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**Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area Appoints C. Jane Cox as Executive Director**

**Annapolis, MD -** Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area (CCHA) is pleased to announce the appointment of C. Jane Cox as the organization's new Executive Director effective on January 1, 2025. Ms. Cox joins the CCHA after a career with Anne Arundel County, where she began working as an archaeologist and historic preservation planner in 1997. Since 2014, she has served as the Administrator of the Office of Planning and Zoning- Cultural Resources section.

Ms. Cox brings a wealth of experience in all facets of the heritage and historic preservation world, both from her professional work with the County, her time serving on the Annapolis Historic Preservation Commission, and through her pro-bono service to several nonprofits, including the Annapolis Maritime Museum and the Lost Towns Project. She is also a hands-on preservationist in her off-hours, having worked with her husband Mark, and their partners to restore the National Register listed Baltimore Harbor Lighthouse since 2006. She holds a Bachelors in Anthropology, a Masters in American Studies, and a Certificate in Historic Preservation from the University of Maryland at College Park.

"I'm excited to bring decades of experience and my vision and creativity to expand and enhance heritage sites offerings and programs across the Chesapeake Crossroads. I also look forward to helping our partners tell their unique stories in fresh and innovative ways." said Ms. Cox. She will be taking over from Dr. Carol Benson who is retiring after serving in the role since 2008. Ms. Cox went on to thank Dr. Benson, "for the legacy of excellence she leaves us, as she expertly guided the recent boundary expansion, name change, and rebranding efforts. I look forward to working with the Board to build on that strong foundation as we continue to support and lift up all of our heritage stakeholders and partners in history across the City of Annapolis and the County."

In her tenure with the County, Ms. Cox has conducted archaeological excavations at hundreds of sites, preserved dozens of buildings; developed planning documents guiding County's preservation programs and initiatives, nurtured the County's public archaeology lab and research program, and created the award-winning Heritage Signs Program, while building strong connections within local and State government. Most recently she has set the stage for a new archival and oral history repository at the Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park.

Ms. Cox was also a founding member of the Lost Towns Project, Inc. and under her volunteer leadership, secured and administered dozens of local, state and federal grants, in support of the organization's public outreach and education goals. She brings that real world experience in grants management and nonprofit governance to the CCHA in her new role.

"As a recipient of numerous MHAA and mini-grants over the years, I bring perspective as a long-time end user of Heritage Areas support, which will be invaluable as I will now be helping our partners and stakeholders in that very process, to help them achieve their own programming and funding goals."

Chairman Leahy adds "Jane's proven advocacy for historic sites, and her familiarity with the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority program, gives me confidence that she will hit the ground running, as we begin the 2025 MHAA grant cycle in just a few weeks. The Board and I warmly welcome her to the team as we embark on a new chapter in the story of the Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area."

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*Chesapeake Crossroads is a partnership among the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Anne Arundel County, the City of Annapolis, the Town of Highland Beach, and heritage-related organizations and businesses. Our mission is to advance, support, and promote the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the region. We create and support products and activities that leverage economic development through preservation and heritage tourism. Learn more at* [*www.chesapeakecrossroads.org*](http://www.chesapeakecrossroads.org)