

Press Release

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Hogan Administration Announces Nearly \$5 Million in Grants to be Awarded to Heritage Projects by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority

Increased Funding by Hogan Administration Allows for Record Number of Grants to be Awarded to Heritage Tourism Sites and Organizations Across Maryland

(July 13, 2018) Crownsville, MD – The Hogan administration announced today that 114 matching grants totaling nearly \$5 million were awarded to Maryland non-profits, local jurisdictions, and other heritage tourism organizations by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA). These grant funds support heritage tourism projects and activities that draw visitors and increase economic development and tourism-related job creation throughout Maryland.

“Heritage tourism fosters sustainable economic development and job creation, while making our communities better places to live and work,” said Governor Larry Hogan. “Our administration is proud that this additional funding will allow for a record number of projects to move forward and congratulate Maryland’s Heritage Areas and their tourism partners for their support in changing Maryland for the better.”

For the past three years, approximately \$3 million was available annually to fund these projects. The Hogan administration nearly doubled the funding to \$5 million in FY 2019, allowing for a record number of grants to be awarded.

Organizations receiving grant awards include museums, parks, educational organizations, and other entities that steward and celebrate the unique cultural and natural resources located within one of Maryland’s 13 Heritage Areas.

“These Heritage Areas grants encourage private investment in a tourism-related economy that is as unique as the geography of our state,” said Planning Secretary Rob McCord. “The Heritage Areas continue to bring an appreciation of Maryland’s long history and rich culture to people both inside and outside of our state.”

MHAA oversees Maryland's system of locally-administered, state-certified Heritage Areas. Today, all Maryland counties and Baltimore City have at least part of a state-certified Heritage Area within their boundaries. Heritage Areas foster broad public-private partnerships to preserve and enhance the best of Maryland's historic sites and towns, unspoiled natural landscapes and enduring traditions. These tangible links to both place and past encourage residents to recognize they have a special piece of the American story to treasure and share with others, and that in doing so they are contributing to the economic well-being of Maryland's communities.

Tourism is the 10th largest private sector employer in Maryland, providing more than 146,000 jobs and nearly \$17.3 billion of visitors' spending annually. Maryland's Heritage Areas contribute by saving and enhancing the places that attract heritage tourists - people who focus their travels on historic sites, museums, cultural activities, or the natural beauty of Maryland's Atlantic and Chesapeake Bay coastal areas and unspoiled scenery of Western Maryland. Studies show heritage tourists tend to stay longer and spend more money than other categories of tourists.

The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority is an independent unit in the Executive Branch of government administered by the Maryland Department of Planning. Since its creation in 1996, MHAA has awarded more than \$36 million dollars in grants and helped to leverage more than \$1.1 billion in non-state funding for heritage tourism projects and activities.

To learn more about the Maryland Heritage Areas Program and the state's certified Heritage Areas, please visit mht.maryland.gov/heritageareas.shtml.

For a full list of the Grant awardees, click here

planning.maryland.gov/Documents/Press/2018-0712-FY2019-MHAA-Grantees.pdf

Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grant Awards for Fiscal Year 2019

Summary:

Total Requested Funds - \$7,277,876

Funds Awarded - \$4,998,692

Total Match Leveraged - \$9,714,664

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