

Currents

The newsletter of the Four Rivers Heritage Area

ANNAPOLIS

LONDON TOWN

SOUTH COUNTY

Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Matching Grants Increase in FY2019

In July, the Four Rivers Heritage Area announced new grants from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) to local Annapolis and Anne Arundel County non-profit organizations. The nine local grants are among 114 matching grants totaling nearly \$5 million that were awarded to Maryland non-profits, local jurisdictions and other heritage tourism organizations including museums, and historic preservation, natural resources, cultural, and educational organizations. In FY19, the Hogan administration substantially increased its support of the program, allowing for a record number of grants to be awarded. The grant funds from MHAA, which are all fully matched one-to-one or more, support heritage tourism projects, historic preservation, natural resource protection, and educational programs and activities that expand economic development and tourism-related job creation. The grants total \$427,000 to the Four Rivers Heritage Area for FY19, for projects totaling more than \$1,116,800.



Annapolis Maritime Museum, Inc.

A Non-Capital grant was awarded to Annapolis Maritime Museum (AMM) for the final planning phase for a new permanent exhibit at the Museum in the amount of \$50,000. The new exhibit capitalizes on the museum's multi-disciplinary mission to educate youth and adults about the Annapolis area's rich maritime heritage and ecology of the Chesapeake Bay. The grant will also support the Museum's robust education program with new lesson plans and programming materials.

CAPTAIN AVERY MUSEUM

Captain Avery Museum

A Capital grant was awarded to Captain Avery Museum in Shady Side for the project, "Smart, Safe Public Parking" in the amount of \$22,000. This 2-part project will rehabilitate, restore and improve access to the museum. Parking lots will be expanded and upgraded to be more environmentally-friendly and provide safer access to the accessible entrance to the museum, and a bike rack will be added.



HAMMOND-HARWOOD HOUSE • 1774

Hammond-Harwood House Association, Inc.

A Non-Capital grant was awarded to Hammond-Harwood House for the project, "Creating 18th-Century Curb Appeal - A Cultural Landscape Study" in the amount of \$10,000. A cultural landscape study will provide an accurate basis for the development of a new landscape plan for the front, "curb-side" presentation of the historic house, balancing historic accuracy with modern usage.



Historic Annapolis, Inc.

A Capital grant was awarded to Historic Annapolis for "Capital Masonry Repairs at 99 Main Street" in the amount of \$25,000. Funding will support masonry repairs and structural protection and rehabilitation of the historic building in preparation for public exhibits to be installed in the coming year.

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THE HERITAGE AREA OF
ANNAPOLIS,
LONDON TOWN,
AND SOUTH COUNTY

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Arts Organizations Combine Art with Heritage in New Mural Projects

New murals are appearing all over town, many depicting local heritage with energy, color, and vibrant design. Much of the recent work is the result of projects by Future History Now (FHN). FHN is a non-profit organization committed to creating collaborative art

projects with kids facing adversity in underserved communities, founded by artists Jeff Huntington and Julia Gibb. Their projects aim to promote increased use of public spaces; provide opportunities for community members to learn the importance of collabora-

tion; and work to unite communities through art projects that promote city pride. Local art production company Art at Large, working with with ArtWalk, a local non-profit organization, has also created recent murals and other public art projects downtown, showcasing local artists while illustrating significant historical stories of Annapolis's past and celebrating our community. See the "Murals" section of the new edition of the Art in Public Places Catalogue at: www.annapolis.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10423/Murals



Pictured: a public mural on the Whitmore Garage at Clay and Calvert Streets depicts Pearl Bailey, an American actress and singer who once worked at the Dixie Hotel (no longer extant) of the Old Fourth Ward, which once existed in the neighborhood. Collaborators are Future History Now's Jeff Huntington, with George "Lassie" Belt and children from the nearby Stanton Center.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Hogshead *By Jennie Schindler, Historic Annapolis*

Walk down one of the most charming streets in Annapolis, Pinkney Street, and you'll find at #43 one of the most unique historic attractions in town. The humble dwelling with a mysterious past is the perfect backdrop to showcase the lives of local tradespeople that lived in our fair town from the 1740s to 1760s, offering a hands-on experience of daily life in the colonial era.

You'll find a variety of costumed interpreters sharing their "stories"; these include a carpenter, printer, milliner, baker, shipbuilder, wire maker, tavern keeper, fruiterer, and a cooper. You can touch the tools they used and feel the textures of their fabrics and wares. Step back in time, as Historic Anna-



Photo courtesy Historic Annapolis

polis's knowledgeable volunteers greet you with a "Good day to you!" Hogshead is open Saturdays and Sundays, 12 – 4pm, through November. Admission is free, donations are welcome.

Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grants

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London Town Foundation

A Capital grant was awarded to London Town Foundation,

which operates Historic London Town and Gardens, for the project, "William Brown House Restoration for Improved Interpretation and Visitor Access" in the amount of \$20,000. Funding will support a two-fold project for improved interpretation focused on the building's use as a public tavern, and restoration of the building's porches, including making one of the porches ADA-accessible.



MARYLAND HALL
art for all

Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts

A Non-Capital grant was awarded to Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts (MHCA) for "Improved Public Access for the Arts - Wayfinding and Signage" in the amount of \$50,000. Funding will support design and implementation of a wayfinding system and clear directional signage for both the interior and exterior of the rehabilitated school building now used for performance spaces, rehearsal rooms, art studios, classrooms, offices, and meeting rooms.

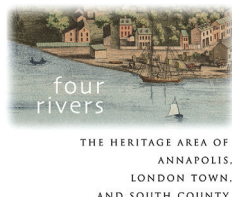


Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

A Capital grant was awarded to Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC), for the project, "Sellman House Building Envelope and Interior: Restoration of Windows, Doors and Marble Fireplace Mantles" in the amount of \$100,000. Funding will support continued restoration of the building, including numerous windows, interior and exterior doors, and fireplace mantles. The historic

structure will be appropriately secured and restored and prepared for use as a visitor orientation center.



ALTSCHA, Inc., with Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County

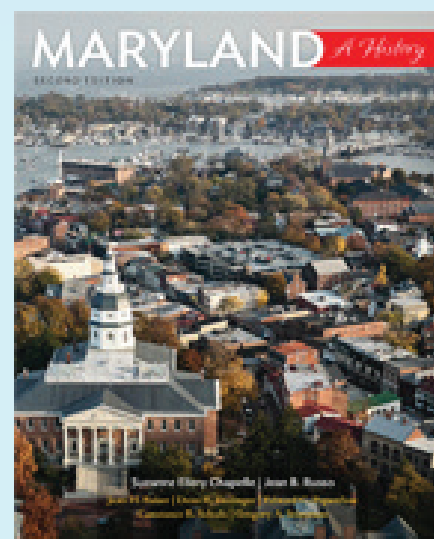
A 2-year Marketing grant was awarded to Four Rivers (ALTSCHA, Inc.) to work in partnership with Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County (VAAAC) on heritage marketing including the "Story Project," in the amount of \$50,000. Funding will support work with a strategic video marketing firm to develop 8 videos, related narratives, and targeted online marketing strategies to reach new audiences through the power of personal stories.

In addition, ALTSCHA received a Management grant for \$100,000; this 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.



Four Rivers Welcomes Jean Russo to Board of Directors

Four Rivers is pleased to welcome Jean Russo to the Board of Directors. Over more than thirty years, Dr. Russo has served the field of history and its accurate interpretation for a wide variety of audiences. Jean is a colonial Chesapeake historian who has worked for many years for both Historic Annapolis and the Maryland State Archives. The co-author of *Planting an Empire: The Early Chesapeake in British North America*, she is also co-editor of the recently-published *Maryland: A History* (2nd edition; JHU Press, 2018). Jean serves on the Historic St. Mary's City Commission and the state's National Register of Historic Places consulting committee, and has been a volunteer and/or consultant for numerous heritage sites in Anne Arundel County and the City of Baltimore. Welcome, Jean!



Pictured: Cover image of *Maryland: A History* (2nd edition; JHU Press, 2018). The book is available from Johns Hopkins University Press, using the link: <https://jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu/content/maryland>. Use the code HTWN for a 20% discount. *Maryland* is richly illustrated, with nearly two hundred photographs and illustrations (more than half of them in full color), as well as related maps, charts, and graphs. Spanning the years from the 1600s to the beginning of Governor Larry Hogan's term of office in January 2015, the second edition of the book has added content on the Native American, African American, and immigrant history of the state.

New Cartop Boating Launches Increase Access to the Water

By Lisa Arrasmith

The number of cartop boat launches in the Four Rivers Heritage Area has doubled from six to twelve since 2013, as a result of County Executive Steve Schuh's water access initiative and the efforts of local nonprofits and local activists. Two of these launches (Homeport Farm Park and Discovery Village) offer sheltered paddling options for the recreational paddler. One (Beverly Triton Beach Park) offers access to the open water of the Chesapeake Bay for more ambitious and experienced paddlers. Together, the twelve launches are a major part of "Phase One" of the Anne Arundel County Water Trail. The new launches include:

Homeport Farm Park is tucked away off Route 2 in Edgewater. Summer 2018 improvements at Homeport include a sandy kayak launch beach, a solid launch access path, a pervious turf parking lot, paved access lane, picnic tables and port-a-potties. Launch your kayak, canoe or stand-up paddleboard onto sheltered Church Creek off the South River for a casual paddle, or pop around the downstream corner at Childs Point for more sheltered paddling on Crab Creek. You can also birdwatch, walk your dog and enjoy a picnic at Homeport. Homeport Farm Park is a gated park. Get the gate lock combination from the Homeport Farm Park website: <https://www.aacounty.org/locations-and-directions/homeport-farm-park>.

Discovery Village in Shady Side is on Parrish Creek off the West River. The Discovery Village kayak launch opened in 2015. You can paddle Parrish Creek and Hopkins Cove and land at Shady Side Park (look for the ballfield lights) and the sandy beaches of Shady Cove Natural Area without venturing out onto the West River. The county also opened a brand new trailered boat ramp

at Discovery Village in August 2018. In addition to launching your cartop boat or trailered boat at Discovery Village, you can picnic under the shade trees, walk your dog, birdwatch and fish from the bulkheads on Parrish Creek.



Pictured: Discovery Village

Beverly Triton Beach Park in Mayo has a mile of sandy beach right on the Chesapeake Bay. Drop your cartop boat at the

unloading area near the beach and get ready to paddle the open Bay. This is an exposed launch. Be aware that weather on the Bay can change quickly and that you should be prepared to handle changing conditions. To the north are Mayo Beach Park, the entrance to Ramsey Lake and the South River. To the south you will find Carrs Wharf and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center on the Rhode River. In addition to its splendid beach, Beverly Triton has hundreds of wooded acres and three inland tidal ponds. You can wade, sit on a park bench and watch the Bay, hike miles of marked trails along the beach and through the woods, fish from the shores of the inland tidal ponds, birdwatch, walk your dog and enjoy a picnic.

As always at every launch, wear your PFD/life jacket, paddle with someone else and paddle sober. For more information, visit the Anne Arundel County Water Trail website: www.aacwt.org and follow the Public Water Access Committee Facebook page, @aapwac. A useful county webpage includes a map with directions and coordinates for the county's launch sites: www.aacounty.org/services-and-programs/cartop-boat-launch. Enjoy the water!

Please remember the **Four Rivers Heritage Area** (legal name ALTSCHA, Inc.) in your charitable donations. Visit our website, www.fourriversheritage.org/support for details on how you can support the organization.



THE HERITAGE AREA OF
ANNAPOLIS,
LONDON TOWN,
AND SOUTH COUNTY

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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.

