

Currents

The Newsletter of the Four Rivers Heritage Area Issue No. 28 Summer 2015

MARYLAND HERITAGE AREAS AUTHORITY GRANTS \$276,737 TO LOCAL HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS

On July 9, 2015, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) announced 52 matching grants totaling more than \$2.6 million to Maryland non-profits, local jurisdictions, and other heritage tourism organizations including museums, historic preservation, natural resources, cultural and educational organizations for projects involving historic preservation, natural resource protection, and educational programs in 13 designated Heritage Areas.

These grant funds support heritage tourism projects and activities that expand economic development and tourism-related job creation in 21 counties and the city of Baltimore. Grants to projects in the Annapolis, London Town and South County (Four Rivers) Heritage Area include:

- Capital grant for the Renovation of 1 Martin Street: Construction Phase,



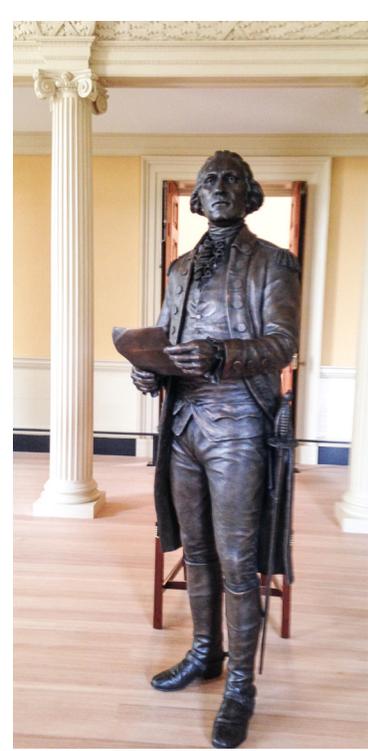
Historic Annapolis, Inc., Annapolis, MD, \$90,000. The 1 Martin Street facility will be the organization's main venue for meetings, event rentals and educational activities, which will provide valuable public programming space and strengthen Historic Annapolis's organizational capacity and financial sustainability.

- Capital grant for Accessibility Planning in the Historic Area, London Town Foundation, Edgewater, MD, \$5,000. Planning will determine the best methods for making the historic area more user-friendly while respecting the site's unique historic character. Improving access will enable the London Town Foundation to bring more visitation to Historic London Town and Gardens, to become more sustainable, and serve as a model for other local heritage sites to improve their own accessibility.

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Restored "Old Senate Chamber" Opens in State House

Visitors to the Maryland State House can now enjoy the newly-renovated Old Senate Chamber and its surrounding rooms (pictured left). The renovations were completed after seven years of planning and research. The Old Senate Chamber was the site of many important historical events including the ratification of the Treaty of Paris and the resignation of George Washington as Commander-in-chief on December 23, 1783. The Chamber has been restored to its approximate appearance in 1783-1784. The exhibits in the adjoining Senate Committee Room and Stairwell Room greatly improve the visitor's experience and include an introductory video and interactive displays. Visit one of the most historically important places in Annapolis and the nation. The State House is open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day except Christmas and New Years Day. Admission is free to the public; please present a photo ID for entrance.



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MHAA GRANTS, CONTINUED:

• Capital grant for Metal Stairwell Window Restoration, Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, Inc., Annapolis, MD, \$81,737. This project will fund the restoration of the 1932 building's original, four metal windows in the stairwells, used by thousands of visitors each year. The large metal windows require repairs and complete restoration to ensure their integrity for many years to come.

In addition, Four Rivers received a Management grant for \$100,000. The Management grant supports activities such as the annual mini-grants program, the annual heritage awards, regional interpreter training, networking meetings for site directors and managers, educational workshops, online resources, and new collaborative initiatives.

In all, a total of \$276,737 in MHAA funding was awarded to the Four Rivers Heritage Area for FY16, for projects totaling \$2,093,474.

The grant information for FY17 will be announced in early January 2016. It is not too early to start planning your next project now! The "Intent to Apply" form will be due at the end of January. Please call our office at 410-222-1805 to discuss your potential project.

Galesville Partnerships Create Success



This summer, the Galesville Community Center partnered with the Maryland Humanities Council and other partners to host "Hometown Teams: How Sports Shaped America," a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street Program. The exhibition was augmented by locally-created exhibits about Galesville's own "Hot Sox" baseball team and its history as a Rosenwald school, and ran from July 25 to September 12.

Gertrude Makell, President of the Galesville Community Center and member of the Four Rivers Board of Directors, gave remarks at the opening event, thanking the many people and organizations who came together to make the exhibition and related events possible, including several reunion "Hot Sox" games. During its run, the Galesville Community Center welcomed hundreds of visitors, many of whom came from out of state. Funding for the multi-phase project came from the Maryland Humanities Council, Four Rivers Heritage Area, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, AA County Planning & Zoning Cultural Resources Division, and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Congratulations to all on this innovative and collaborative success!

Lunch Time is a Time to Learn



The Hammond-Harwood House and the Maryland State Archives both began innovative lunch-time public programming this year. Thanks to a grant from the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County, the Hammond-Harwood House is offering “Brown Bag Lunch Tours” through June 2016.

The tours are offered most Tuesdays and they last about twenty minutes. Tours are on a different topic each week, ranging from decorative arts to social history and architecture, and are presented by Hammond-Harwood House Curator and Assistant Director, Rachel Lovett.

The Maryland State Archives also launched a popular program, “Lunch & Learn: An MSA Brown Bag Lunch Series.” The brown bag lunch series was created to provide staff members and the public further educational programming. The 2015 Lunch & Learn series has been extremely successful for the Archives and are free to the public. They encourage you to bring your lunch and join the conversation!

Lunch time lectures and tours are a great resource for the heritage area and make both the Hammond-Harwood House and the State Archives more accessible to the general public. The abbreviated tours offered at the HHH give visitors a glimpse of their wonderful decorative and fine arts collection and focus on a single topic from week to week. The MSA is able to highlight staff members’ expertise and also focus on a different topic each month. You can find a list of upcoming dates for these programs at www.hammondharwoodhouse.org and www.msa.maryland.gov.

October is for Heritage!

Fall is a wonderful time in the Four Rivers Heritage Area. There are many great activities for the whole family. Mark your calendar now for these upcoming October events and programs in the heritage area! To see a complete listing, visit our online calendar at www.fourriversheritage.org. *Logo created by Jason Vaughan | vaughanmedia.com*

- Historic Hauntings Tours - Fridays and Saturdays in October, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. -- see www.annapolistours.com
- Eastport’s Annual Oktoberfest - Saturday, October 3, noon to 8:00 p.m. -- see www.oktoberfestEDC.com
- First Sunday Arts Festival - Sunday, October 4, noon to 5:00 p.m., www.firstsundayarts.com
- Anne Arundel County’s Ninth Annual Ag Day at Y Worry Farm -- Sunday, October 4, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., www.aedc.org
- 25th Annual Art @ the Park - Saturday, October 17, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., www.fqwp.org
- Captain Avery Museum Oyster Festival - Sunday, October 18, 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., www.captainaverymuseum.org
- 2015 Lifeline 100 Bike Ride - Sunday, October 18, www.bikeaaa.org/lifeline-100/
- Historic Annapolis Preservation Awards and Annual Meeting - Wednesday, October 21, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., www.annapolis.org
- Pumpkin Walk - Friday, October 23, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., www.hammondharwoodhouse.org
- U.S. Naval Academy Halloween/All Saints’ Day Concert - Friday-Saturday, October 30-31, 8:00 p.m. www.usna.edu/Music/



Four Rivers Workshops Help Partners Plan for the Future

Each year, Four Rivers sponsors a variety of workshops with differing aims. Some are aimed at honing the skills of the interpreters, guides and other front-line personnel at our sites; those that are planned by our Education Committee are usually geared toward helping our sites plan “What To Do When...” (the name of the occasional series); and some are planned to help our partners plan for a sustainable future.

On Thursday, June 18, at the Captain Avery Museum in Shady Side, Four Rivers presented a workshop for Board members, staff, and volunteers from our Four Rivers partner sites and organizations about Planned Giving, featuring a presentation by Patricia Bender, Director of Planned Giving at the United States Naval Academy Foundation (pictured), followed by a helpful question-and-answer session with participants.

Planned giving, also known as gift planning, is a method of supporting non-profits and charities that enables philanthropic individuals or donors to make larger gifts than they could make from their income. Ms. Bender has over twenty years of experience in gift planning for higher education and social service organizations.

Bender emphasized that it is helpful for nonprofit organizations to let donors know that planned giving is an

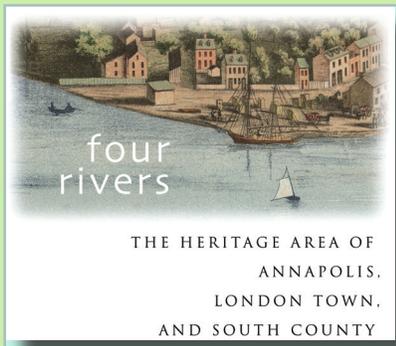
option they can consider when planning their estates.

Interested in learning more? Visit the Four Rivers website’s “Workshop Resources” page.

More Four Rivers workshops are planned for the 2015-2016 season, including “Telling Your Non-Profit Story Through Video,” with

a presentation by Darren Heater, Creative Director of DMH Visual Productions. Mr. Heater will discuss strategies for making an effective video about your non-profit organization, and he will share examples and offer tips on best practices. The workshop will take place on Thursday, October 1, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at Historic London Town and Gardens, 839 Londontown Road, in Edgewater.

A workshop on Social Media Marketing will feature Ben Isenberg of the Symmetry Group, and will take place on November 12th at 3:00 p.m. in the John C. Astle Conference Room at the AAACCVB Visitors Center on West Street in Annapolis. For these upcoming workshops, please contact the Four Rivers office at 410-222-1805 for more information or to reserve your spot!



Four Rivers is a 501(c)3, charitable non-profit organization. Your contribution supports the heritage sites and organizations that make a difference to our region’s quality of life; please consider a year-end or planned gift.

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