

# Currents

*The newsletter of the Four Rivers Heritage Area*

ANNAPOLIS  
LONDON TOWN  
SOUTH COUNTY

## Maryland Heritage Areas Grant Funding Increases in FY2020

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 eight local grants are among 109 matching grants totaling \$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. Since FY19, the Hogan administration has substantially increased its support of the program; in FY20, a record level of funding was awarded to our heritage area. The grant funds from MHAA, which are all fully matched one-to-one or more, support heritage tourism projects, historic preservation, natural resource projects, and educational programs and activities that expand economic development and tourism-related job creation. The grants to Four Rivers Heritage Area projects total \$489,500 in FY20, for projects totaling more than \$1.5 million.

### Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park, Inc.



A Non-Capital grant was awarded to Annapolis Maritime Museum & Park (AMMP) for the project, "Our Changing Waterfront, Exhibit Fabrication and Installation," in the amount of \$50,000. The project funds one section of a new permanent exhibit will focus on the cultural heritage of the Chesapeake Bay.

### Anne Arundel County, in Partnership with ALTSCHA, Inc.



A Non-Capital grant was awarded to Anne Arundel County, in partnership with ALTSCHA, Inc., for the project, "Boundary Amendment Study for

ALTSCHA," in the amount of \$50,000. The project supports staffing at the County's Office of Planning and Zoning for a study in support of a future application to amend the Certified Heritage Area boundary to include additional areas of the county (see page 4).

### Captain Avery Museum



A Capital grant was awarded to Captain Avery Museum in Shady Side for the project, "A Vision for Visitation," in the amount of \$23,000. The project creates a new entrance, reconfigures interior spaces, and supports work to develop a new vision for Museum exhibits.

### Historic Annapolis, Inc.



A Non-Capital grant was awarded to Historic Annapolis, Inc., for "History of Annapolis Exhibit: Design Documentation Completion," in the amount of \$24,000. The project supports work to expand the planned exhibit to additional spaces that will fill all levels of the building located at 99 Main Street.

### London Town Foundation



A Capital grant was awarded to London Town Foundation, which operates Historic London Town and Gardens, for the project, "Southern Side Enhancement: Horticulture Complex Design," in the amount of \$94,000. The project supports design work for a new Horticulture Complex and additional enhancements to the southern entrance area of the site.

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Boundary Amendment Study



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

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## Workshop offers perspectives for achieving diversity in museums

On September 5th, Four Rivers Heritage Area and Historic London Town and Gardens teamed up together to present a workshop inspired by the Four Rivers Education Committee. Workshop organizer Kristen Butler, Public Programs Director at Historic London Town and Gardens, invited four speakers and a moderator from diverse backgrounds and experiences to lead an extensive and thoughtful examination of the diversity reflected in our museums. Entitled, "Decolonizing Our Museums: Perspectives on Diversifying Our Narratives," the workshop featured Nastassia Parker, Crystal "Cryz" Nkechehosi Proctor, Dr. Christopher Mielke, and Daniel Sieh, with moderator Omar Eaton-Martinez. Each spoke and answered questions about their experiences working in the museum field.



Workshop Panel, Front: Crystal Proctor, Daniel Sieh, Nastassia Parker, Christopher Mielke; Back: Omar Eaton-Martinez

About our speakers: **Nastassia Parker** has been a historical character interpreter and reenactor since age 9. More recently, she has served as a museum program consultant and portrayed figures of African American history such as Ona Judge and Sally Hemings in one-woman shows and museum programming. **Crystal "Cryz" Nkechehosi Proctor** is Executive Producer of Piscataway public programming for Living the American Indian Experience and CEO of Conoy Creations, LLC, the



Piscataway Conoy education, entertainment, and catering company. Her mother, Natalie Proctor, is Tribal Chairwoman of the Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians Wild Turkey Clan. **Dr. Christopher Mielke** has researched the history of enslaved people at the Hammond-Harwood House and developed a walking tour of Annapolis based on the history of LGBTQ people there. He is an AFHA AmeriCorps Member at the Beverly Heritage Center in West Virginia. **Daniel J. Sieh** is a living historian with over 8 years of experience working with living history museums, including Colonial Williamsburg and Claude Moore Colonial Farm. He is pursuing a Master's degree at American University. **Omar Eaton-Martinez** was recently selected to be an American Alliance of Museums Diversity. Equity. Accessibility. Inclusion (DEAI) Senior Fellow, an effort which is dedicated to diversifying museum boards.

What does it mean to "decolonize a museum"? A wide range of recent museum practices serve to give more prominent voice to the diverse people represented within their collections and in the communities around them. These aim to counteract the "colonial" perspective of museum founders that discounted their authority to speak for themselves. Visit the Four Rivers website to read more, including a selection of recommended readings.

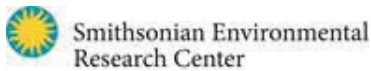
## Maryland Heritage Areas Grant Funding Increases in FY2020

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### Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts

A Capital grant was awarded to Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts (MHCA) for "East Iconic Façade Repair and Improvements," in the amount of \$100,000. The project supports rehabilitation and restoration work of key components of the historic building.



### Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

A Non-Capital grant was awarded to Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC),

for the project, "Sellman-Kirkpatrick-Howitt House: Museum Exhibit Planning – Phase I," in the amount of \$48,500. The project supports planning of exhibits to be housed in the future visitor reception and orientation spaces.

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.

## SPOTLIGHT ON: United States Naval Academy - Renovated Gatehouse Becomes "1845 Coffee" Shop

*By Jim Cheevers & Heather Skipper*

The two small buildings just inside the Naval Academy's Gate 3 at Maryland Ave. were constructed in 1876 as gatehouses. This portion of the Naval Academy grounds was part of 11 acres purchased for the expansion of the U.S. Naval Academy by the federal government in 1853 between what had been Scott Street and Hanover Street in the city of Annapolis. The purchase was made from the Randall family and others.

These are the only buildings from the 19th century remaining in the yard, and they have been used, for the most of their existence, as gatehouses for the security force assigned to the Naval Academy. This security force has included the yard master-at-arms, the U.S. Marines, the Naval Academy police force, U.S. Navy shore-patrol, and in more recent years, the Department of Defense police. From time to time, the Public Affairs Office in the nearest wing of Larson Hall has used the right-hand building for office space,



including the publication of a yard newspaper. Following renovations, the Naval Academy Business Services Division opened up "1845 Coffee" inside the historic Gate 3 building (pictured) this past May. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the coffee shop are donated to the Brigade of Midshipmen for their Morale and Welfare fund. This fund supplies support for club sports, travel, music, theater and much more. Stop on by and enjoy "The Destroyer" or another tasty treat! For more information please visit: <https://www.usnabsd.com/naval-academy-dining/1845-coffee/>.

## Four Rivers sets Sponsorship Criteria

Is your heritage organization planning an event that fosters new partnerships? If you are thinking of asking Four Rivers to be a sponsor, that's a great idea! Four Rivers has developed a new sponsorship policy and application process, which has been posted on our website. We have a limited amount of funding available each fiscal year that may be used towards the sponsorship of events planned by one or more stakeholders. We look for events that foster creative collaborations among multiple heritage-related organizations to build partnerships for the benefit of our local community.

Only non-profit organizations are eligible to apply, for an event taking place within the geographic boundaries of our heritage area. The application form can be found on the website. NOTE: Sponsorships approved by Four Rivers are usually in the \$250-\$500 range. For an event with a larger budget, please consider our Mini-Grant opportunity. Thank you!





## Four Rivers begins Boundary Amendment Study



In FY2020, Four Rivers Heritage Area has entered a new phase in the process to amend its official boundaries. The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) has a required process to do this (see below), and in July, a team from Anne Arundel County's Office of Planning and Zoning received MHAA grant funding to carry out work on a Boundary Amendment Study, in partnership with Four Rivers (see page 1). The heritage area's boundaries were originally formulated in 2000 as part of our Management Plan, on the way to becoming a Certified Heritage Area (CHA), a process which was completed in 2002.

When additional areas are added to the approved boundary of a CHA, MHAA grant funds and Heritage Area Mini-Grant funds then become available to heritage organizations and activities located within the new boundary. The Boundary Amendment Study for Four Rivers breaks new ground among Maryland heritage areas; our process will involve a county-wide review, rather than a targeted list of predetermined geographic areas. Members of Four Rivers Board and staff set criteria for the study, and frequent meetings are planned to keep the process on track. The preparation of an application for

a boundary amendment includes the following MHAA requirements:

- A GIS-based map showing proposed boundaries of the areas proposed to be added to the Certified Heritage Area (CHA);
- An inventory of known significant

historical, natural, or cultural resources in the proposed new areas that will aid in interpreting the themes of the CHA as presented in the Heritage Area Management Plan;

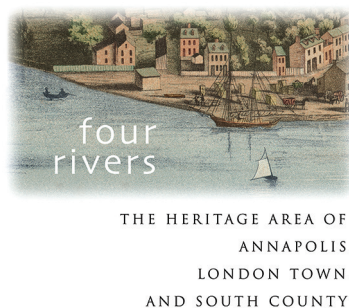
- Descriptions of the types of heritage tourism-related public and private uses that would be encouraged within the new areas;
- Information on known or contemplated projects, sites, and programs that could be supported through MHAA benefits including grants, loans, and tax credits, within the new areas under consideration.

The Board and staff of Four Rivers look forward to working with the Anne Arundel County team to review potential new partners and learn more about additional areas of the county that have heritage tourism value, or tourism potential, that may make them eligible to become new heritage area stakeholders. If you would like to learn more about the interpretive themes of our Management Plan, please visit our website under "Partner Resources."



**SAVE THE DATES**  
**MARCH 20-22, 2020**  
**FOR NEXT YEAR'S EVENT!**

Please remember the **Four Rivers Heritage Area** (legal name ALTSCHA, Inc.) in your charitable donations. Visit our website, [www.fourriversheritage.org/support](http://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.

