one or more members to be appointed by the Chair. Chair Glendening appointed the Chairs of the working groups and committee to the Executive Committee, which will meet as needed in between Commission meetings.

(iii) Working groups

The Civics Working group, chaired by Dr. Antonio Ugues, Jr., Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for the Study of Democracy at St. Mary's College of Maryland, held its first meeting virtually on Thursday, December 7, 2023, with a goal of finalizing initial ideas to recommend to the Commission for the work plan. Nine of ten working group members were present or represented, along with staff. The agenda included: a review of the working group charge, goals, and agenda; Commissioner introductions; a discussion of a draft list of ideas with opportunity for Commissioners to add to the list; and a vote on recommendations to forward to the Commission. Initial recommendations are included in the work plan.

The History Working group, chaired by Elizabeth Hughes, Director of the Maryland Historical Trust and State Historic Preservation Officer, held its first meeting virtually on Monday, December 11, 2023, with similar goals and agenda. All thirteen members of the working group were in attendance. Initial recommendations are included in the work plan.

The Service Working group, chaired by Secretary D. Paul Monteiro of the Department of Service and Civic Innovation, held its first meeting virtually on Thursday, December 14, 2023, with similar goals and agenda. Ten of the eleven members of this working group were in attendance. Initial recommendations are included in the work plan.

The three working groups plan to meet monthly.

(iv) Meetings of communications, fundraising, and events committee

The Communications, Fundraising, and Events Committee, chaired by Robin Sproul, former Vice President and Washington Bureau Chief at ABC News and now Executive Vice President at Javelin, will begin meeting in January 2024.

d. Communications

On June 30, 2023, a contract was signed and executed with Mission Agency <https://missionagency.com/>, a brand marketing agency located in Baltimore, for branding and web design services. The selection of Mission was in response to an RFP issued on January 18, 2023, with a competitive review process in compliance with state rules and regulations led by the Maryland Department of Planning Procurement Officer and the Director of the Commission.

Prior to this contract, a temporary page planning.maryland.gov/Pages/md250.aspx was launched on the Maryland Department of Planning website with a brief description of the Commission, contact information, and a Google Form to collect ideas and email addresses for a future Commission email list. This website was updated with additional information and resources.

A temporary postcard was designed in-house for distribution at public events and meetings.

(i) Branding and Website

In a collaborative process with Mission and staff, a Maryland 250 logo, and branding and messaging guidelines were designed and finalized in September 2023.

A website landing page mdtwofifty.maryland.gov/ was designed and launched in October 2023, with a full website in development for an anticipated launch date in early 2024.

(ii) Social Media

Social media accounts have been established on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, with planned launch to coincide with the launch of the full website.

e. Outreach to date

Maryland 250 staff participated in more than 100 presentations, booth displays, meetings, tours, site visits, other public appearances, media interviews, and national convenings between April 19 and December 17, 2023.

Presentations

- The Civic Circle, theciviccircle.org/
- Dorchester County 250 Committee
- Dorchester County 250th Visioning Workshop
- Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area virtual 250 gathering, www.heartofthecivilwar.org/
- Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators, www.maplaonline.org/
- Maryland Civic Education Coalition, www.mdcivics.org/
- Maryland Community Foundations Association, www.marylandphilanthropy.org/maryland-community-foundation-association
- Maryland Daughters of the American Revolution America 250 Committee
- Maryland Heritage Area Authority coalition
- Maryland History and Culture Collaborative, marylandhcc.org/
- Maryland Sons of the American Revolution America 250 Committee, www.mdssar.org/250th.html
- Maryland Tourism Coalition annual conference, mdtourism.org/
- National Park Superintendents in Maryland
- Southern Maryland 250 Committee
- University System of Maryland SRC Committee
- University System of Maryland Symposium on Civic Learning and Democracy Engagement

Booth displays

- Frederick County 275 Jubilee, Frederick, MD, frederickcountymd.gov/275/Frederick-County-275th-Anniversary-Celeb
- Maryland Association of Counties summer conference, www.mdcounties.org/
- Maryland Economic Development Association fall conference, www.medamd.com/
- Maryland Municipal League summer conference, www.mdmunicipal.org/

Meetings

- Annapolis/Anne Arundel 250
- Baltimore National Heritage Area, www.explorebaltimore.org/
- Baltimore Screen Project, paintedscreens.org/
- Beach to Bay Heritage Area, www.beachesbayswaterways.org/
- Blacks of the Chesapeake, blacksofthechesapeake.wildapricot.org/
- Button Farm, www.buttonfarm.org
- Charles County Citizens Academy,
www.charlescountymd.gov/services/media-services/community-engagement
- Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area, Annapolis, MD, chesapeakecrossroads.org/
- The Civic Circle, theciviccircle.org/
- Community Foundation of Frederick County, www.frederickcountygives.org/
- Digital Maryland, www.digitalmaryland.org/
- Fort McHenry, www.nps.gov/fomc/index.htm
- Frederick County 275th Anniversary,
frederickcountymd.gov/275/Frederick-County-275th-Anniversary-Celeb
- Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, goci.maryland.gov/
- Harford 250, www.harford250.org/
- Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, Frederick, MD
<https://www.heartofthecivilwar.org/>
- Heritage Montgomery, heritagemontgomery.org/
- Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement, Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD, www.salisbury.edu/academic-offices/liberal-arts/pace/
- Joe's Movement Emporium, "Out of the Vineyard" play, Mount Rainier, MD,
www.joesmovement.org/
- Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway, www.upperbaytrails.com/
- Main Street Chestertown, Chestertown, MD, www.mainstreetchestertown.org/
- Maryland Civic Education Coalition, www.mdcivics.org/
- Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture,
africanamerican.maryland.gov/
- Maryland Ensemble Theater, Frederick MD, marylandensemble.org/
- Maryland Humanities, www.mdhumanities.org/
- Maryland Library Association, www.mdlib.org/

- Maryland Mosaic, Baltimore, MD <https://maryland400.org/>
- Maryland Municipal League, Annapolis, MD <https://www.mdmunicipal.org/>
- Maryland Philanthropy Network, www.marylandphilanthropy.org/
- Maryland State Archives, msa.maryland.gov/
- Maryland State Board of Elections, elections.maryland.gov/
- Maryland State Library Agency, msla.maryland.gov/Pages/home.aspx
- Maryland Women’s Heritage Center, mdwomensheritagecenter.org/
- National Aquarium, Baltimore, MD, aqua.org/
- National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, Inc. (W3R-US), w3r-us.org/
- Patapsco Heritage Greenway, Ellicott City, MD, www.patapsco.org/
- Peggy Stewart 250 Committee, Annapolis, MD, peggystewart250.org/index.html
- Prince George’s County Parks and Recreation, www.pgparcs.com/activities-events/history
- Rural Maryland Council, rural.maryland.gov/
- Sail Baltimore, Baltimore, MD, www.sailbaltimore.org/
- St. Mary’s County Citizens Academy, www.stmaryscountymd.gov/pio/citizensacademy/
- Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD, www.salisbury.edu/
- Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, destinationsouthernmaryland.com/
- United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, www.usna.edu/
- University of Maryland Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD, umbc.edu/
- University of Maryland, College Park, MD, umd.edu/
- University System of Maryland, www.usmd.edu/usm/academicaffairs/civic-engagement/

Tours/Site Visits

- B&O Railroad Museum, Baltimore, MD, www.borail.org/
- Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons, MD, www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/
- Calvin B. Taylor House Museum, Berlin, MD, www.taylorhousemuseum.org/
- College Park Aviation Museum, College Park, MD, www.pgparcs.com/facilities/college-park-aviation-museum
- Concord Point Lighthouse and Keeper’s House, Havre de Grace, MD, concordpointlighthouse.org/

- Creative Alliance, Baltimore, MD, creativealliance.org/
- Darnall's Chance House Museum, Upper Marlboro, MD, www.pgparcs.com/facilities/darnalls-chance-house-museum
- Delmarva Discovery Museum, Pocomoke City, MD, www.delmarvadiscoverycenter.org/
- Dinosaur Park, Laurel, MD, www.pgparcs.com/parks_trails/dinosaur-park
- Furnace Town Historic Site (Nassawango Iron Furnace), Snow Hill, MD, www.furnacetown.org/
- Germantown School Community Heritage Center, Berlin, MD, the Germantown School.org/
- Ghost Rivers, Baltimore, MD, ghostdrivers.com/
- H.L. Mencken House, Baltimore, MD, menckenhous.org/
- Harmer's Town Art Center, Havre de Grace, MD, www.harmerstown.org/
- Havre de Grace Colored School Museum and Cultural Center, Havre de Grace, MD, www.hdgcoloredschool.com/
- Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, Havre de Grace, MD, decoymuseum.com/
- Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, Havre de Grace, MD, www.hdgmaritimemuseum.org/
- Historic Jacob Tome Gas House, Port Deposit, MD, www.portdeposit.org/visitors
- Historic London Town and Gardens, Edgewater, MD, www.historiclondontown.org/
- Historic St. Mary's City, St. Mary's City, MD, www.hsmcdigshistory.org/
- Laurel Museum, Laurel, MD, www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org/
- Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, St. Leonard, MD, jefpat.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx
- Lock House Museum, Havre de Grace, MD, www.thelockhousemuseum.org/
- Lower Susquehanna Heritage Area, Darlington, MD, www.upperbaytrails.com/
- Marietta House Museum, Glenn Dale, MD, www.pgparcs.com/facilities/marietta-house-museum
- Maryland Center for History and Culture, Baltimore, MD, www.mdhistory.org/
- Montpelier House Museum, Laurel, MD, www.pgparcs.com/facilities/montpelier-house-museum
- Mount Clare Museum House, Baltimore, MD, www.mountclare.org/
- Museum of Historic Annapolis, Annapolis, MD, www.annapolis.org/

- Ocean City Life-saving Station Museum, Ocean City, MD, www.ocmuseum.org/
- Patterson Park, Pagoda and Superintendent House, Baltimore, MD, bcrcp.baltimorecity.gov/parks/patterson-park
- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Historic Park, Piney Point, MD, www.visitstmarysmd.com/directory/piney-point-lighthouse-museum/
- Ridgeley Rosenwald School, Capitol Heights, MD, www.pgparcs.com/facilities/ridgeley-rosenwald-school
- Riversdale House Museum Historic Site, Riverdale, MD, www.pgparcs.com/facilities/riversdale-house-museum-historic-site
- Rodgers Tavern Museum, Perryville, MD, www.rodgerstavern.com/
- Smith Island tour and Smith Island Cake historical marker ceremony, Ewell, MD, smithisland.org/
- Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, destinationsouthernmaryland.com/
- The Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience, Washington College, Chestertown, MD, www.washcoll.edu/learn-by-doing/starr/index.php
- Sultana Education Foundation, Chestertown, MD, sultanaeducation.org/
- Surratt House Museum, Clinton, MD, www.surrattmuseum.org/
- Thomas Stone National Historic Site, Port Tobacco, MD, www.nps.gov/thst/index.htm

Attendance at other events and places

- Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Cambridge, MD, www.fws.gov/refuge/blackwater
- Chesapeake Country Scenic Byway All-American Road brand launch
- Chestertown Tea Party, Chestertown, MD, www.chestertownteaparty.org/
- Constitution Day, Maryland Council for Civic and History Education, Annapolis, MD, marylandciviced.org/
- Eroding History documentary, www.ejji.org/film
- Frederick Douglass Honor Society, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July” speech, Easton, MD, frederickdouglasshonorsociety.com/
- Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park, Church Creek, MD, www.nps.gov/hatu/index.htm
- Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area annual meeting, Frederick, MD, www.heartofthecivilwar.org/

- Joe’s Movement Emporium, “Out of the Vineyard” play, Mount Rainier, MD, www.joesmovement.org/
- Maryland Civic Education Coalition, www.mdcivics.org/
- Maryland Economic Development Association conference, Cambridge, MD, www.medamd.com/
- Maryland State Arts Council Presenting and Touring Program, msac.org/
- Maryland Tourism Coalition reception, Ocean City, MD, mdtourism.org/
- Native American History and Culture on the Midshore panel, Oxford Community Center, Oxford, MD, oxfordcc.org/
- J. Millard Tawes Crab and Clam Bake, Crisfield, MD, www.crisfieldchamber.org/

Media interview

- WMAL radio, Washington, DC

National

- America250 state convenings, america250.org/
- American Association for State and Local History State 250th Commissions quarterly state convenings, aaslh.org/programs/250th/
- American Association for State and Local History national conference, aaslh.org/
- America 250 Connecticut, ct250.org/
- America250 Pennsylvania, www.america250pa.org/
- Delaware 250
- Institute for Library and Museum Services Funding Opportunities for the Semiquincentennial, www.ims.gov/
- Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission, va250.org/

6. Work Plan

The Executive Order directs the Commission to invite broad-based public input on the meaning, significance, and opportunities of this anniversary that will inform the development of commemoration activities, programs, and events.

With the timing of the first Commission meeting and working group meetings less than four weeks before the due date of this report, this work plan is preliminary and based on discussions at these initial meetings, with further details to follow. Additional ideas may be added, while others may drop off this list. Input is not yet available from the Communications, Fundraising, and Events Committees, which will not be meeting until January 2024.

The statewide coordination function of the Commission is a priority, with the development of a statewide network of partners essential to the success of the Commission. The launch of a statewide calendar of 250th related events would enable and accelerate coordination and awareness among partners. Commission priorities will include the legacy of the 250th, with programming focused on education, participation, and recognition.

Some of the ideas under consideration include Commission sponsored, others would be Commission supported or promoted. Events, programs, and projects are already in process throughout the state with opportunities for co-branding. Initiatives already underway or under consideration by the Commission and working groups are below.

Initiatives underway by Commission partners:

- Commissioning of a memorial to Black Patriots of the Revolutionary War (an approved project in process by the State House Trust, Department of General Services, Maryland Historical Trust, and Maryland State Arts Council)
- Creation of the online *Maryland Mosaic*, a collection of Maryland “firsts” in the nation (an initiative of the Maryland’s Four Centuries Project)
- Establishment of local, organizational, and site-based Commissions and committees which are planning programs and events throughout the state
- Identification of archaeological and architectural resources associated with the Washington-Rochambeau military encampments in Cecil and Harford counties (a project of the Maryland Historical Trust with grant funding provided by the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service)
- Publication of *Finding the Maryland 400: A Social History of the Maryland Line*, the culmination of 10 years of research by Maryland State Archives' staff and interns to discover and document the Revolutionary War service and private lives of the officers and soldiers who made up the Maryland Line, which was renowned for its bravery in the Battle of Brooklyn in August 1776

- Rehabilitation of the Hessian Barracks (a project of the Maryland School for the Deaf and the Department of General Services with grant funding provided by the Semiquincentennial Grant Program of the National Park Service)

Initiatives now under consideration by the Commission and its working groups in conjunction with partners, and requiring further study, development, and budget development, include:

- Advocating for primary and general election days to be state holidays, in conjunction with the University System of Maryland Student Council and other student organizations
- Advocating for reinstatement of the Maryland Museum Assistance Grant Program, a state program which formerly provided operating support for historical and cultural museums, in conjunction with the Maryland Museums Association
- Designing and launching a statewide campaign to recruit election judges, in conjunction with the Secretary of State and Maryland Board of Elections
- Designing and launching a Governor’s Citation program and ceremony to honor civic excellence, service, and history in the semiquincentennial year
- Designing and launching a state passport to history, in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Commerce and Maryland Tourism Coalition, to inspire Marylanders to “do history”.
- Designing and launching an Indigenous interactions project, in conjunction with the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs and tribal organizations
- Designing and launching an information literacy campaign, in conjunction with the Secretary of State’s office
- Designing and launching a Maryland 250 Fellows program, in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation
- Designing and launching Maryland’s Story is America’s Story content aggregator, elevating, collecting, and digitally sharing written and spoken stories of Maryland people, places, and traditions through development of blog posts, podcasts, social media, etc., in conjunction with partners statewide
- Designing and launching statewide innovation competitions, in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Education, the University System of Maryland, the Maryland Association of Community Colleges, the Maryland Independent College and University Association, Morgan State University, and St. Mary’s College of Maryland

- Encouraging local communities to create time capsules for the 250th to be opened in 50 years at 300th anniversary commemorations, in conjunction with historical societies and local 250th committees
- Encouraging local communities to reimagine their festivals in the semiquincentennial year, ensuring that they are inclusive, partnering with state and federal sites, and focused on democracy, history, and arts, with the goal of engaging all Marylanders including veterans and military, faith and ethnic communities and immigrants, in history, civics, and service
- Encouraging counties and municipalities throughout the state to launch local citizen academies, for civic education and engagement, in conjunction with the Maryland Association of Counties and the Maryland Municipal League
- Designing and launching a partnership program with the six minor league baseball stadiums statewide, focused on the Maryland 250 Commission themes of history, civics, and service
- Joining and participating in the Maryland Civic Education Coalition
- Participating in existing events statewide, including but not limited to Constitution Day, the National Civics Bee, and History Day
- Partnering on planned 250th initiatives with organizations throughout the state, including but not limited to Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution
- Partnering with the Secretary of State, the League of Women Voters, the Maryland Board of Elections, and other organizations, to help Maryland become the state that votes, through voter registration drives and Get Out the Vote initiatives
- Partnering with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to ensure the rehabilitation and reinterpretation of their properties related to the 250th
- Partnering with the Maryland State Arts Council to ensure that the arts, both visual and performing, are included in the 250th
- Prioritizing state funding for projects aligned with the Maryland 250 Executive Order, requesting state agencies prioritize existing financial assistance programs to support activities related to the goals of the Maryland 250 Commission
- Studying the feasibility of a statewide Maryland 250 civics councils for youth, college students, and scholars, in partnership with the Maryland Department of Education, the University System of Maryland, the Maryland Association of Community Colleges, the Maryland Independent College and University Association, Morgan State University, and St. Mary's College of Maryland

- Studying the feasibility of Maryland 250 traveling exhibits or a traveling museum, with the Maryland 250 Commission history working group

7. Funding

With the Commission holding its first meeting less than four weeks prior to the due date of this report and with budget planning to follow program planning, we are providing a report on funding and expenses to date, with a budget plan to follow. Funding provided for the use of the previous Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission is now for the use of the Maryland 250 Commission. The Director’s salary and benefits are not paid with Commission funds.

In addition to state funding, the Executive Order authorizes the Commission to solicit, accept, use, and dispose of donations, funds, and gifts in conformance with the Public Ethics Law, to support its goals and purposes. The development of a fundraising plan will follow program planning.

Funding through December 2023

\$250,000	FY 2023 State funding (for the Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission)
\$250,000	FY 2024 State funding
\$10,000	An agreement with America250 was signed in September 2021 on behalf of the Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission, and brought with it a grant of \$10,000. The Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission transferred these funds to Preservation Maryland to hold for the future use of the Commission.
\$510,000	Total

Estimated expenses through December 2023

\$5,100	Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission incurred expenses in 2022 (\$1,800 for catering an event at the Maryland Center for History and Culture and \$3,300 for an exhibit and expenses at the Maryland Association of Counties conference)
\$35,000	Procurement of branding and website design services (June 2023)
\$4,000	Maryland 250 intern
\$4,000	Exhibit and expenses to represent the Commission at the 2023 Maryland Municipal League conference and Maryland Association of Counties conference
\$3,000	Expenses to represent the Commission at the state 250 convening at the 2023 American Association for State and Local History annual conference
\$1,500	Miscellaneous in-state travel expenses and mileage
\$52,600	Total estimated expenses through December 2023

Appendices

Executive Order 01.01.2023.10 dated July 3, 3-23

Bylaws of the Maryland 250 Commission

Guidelines and Procedures for Public Comment of the Maryland 250 Commission



The State of Maryland
Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER

01.01.2023.10

(Rescinds Executive Order 01.01.2021.03)

Maryland 250 Commission

- WHEREAS, The 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America will occur on July 4, 2026;
- WHEREAS, It is in the interest of the State to develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive observance of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the nation that recognizes all Marylanders' struggle for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness before, during and after the Revolution.
- WHEREAS, Maryland made significant contributions to the Revolutionary War by supplying material, resources, ships and soldiers;
- WHEREAS, This anniversary invites us to reflect on the ongoing evolution of American democracy, Maryland's integral role in that process, and the impact of Marylanders on the nation's past, present, and future;
- WHEREAS, Stories of revolution exist in all periods of time and in all places and sectors of our State, demonstrating Marylanders' boundless capacity for innovation, growth and development;
- WHEREAS, By celebrating our successes and reckoning with our setbacks, we will deepen public understanding of our complex history, strengthen public appreciation for service to our country, and inspire public engagement in civic life;
- WHEREAS, Inclusive conversations about our shared past allow us to discuss who we are today and who we want to be in the future so that we may invigorate and sustain the United States of America for the benefit of future generations, ensuring that no one is left behind.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY RESCIND EXECUTIVE ORDER 01.01.2021.03 AND PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

I. There is a Maryland 250 Commission (the "Commission").

II. Membership.

A. The Commission shall consist of the following members:

1. The Lieutenant Governor;
2. The Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee;
3. The Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;
4. The Secretary of General Services, or the Secretary's designee;
5. The Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
6. The Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee;
7. The Secretary of Service and Civic Innovation, or the Secretary's designee;
8. The Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee;
9. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary's designee;
10. The State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee;
11. The State Archivist, or the Archivist's designee;
12. The State Historic Preservation Officer, or the Officer's designee;
13. The Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, or the Executive Director's designee;
14. The Executive Director, Maryland State Arts Council, or the Executive Director's designee;
15. The Administrative Director of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, or the Administrative Director's designee;
16. The Executive Director of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, or the Executive Director's designee;
17. The Director of the Maryland Commission for Women, or the Director's designee; and
18. Up to five members of the general public appointed by the Governor.

B. The following are invited to be, and shall be upon acceptance, members of the Commission:

1. Two members appointed by the President of the Maryland Senate;
2. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates;
3. The Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Counties, or Executive Director's designee;

4. The Executive Director of the Maryland Municipal League, or Executive Director's designee; and
 5. Up to three members from the nonprofit community, selected from the Maryland Center for History and Culture, the Maryland Humanities Council, Preservation Maryland, or other similar organizations.
 - C. The Governor shall appoint the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Commission.
 - D. Members serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
- III. The Maryland Department of Planning shall provide the Commission with resources and staff as feasible and necessary for administering and facilitating the work of the Commission.
- IV. Members of the Commission may not receive any compensation for their services but may be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of duties in accordance with the State Standard Travel Regulations and as provided in the State budget.
- V. The Commission shall:
 - A. Adopt administrative and financial procedures for the transaction of business, including, but not limited to, the establishment of advisory groups, committees, or working groups that address the themes of history, service, and civics.
 - B. Hold at a minimum semi-annual meetings,
 1. At times and places to be determined by the Chair;
 2. That are conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act; and
 3. That allow for remote meetings and electronic voting.
 - C. Coordinate, engage, and liaise with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, and other local, county, and state commissions, and private and public partner organizations.
 - D. Serve as the State of Maryland's official representative for the Semiquincentennial, and all related activities, communications, and events.
 - E. Solicit, accept, use and dispose of donations, funds and gifts in conformance with the Public Ethics Law, to support the goals and purposes of the Commission.

- F. Invite broad-based public input on the meaning, significance, and opportunities of this anniversary that will inform development of commemoration activities, programs, and events.
- G. Acknowledge that the confiscation of Indigenous land and displacement of Indigenous people is central to the United States' origin story and recognize the persistence and contributions of these communities today.
- H. Honor the legacy of both free and enslaved African Americans in the making of Maryland and the nation, whose untold stories of heroism and perseverance are critical to the understanding of our shared past and present.
- I. Support the identification and enhancement of cultural assets that tell the story of who we are as Marylanders and promote place-based visitor experiences for residents and visitors alike.
- J. Engage youth, new Americans, and lifelong learners in programs designed to encourage the search for meaning behind America and deepen engagement in civic life.
- K. Celebrate service to country and community, and create opportunities that promote social responsibility, compassion and understanding that will unite and strengthen Maryland's diverse communities for the benefit of all.

VI. The Commission shall further:

- A. Submit an Action Plan to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2023, that outlines the Commission's goals, mission, and recommendations; and
- B. Produce by December 31 of each year an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly that includes an update on the Action Plan, implementation benchmarks, related deadlines and schedules, and an accounting and enumeration of all contracts, donations, and gifts.

VII. The Commission shall terminate on December 31, 2027.

VIII. This Executive Order shall be implemented in a manner that is consistent with all applicable statutes and regulations. Nothing in this Executive Order shall operate to contravene any State or federal law or to affect the State's receipt of federal funding.

IX. If any provision of this Executive Order or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions or applications of the Executive Order shall remain in effect to the extent possible without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Executive Order are severable.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, in the City of Annapolis, this 3 rd day of July, 2023.



Wes Moore
Governor

ATTEST:

Susan C. Lee
Secretary of State

BYLAWS OF THE MARYLAND 250 COMMISSION

Unanimously adopted by the Maryland 250 Commission on December 4, 2023

These Bylaws of the Maryland 250 Commission, hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”, are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 01.01.2023.10 by which the Commission was created (the “Executive Order”), as may be amended.

ARTICLE I - Purpose

The purpose of the Commission is to develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive observance of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the nation that recognizes all Marylanders’ struggle for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness before, during, and after the Revolution. The Commission shall terminate on December 31, 2027.

ARTICLE II - Membership

Section 1. Appointment; Term. The Commission’s membership of up to 33 Members is established by Executive Order. A Member shall continue to serve until the termination of the Commission, or until such time as the Governor appoints a successor for the Member.

A. Members of the Commission shall consist of the following:

1. The Lieutenant Governor;
2. The Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee;
3. The Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;
4. The Secretary of General Services, or the Secretary's designee;
5. The Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
6. The Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee;
7. The Secretary of Service and Civic Innovation, or the Secretary’s designee;
8. The Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee;
9. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary's designee;
10. The State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee;
11. The State Archivist, or the Archivist's designee;
12. The State Historic Preservation Officer, or the Officer's designee;
13. The Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, or the Executive Director's designee;
14. The Executive Director of the Maryland State Arts Council, or the Executive Director's designee;
15. The Administrative Director of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, or the Administrative Director’s designee;
16. The Executive Director of the Maryland Commission on African American History

and Culture, or the Executive Director's designee;

17. The Director of the Maryland Commission for Women, or the Director's designee; and

18. Up to five (5) members of the general public appointed by the Governor.

B. The following are invited to be, and shall be upon acceptance, members of the Commission:

1. Two (2) members appointed by the President of the Maryland Senate;
2. Two (2) members appointed by the Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates;
3. The Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Counties, or the Executive Director's designee;
4. The Executive Director of the Maryland Municipal League, or the Executive Director's designee;
5. Up to three (3) members from the nonprofit community, selected from the Maryland Center for History and Culture, the Maryland Humanities Council, Preservation Maryland, or other similar organizations.

C. The Governor shall appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission.

D. Members appointed by the Governor shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

Section. 2 Non-Voting Members. If the Members appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates concurrently serve in the Senate or the House, and on the Commission, those Members shall then serve as non-voting members on the Commission (the "Non-Voting Members").

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

Section 4. Attendance; Removal. If a Member fails to attend at least 50 percent of the meetings of the Commission during any twelve (12) consecutive months, the Member shall be considered to have resigned and the Chair shall so notify the Member, the Commission and the organization the Member represents at or before the next succeeding regular meeting following such nonattendance. If the Member has been unable to attend the required number of meetings, the Member may request that the Chair waive the Member's resignation for reasons made public and deemed satisfactory by the Chair. The Governor may remove a Member, other than an ex officio Member, for incompetence, misconduct, or failure to perform the Member's duties. The Commission may recommend to the Governor the removal of a Member for any of these reasons.

Section 5. Duties of Commission; Staff. The duties of the Commission are established in Sections V and VI of the Executive Order. The Maryland Department of Planning shall provide the Commission with resources and staff as feasible and necessary for administering and facilitating the work of the Commission.

Section 6. Conflict of Interest.

- A. Members of the Commission and any non-Commission members serving on committees shall comply with the Maryland Public Ethics Law contained in Title 5, General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.
- B. A Member shall not concurrently (i) serve on the Commission, and (ii) be employed by, serve as a member of the board of directors of, or serve on any other governing or oversight body of, an entity doing business with the Commission.

ARTICLE III - Meetings

Section 1. Time and Place. The Commission shall meet at least semi-annually at a time and place determined by the Chair. Meetings may be conducted in person, through telephone conference calls, or online video conference platforms, provided that each participant can communicate in real time with all other participants.

Section 2. Open Meetings. All meetings of the Commission shall be conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Section 3. Notice; Waiver. Notice of all meetings of the Commission, stating the time, date, and place, shall be provided to each Member by email not less than seven (7) days prior to the holding thereof, except that meetings may be held on shorter notice if a simple majority of the Members shall agree and that reasonable notice of a committee meeting shall be given prior to the meeting. Any Member may waive notice for any meeting by attending the meeting or by filing with the Chair a written waiver of the meeting notice either before or after the meeting.

Section 4. Public Notice. Notice of all meetings of the Commission, stating the time, date, and place, shall be provided to the public by posting on the Commission website. Meeting agendas will be posted in this same location when the meeting notice is posted or not less than 24 hours before the meeting.

Section 5. Quorum. The majority of the Members then serving on the Commission, not including the Non-Voting Members, constitutes a quorum at any meeting for the conduct of the business of the Commission. A Member who attends a meeting by conference call, online video conference platform, or other means by which the Member can communicate in real time with all other participants, shall be counted towards a quorum.

Section 6. Voting at a Meeting. A proposed action of the Commission shall be made by resolution. The Non-Voting Members shall have no right to vote on any matter brought before the Commission, and shall serve in an advisory capacity only. All other Members present and counted towards a quorum at a meeting of the Commission shall be entitled to one vote on a resolution. There shall be no voting by proxy. Voting may be conducted via telephone conference calls or online video conference platforms as provided in Section 1 above. The minutes of Commission meetings shall record the vote of each Member on each action.

Section 7. Voting by Electronic Mail Without a Meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting may be taken without a meeting. The Commission will appoint from staff a liaison to administer votes taken by email without a meeting (the "Director"). The Director shall deliver a resolution setting forth the action to be taken by the Commission by an email

addressed to the full Commission. The Members shall each vote on the resolution by email response addressed to the Director. The Director shall tally the email votes, and forward the tally, along with all the email votes, to the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall confirm the tally, and report the result of the vote to the Chair. The Chair shall report the tally to the Commission no later than one day following the email voting deadline stated in the Director's email. A resolution made by email vote will pass only upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the Members then serving on the Commission, not including the Non-Voting Members. The resolution, the result of the email vote, and the deadline for the email vote shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Commission that follows an email vote.

Section 8. Duties of the Chair. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Commission and shall have other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Commission or as otherwise prescribed by law or these Bylaws.

Section 9. Duties of the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall have such duties as delegated by the Chair. At the request, absence, or disability of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall perform all the duties, and when so acting shall have all the powers of the Chair.

Section 10. Conduct of Meetings. Meetings of the Commission shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws, or any rules which the Members may adopt.

Section 11. Books and Records. The Commission shall keep at its principal office correct and complete books and records of account, activities, and transactions of the Commission, minutes of the proceedings of the Members and any committee of the Commission, and a current list of the Members and their business addresses. Any of the books, records, and minutes of the Commission may be in written form or in any other form capable of being converted into written form within a reasonable time.

ARTICLE IV - Committees, Advisory Groups, or Working Groups

Section 1. General. The Chair may create committees, advisory groups, or working groups, hereinafter referred to as "Committees", as needed to support its work. Committees shall meet at times as is deemed necessary by the Chair or the majority of the Commission. The Commission shall have an Executive Committee.

Section 2. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have at least three (3) members consisting of the Chair, the Vice Chair, and one or more members to be appointed by the Chair. The terms of the Executive Committee members shall be concurrent with the term of the Chair. The Chair shall act as chair of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have such duties and perform such functions as may be authorized by the Commission in the administration of the affairs of the Commission. It shall have the express authority to act on behalf of the Commission when such action is required prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Commission, or when a quorum of the Commission cannot be formed. The Executive Committee shall maintain a record, or minutes, of its proceedings and shall report regularly to the Commission.

Section 3. Appointment. Committee members shall be appointed by the Chair, and are not required to be members of the Commission in order to serve on a committee, with the exception of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Quorum; Voting. A majority of the members of a committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of committee business. The act of a majority of those present at a committee meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the committee. The members of a committee may conduct any meeting and vote via telephone conference call or an online video conference platform in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws.

Section 5. Committee Minutes. Each committee shall keep minutes of its meetings, may establish rules of procedure for its business, and shall present a report at the next scheduled meeting of the Commission. Copies of all committee correspondence and records shall be filed with the Chair and Director for inclusion in the Commission's records.

ARTICLE V – Finances

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Commission shall begin on July 1 and end on June 30 of the year following.

Section 2. Gifts. The Commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of donations, funds, and gifts in conformance with the Public Ethics Law, to support the goals and purposes of the Commission.

Section 3. Members Compensation. Members of the Commission may not receive any compensation for their services, but may be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of duties in accordance with the State Standard Travel Regulations and as provided in the State budget.

ARTICLE VI - Amendments of Bylaws

Section 1. Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the Commission. Proposed amendments must be submitted in advance and sent out with the regular Commission meeting announcement.

Section 2. Limitation. These Bylaws shall not be amended in a way that would make the Bylaws in any way inconsistent with the Executive Order. Any such amendment so adopted shall have no force or affect.

GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT OF THE MARYLAND 250 COMMISSION

Unanimously adopted by the Maryland 250 Commission on December 4, 2023

Meetings of the Maryland 250 Commission are open to the public. As part of its general operating procedures, the Commission offers an opportunity for the public to express their views at each meeting during a public comment period.

1. Scope of comments: Speakers are permitted to comment on any item relevant to the business of the Maryland 250 Commission. Public comment will take place at the end of each meeting. Comments are to be directed to the Commission as a whole. The public comment period is intended to provide an opportunity for the Commission to hear from members of the public. Commission members may refer matters that arise to the Chair for investigation and/or follow up, however, the Board will not provide immediate responses to the public comments presented.

2. Time limitation on comments: The maximum speaking time afforded to any individual speaking on any item of business relevant to the Maryland 250 Commission will be 3 minutes, unless otherwise indicated by the Chair. The Chair will moderate the comment period.

3. Registration procedures for public comment: Any person wishing to make comments during the public comment period shall sign a speakers list prior to the commencement of the meeting. The speakers list will be available at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the meeting, and it will be closed once the meeting begins. Persons who have not signed up prior to the start of the meeting will not be permitted to provide public comment. Speakers shall identify themselves in writing on the speakers list by providing their name, contact information, organizational affiliation (if any), and the subject matter and/or agenda item to which their comments pertain. Public comments will be made in the order in which individuals sign up.