

Currents

The newsletter of the Four Rivers Heritage Area

ANNAPOLIS

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Four Rivers Reaches New Goals in 2018

In 2018, the Four Rivers Heritage Area's activities and partnerships reached new goals and explored new topics, while adding an unprecedented new level of state funding to its cumulative list of grant-funded projects. **Storytelling videos** are in the works that will be shared on YouTube and on our website, through a two-year Marketing Grant project that highlights many of our dedicated volunteers. **Mini-Grant funded projects** broke new ground in 2018, including a "poetry slam" in Downtown Annapolis, associated with an exhibit at the Mitchell Gallery at St. John's College, and the Hammond-Harwood House's new tour of their museum for Spanish-speaking visitors. A documentary by the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation included invaluable images and oral histories, revealing new details of the inspiring legacy of the teachers at the Wiley H. Bates High School. And we are especially excited that a new "Multi-Media Story Map Trail" of newly-identified **African American stories and resources** in the heritage area is in development by our partners The Lost Towns Project, working with the Anne Arundel County Cultural Resources Division, funded by a FY2017 MHAA grant.

In 2018, two new workshops were developed by members of our Education Committee, under the leadership of Committee Chair Lisa Robbins, to educate and train the interpreters and staff at our heritage partner attractions to prepare for and welcome visitors who have disabilities. In February 2018, Four Rivers presented a workshop entitled, "From My Point of View: Understanding the Visitor Experience of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities," which sparked many thoughtful discussions.



Speakers from workshop in January (L to R): Caitlin Swaim (AMM Curator), Marian Vessels (seated), Carol Benson, Meredith Peruzzi, Caleb Berkemeier, Lisa Robbins. PHOTO COURTESY JODY CHRISTIAN.

Months of subsequent planning resulted in a second workshop entitled, "Improving the Visitor Experience for Visitors with Physical Disabilities," which took place in January 2019. This second workshop achieved one of our group's long-term goals, which was to invite experts with disabilities to speak from their own experiences. Speakers included Marian Vessels, former Director of the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center; Meredith Peruzzi, Manager and Curator of the Gallaudet University Museum; and Caleb Berkemeier, Training Specialist for the Mid-Atlantic ADA Center.

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

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Four Rivers Welcomes Tim Leahy as Incoming Chair of Board of Directors

Four Rivers Heritage Area would like to thank Diane Nowak-Waring for her years of service as Chair of our Board of Directors, and to welcome our incoming Chair, Tim Leahy. Tim has worked in the Information Technology field for more than 35 years, and has been the Director of IT at St. John's College for more than 5 years. He lives in Annapolis with his wife, Eileen, and serves as Vice Chair of the Annapolis Historic Preservation Commission. Leahy first joined the Board in 2013.

Tim stated, "Over the years, I've truly



Tim Leahy

enjoyed getting to know more and more about the rich variety of heritage sites we have in our area. I'm honored to serve as Chairman of the Four Rivers Board of Directors and to work with our valuable Board members. I look forward to helping Carol as she continues to strengthen and improve our programs and support of our wonderful stakeholder organizations."

Welcome, Tim!

Thank you for Your Support!

"Thank you" to all of the sponsors, donors and active supporters of the Four Rivers Heritage Area.

In 2018, we received major grant support from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis, and benefited from a generous partnership with Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County (VAAAC). We are also grateful to the following individual donors: Patricia Barland, Carol Benson, *Linnell Bowen, Tara Clifford, Deborah Coons, Christine Dunham, *Alice Estrada, Mark Hildebrand, Richard Hughes, Ray and Jean Langston, Roberta Laynor, Rick Leader, *Tim Leahy, Betty Mack, *Gertrude Makell, *Diane Nowak-Waring, Lily Openshaw, Rhonda Pindell-Charles, *Barbara Polito, Constance Ramirez, *Elizabeth Ramirez, *Jean Russo, Emily Oland Squires, Melanie Teems, and Dorothy Whitman.

Four Rivers would also like to recognize additional partners for in-kind contributions made in 2018, including: Towne Transport, Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Zoning, Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks, Anne Arundel County Board of

Education, Chesapeake Children's Museum, Historic Annapolis, Historic London Town and Gardens, Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, Maryland State Archives, the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center, and Q Marketing and Design.

Four Rivers salutes the following individuals for their generous donations of volunteer time in 2018: Becky Benner, Cindy Borchardt, *Linnell Bowen, Eve Case, Robert Clark, Rod Cofield, Chanel Compton, Jane Cox, Alma Cropper, Kyle Dalton, Margaret Davis, Connie Del Signore, Christine Dunham, *Alice Estrada, Erik Evans, Lynne Forsman, Lori Fowler, Janice Hayes-Williams, Sabriyah Hassan, Mark Hildebrand, Ben Isenberg, Mianna Jopp, John Kille, Sarah Krizek, Roberta Laynor, Rick Leader, *Tim Leahy, Rachel Lovett, Betty Mack, Ted Mack, *Gertrude Makell, Lyndra Marshall, Roger Marshall, *Diane Nowak-Waring, Lily Openshaw, *Barbara Polito, Anastasia Poulos, Constance Ramirez, *Elizabeth Ramirez, Lisa Robbins, *Jean Russo, William Sanders III, Jennie Schindler, Susan Seifried, Lauren Silberman, Heather Skipper, Caitlin Swaim, Emily Oland Squires, Dick Waring, Bruce Weidele, Tatiana Wells, Dorothy Whitman, Debbie Wood, and Laura Wood.

**indicates current Board Member*

Grants Awarded in 2018

In 2018, the Four Rivers Heritage Area brought \$427,000 in state funding to capital and non-capital projects at heritage sites, museums, and municipalities in our area, as well as a Management Grant to Four Rivers, which includes support for our popular mini-grant program. These fully-matched grants leveraged more than \$1.2 million in total project costs overall.

Type of Grant	Recipient & Project	Category	Grant Amount	Total Project Amount
MHAA Capital Project Grants	Captain Avery Museum Smart, Safe Public Parking	Capital Improvement	\$22,000	\$44,900
	Historic Annapolis, Inc. Capital Masonry Repairs at 99 Main St	Capital Repairs	\$25,000	\$60,250
	London Town Foundation William Brown House Restoration for Improved Interpretation and Visitor Access	Capital Improvement	\$20,000	\$156,201
	Smithsonian Environmental Research Center Sellman House Building Envelope and Interior: Restoration of Windows, Doors and Marble Fireplace Mantels	Capital Restoration	\$100,000	\$207,840
MHAA Non-Capital Project Grants	Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park New Permanent Exhibit - Final Planning Phase	Education and Interpretation	\$50,000	\$124,240
	Hammond-Harwood House Association Creating 18th-Century Curb Appeal - A Cultural Landscape Study for Hammond-Harwood House	Preservation	\$10,000	\$20,000
	Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts Improved Public Access for the Arts - Wayfinding and Signage	Heritage Tourism Project and Accessibility	\$50,000	\$125,000
MHAA Marketing Grant	ALTSCHA, Inc., with Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County FY2019 Marketing Grant	Marketing	\$50,000	\$101,500
MHAA Management Grant[^]	ALTSCHA, Inc. FY2019 Management Grant	Management	\$100,000	\$212,000
Totals for State Funding in FY2019			\$427,000	\$1,051,931
Four Rivers Mini-Grant Program Grants, Fall 2018 (FY19)	Annapolis Maritime Museum Inc. Tour Season Prep for Skipjack Wilma Lee	Heritage Tourism Project	\$3,500	\$20,920
	Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc Local Cemetery Symposium, Quaker Burying Ground Tour and Research Book	Heritage Tourism Project	\$3,000	\$6,000
	Chesapeake Children's Museum, Inc. and MD Day Team MD Day Weekend Coordination & Marketing	Education and Interpretation	\$4,000	\$63,595
	Historic Annapolis, Inc. Medicinal Garden Installation and Interpretation	Heritage Tourism Project	\$3,000	\$7,950
	London Town Foundation, Inc. "The Atlantic World in a Garden Plot" Exhibit	Heritage Tourism Project	\$3,000	\$10,742
	Lost Towns Project, Inc. Reaching New Audiences: The Traveling Archaeology Experience	Heritage Tourism Project	\$2,500	\$5,000
	Northern Arundel Cultural Preservation Society, Inc. Emancipation Continues: War & Peace	Education and Interpretation	\$1,000	\$4,600
	Smithsonian Environmental Research Center Sing the Bay Fantastic! Chesapeake Bay Music Festival	Heritage Tourism Project	\$3,000	\$33,210
	Totals for Mini-Grant Funding in FY2019		\$23,000	\$152,017
	Totals for Funded Projects in 2018		\$450,000	\$1,203,948

[^]Four Rivers Management Grant includes \$10,000 redistributed to min-grant recipients

Grant-Funded Projects Completed in 2018

MHAA-Funded Projects:

Annapolis Maritime Museum, Inc.
AMM's Exhibit Planning (FY2017)

Annapolis Maritime Museum, Inc.
"White Gold: The Lure & Legacy of the Maryland Oyster" Exhibit (FY2018)

Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, Inc.
Improved Public Access for the Arts – Exterior Doors and Entranceways (FY2017)

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
Sellman House Rehabilitation for Visitor Orientation Center (FY2017)

Four Rivers Mini-Grant Funded Projects:

Annapolis Art Alliance
"Sketch Crawl 2017 Event"

Annapolis Maritime Museum, Inc.
"Annapolis Maritime Museum and Park Rebranding and Community Awareness"

Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation, Inc.
"The Year of Frederick Douglass – Banneker-Douglass Museum Program Series"

Chesapeake Children's Museum, Inc.
"Child's Play is Timeless, Programming and Mural"

Chesapeake Children's Museum, Inc. and MD Day Team
"Maryland Day Weekend Coordination and Marketing"

City of Annapolis
"Preservation 50: Strengthening the Local Economy Through Historic Preservation"

Friends of the Maryland State Archives
"Researching Black Families" Booklet Revision Project

Hammond-Harwood House
"Spanish Tour at the Hammond-Harwood House Museum"

Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation
"Bates Teachers Legacy Project and Documentary"

Historic London Town and Gardens
"Development of Nature Programming with Environmental Education"

Mitchell Gallery, St. John's College
"Poetry and Picas: Celebrating Robert Indiana, Love and Hope"

Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center
"Legacy Center Outreach: Rackcard and Bookmark"

Four Rivers Hosts Annual Awards Ceremony

Four Rivers held its Fifteenth Annual Heritage Awards on Thursday, November 8th, at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis. These awards recognize individuals, organizations, partnerships, programs and products that contribute significantly to the community by interpreting, promoting, preserving, and/or supporting our historical legacy. Four Rivers congratulates this year's award winners in the following categories:

Heritage Tourism Collaboration of the Year Award: This award recognizes an outstanding heritage tourism product created in the past year. The 2018 award goes to the Anne Arundel County Commemoration of the Year of Frederick Douglass.

Heritage Professional of the Year Award: This award recognizes an author, archaeologist, architect, artist, preservationist, or professional staff person, for significant professional contributions to heritage interpretation, stewardship, or education in the past year. This year's honoree is Caitlin Swaim, Curator of the Annapolis Maritime Museum.



Heritage Volunteer Honoree Anthony Smoot

Heritage Volunteer of the Year Award: This award recognizes an outstanding volunteer who has made a significant difference to the growth, sustainability, programming, or other essential element of a

partner organization. This year's honoree is Anthony Smoot.

Heritage Interpreter of the Year Award: This award recognizes a heritage interpreter in a partner organization, who provides outstanding factual and educational information to the public. This year's award goes to Bruce Weidele, of the Galesville Heritage Society.



Heritage Partnership Honorees, Southern High School Veterans Oral History Project with Maryland Humanities, L to R: Kyle Chaney, Caden Marshall, Jennifer Davidson, Judy Dobbs, Kathryn Feuerherd, Meghan Hryniewicz.

Heritage Partnership of the Year Award: This award recognizes an outstanding regional partnership in heritage interpretation, preservation, stewardship, and/or education. This year's award goes to the Southern High School Veterans Oral History Project, a partnership of Southern High School with Maryland Humanities and area veterans, under the direction of teacher Jennifer Davidson.

Heritage Sponsorship of the Year Award: This award recognizes a regional business or organization for outstanding sponsorship, patronage or other role in

a heritage-related project. This year's award goes to the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation for "Bates, Center of Excellence: Memories of Bates Teachers, A Legacy" Documentary Project and Patsy Baker Blackshear, Anthony A. Smoot, Vivian Gist Spencer, Sharyn Martin, Carroll Hynson, Lyndra Marshall, Christopher Haley, and Valerie Yancey.

Public/Private Partnership of the Year Award: This award recognizes an outstanding initiative undertaken through a partnership of public and private businesses or organizations to

promote local heritage. This year's award goes to Box of Rain and the Annapolis Maritime Museum with Chesapeake Light Craft, for their "Build-a-Boat" and Summer Maritime programs for youth.

Patricia Barland Leadership Award: The Leadership Award recognises an individual whose career reflects a broad vision and reach, a lasting dedication to our community, and a long career that has strengthened the depth and vitality of our local heritage. This year, the Patricia Barland Leadership Award goes to Mianna Jopp.

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.



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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.

