

Report to the Governor and the General Assembly

2011 Annual Report
on the
**African American Heritage
Preservation Program**



San Domingo Rosenwald School, Wicomico County

**Maryland Commission on
African American History and Culture**
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Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

**THE MARYLAND COMMISSION ON
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE
MISSION STATEMENT**



MCAAHC



The mission of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) is to interpret, document, preserve, and promote Maryland's African American heritage; to provide technical assistance to institutions and groups with similar objectives; and to educate Maryland's citizens and visitors about the significance of the African American experience in Maryland and the nation.

MCAAHC is housed within the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MISSION STATEMENT**



Maryland Historical Trust



The Maryland Historical Trust is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. Through research, conservation and education, the Maryland Historical Trust assists the people of Maryland in understanding their historical and cultural heritage.

The Maryland Historical Trust is a unit of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP).

Background

The African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program was created during the 2010 session of the Maryland General Assembly. The Program is administered as a joint partnership of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC), a unit of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI), and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), an agency of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP). The purpose of this Program is to encourage the identification and preservation of buildings, sites, and communities of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland.

Eligible applicants for Program funding include non-profit organizations and local jurisdictions. Business entities and individuals may also apply for Program grants when seeking funds for a preservation or development project that serves a high public purpose. Eligible activities include acquisition, construction, and capital improvement of buildings, sites, or communities of historical or cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland as well as pre-development costs directly associated with an acquisition or construction project. Such pre-development costs may cover historic structures reports and studies, the preparation of plans and specifications, necessary archeological investigations, and reasonable fees for architectural, design, engineering and other special services.

Activity of the African American Heritage Preservation Program in 2011

Fiscal Year 2012 Grants

Based on recommendations from MCAAHC and MHT, the following projects were forwarded to the Department of Budget and Management in late 2011 and were included in the Governor's Capital Budget for fiscal year 2012:

County	Project & Applicant	Description	Total Project Costs	Grant Award
Harford	<p>Project Name: Hosanna School (Berkley School)</p> <p>Project Address: 2424 Castleton Road, Darlington MD 21034</p> <p>Project Sponsor: The Hosanna Community House, Inc.</p>	<p>Constructed in 1867, the Hosanna (Berkley) School was built by five black men acting as Trustees and stands as a rare, early instance of black-initiated and black-run educational efforts. Currently a one-room school museum on first floor and meeting space and library on second floor.</p> <p><i>Project work includes installation of chair lift and ramp; site work; and associated architectural and engineering services.</i></p>	\$47,950	\$28,000
Anne Arundel	<p>Project Name: Maynard-Burgess House</p> <p>Project Address: 163 Duke of Gloucester Street, Annapolis MD 21401</p> <p>Project Sponsor: City of Annapolis</p>	<p>Constructed in the early to mid-19th century, the Maynard-Burgess House has had long-term associations with two black Annapolis families and provides important insight into the life of African-Americans in the years just before and after the Civil War.</p> <p><i>Project work includes structural stabilization, systems, thermal and moisture protection, interior finish work, exhibits, audio-visual systems, and associated architectural and engineering services.</i></p>	\$489,500	\$100,000
Wicomico	<p>Project Name: San Domingo Rosenwald School</p> <p>Project Address: 11526 Old School Road, Mardela Springs, MD 21837</p> <p>Project Sponsor: John Quinton Foundation, Inc.</p>	<p>The San Domingo School is historically significant for its association with the education of African-American youths in rural Wicomico County during the early-to-mid 20th century; it stands out as the best preserved of the four surviving Rosenwald Schools in the county.</p> <p><i>Project work includes thermal and moisture protection, electrical and HVAC systems, and the installation of access doors.</i></p>	\$30,000	\$25,000

Frederick	<p>Project Name: Laboring Sons Memorial Ground</p> <p>Project Address: 121 East Fifth Street, Frederick MD 21701</p> <p>Project Sponsor: The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Frederick, Maryland</p>	<p>This property was purchased in 1851 by the Beneficial Society of the Laboring Sons “to provide a burial ground for citizens of color”. Over 1,500 African-Americans were interred on the site by 1949, when the Society disbanded and the property was given to the City of Frederick. Most of the site became a “whites only” playground. The grounds were re-dedicated in 2003 as a place of remembrance for those buried there and for the history of African Americans in Frederick County.</p> <p><i>Project work includes site work, electrical work, hardscaping, landscaping, site furnishings, and signage.</i></p>	\$112,924	\$57,000
Anne Arundel	<p>Project Name: Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial</p> <p>Project Address: Market Space, foot of Main Street, Annapolis MD 21401</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Kunta Kinte – Alex Haley Foundation, Inc.</p>	<p>Located in the Annapolis Historic District, this modern memorial is located at the port where 48 ships carrying approximately 2,000 enslaved Africans cleared customs between 1756 and 1775. The site was made famous through Alex Haley’s <u>Roots</u> book and television mini-series.</p> <p><i>Project work includes repair and conservation of monument; repair or replacement of electrical systems, equipment, and webcam; and associated architectural and engineering services.</i></p>	\$38,900	\$36,000
Montgomery	<p>Project Name: Loving & Charity Hall (Love & Charity Hall; Charity Lodge Hall)</p> <p>Project Address: 22625 White’s Ferry Road, Dickerson MD 20842</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Warren Historic Site Committee, Inc.</p>	<p>Martinsburg is one of several black landowning communities established in Montgomery County by free and freed blacks; it is the only such community in the state with the three principal institutions for a rural black community -- the church, the school, and the community lodge – still in existence.</p> <p><i>Project work includes interior flooring, woodwork, and finishes; repair / reconstruction of stairs; construction of stairs and ramp; painting; electrical and fire suppression systems.</i></p>	\$100,000	\$50,000

Montgomery	<p>Project Name: Sandy Spring Slave Museum and African Art Gallery</p> <p>Project Address: 18524 Brooke Road, Sandy Spring MD 20860</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Sandy Spring Slave Museum and African Art Gallery Inc.</p>	<p>This existing museum, constructed in phases from 1990-2004, highlights the African-American experience in Montgomery County and contains a collection of historic artifacts, memorabilia, and African art.</p> <p><i>Project work includes systems and utilities upgrades; repairs to ramps, stairs, and handrails; exterior repairs; extermination treatments; roof repairs / replacement; flooring repairs / replacement; window repairs; interior and exterior painting and weatherproofing; restoration of statue; site work; and design and fabrication of exhibits and signage.</i></p>	\$88,000	\$88,000
Baltimore County	<p>Project Name: Mt. Gilboa AME Church</p> <p>Project Address: 2312 Westchester Avenue, Catonsville MD 21228</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Mt. Gilboa African Methodist Episcopal Church</p>	<p>Constructed in 1859, this small stone chapel is significant as an achievement on the part of free black people who built a substantial stone church of about the same size and quality as the places of worship used by other small congregations of the dominant minority. The present church replaces an earlier log chapel, where Benjamin Banneker, whose farm was nearby, may have worshipped. Banneker is buried nearby, and a modern monument to him is located on the site.</p> <p><i>Project work includes repair or replacement of windows and shutters.</i></p>	\$41,500	\$35,000
Queen Anne's	<p>Project Name: Kennard High School</p> <p>Project Address: 410 Little Kidwell Avenue, Centreville MD 21617</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Kennard Alumni Association, Inc.</p>	<p>Kennard was built in 1936, and until its closing in 1966 it was the county's only secondary school for African-Americans. Music, sports, farming, and home economics programs provided additional benefits to the African-American community.</p> <p><i>Project work includes restoration of interior doors.</i></p>	\$102,340	\$80,000

Charles	<p>Project Name: Old Pomonkey High School</p> <p>Project Address: Metropolitan Church Road, Indian Head MD 20640</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Pomonkey High School Alumni Association, Inc.</p>	<p>Old Pomonkey High School served as the first African-American public high school in Charles County. The building will become a cultural center and museum.</p> <p><i>Project work includes roof repair / replacement.</i></p>	\$34,855	\$35,000
Baltimore City	<p>Project Name: The Sphinx Club</p> <p>Project Address: 2101-2111 Pennsylvania Avenue, Baltimore MD 21217</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Druid Heights Community Development Corporation</p>	<p>The Sphinx Club was the center of social life along Pennsylvania Avenue during segregation, where African-Americans could enjoy some of America's most famous musicians and entertainers. The building is currently vacant; rehabilitation and new construction on adjacent vacant lot are planned. New uses will be the Sphinx Club (bar and performance space), B.A.L.L. House Museum (African-American sports museum), and Negro League Café (documenting Baltimore's participation in the Negro Baseball League).</p> <p><i>Project work includes site work, structural elements, and restoration of storefront.</i></p>	\$8,419,761	\$100,000
Dorchester	<p>Project Name: Christ Rock Methodist Episcopal Church</p> <p>Project Address: 2403 Rock Drive, Cambridge MD 21613</p> <p>Project Sponsor: The Friends of Stanley Institute, Inc.</p>	<p>Christ Rock Church, along with the Stanley Institute school, is the focus of the African-American community that arose at Christ Rock, outside of Cambridge, just after the Civil War. The church will be rehabilitated as a cultural center and museum focusing on the African-American experience in Dorchester County.</p> <p><i>Project work includes site work; demolition of addition; repair / replacement of exterior siding and trim, roof, windows, steps, ramps, and signage; interior restoration and finish work; installation of building systems; and associated architectural and engineering services.</i></p>	\$150,000	\$100,000

Montgomery	<p>Project Name: Sandy Spring Odd Fellows Lodge</p> <p>Project Address: 1310 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Sandy Spring MD 20860</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Grand United Order of Oddfellows Sandy Spring Lodge #6430, Inc.</p>	<p>Built in the early 1900s for a health, burial, and life insurance agency for African-Americans, and realized by African-American craftsmen and builders, the Lodge became a social hub for the community during segregation. The completed project will be an educational and cultural center.</p> <p><i>Project work includes repair / replacement of windows, stairs, ramp, front door and alcove; HVAC, plumbing, and electrical work; and associated architectural and engineering services.</i></p>	\$104,000	\$100,000
Baltimore City	<p>Project Name: Reginald F. Lewis Museum, “Bodies & Souls” Exhibit</p> <p>Project Address: 830 East Pratt Street, Baltimore MD 21202</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Maryland African American Museum Corporation</p>	<p>The proposed outdoor exhibit “Bodies & Souls: Understanding the Domestic Slave Trade in Maryland” will interpret the impact of the slave trade and its era on the people of the state. Its location on Pratt Street will commemorate the domestic slave market that thrived along Pratt Street from the 1810s through the Civil War.</p> <p><i>Project work includes architectural and engineering services for the design of the exhibit.</i></p>	\$32,100	\$13,000
Prince George’s	<p>Project Name: Wilmer’s Park</p> <p>Project Address: 15710 Brandywine Road, Brandywine MD 20613</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Arthur W. Wilmer Foundation, L.L.C.</p>	<p>Wilmer’s Park was a sports and entertainment center for African-Americans during segregation; the bandstand featured prominent, nationally-known black musicians through the 1960s. The site includes a 6,000 sf dance hall, five apartments, motel, restaurant, baseball diamond, covered stage with wooden bleachers, picnic area, and playground. Site will become a performing arts center, amphitheater, and jazz and blues club, with a heritage and arts museum added in a second phase.</p> <p><i>Project work includes repair / replacement of roofing, structural elements, ceiling, and flooring; and installation of HVAC and electrical systems in the Dance Hall.</i></p>	\$424,350	\$100,000

Baltimore City	<p>Project Name: Bauernschmidt Mansion</p> <p>Project Address: 1649 East North Avenue, Baltimore MD 21213</p> <p>Project Sponsor: The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Inc.</p>	<p>The Bauernschmidt Mansion was built for a prosperous Baltimore beer baron who commissioned George Frederick, the architect of City Hall, to design his house. It currently houses offices for the Great Blacks in Wax Museum. Building will become a research library, genealogy center, teacher resource center, and meeting rooms associated with the Museum.</p> <p><i>Project work includes architectural and engineering services for the rehabilitation of the Mansion.</i></p>	\$115,000	\$53,000
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These grantees were notified of their awards in April 2011, after the approval of the FY2012 Governor's Capital Budget. A press release describing the program and detailing the grant awards was distributed on May 24, 2011.

In the summer and early fall, site visits involving MHT and MCAAHC / GOCI staff have been made to many properties, and projects are getting underway. The first four of the sixteen grant agreements were approved by the Board of Public Works on August 10; MCAAHC Chairman Ted Mack and three of the grantees spoke at the meeting.



Roelkey Myers (City of Frederick), Tony White (GOCI), Ted Mack (MCAAHC), Rose Chaney (AARCH), David Key (AARCH) at the Laboring Sons Memorial Ground in Frederick, July 2011

Fiscal Year 2013 Grant Applications

Applications, instructions, and program guidelines for FY2013 funding were made available in February 2011 via MHT's website. A press release in mid-February announced the availability of the applications and also announced a series of five workshops for potential applicants in locations across the state:

Date	Partner Institution	Location
March 7, 2011	Harriet Tubman Museum	Cambridge, MD
March 10, 2011	Calvert Marine Museum	Solomons, MD
March 14, 2011	Great Blacks in Wax Museum	Baltimore, MD
March 15, 2011	Gateway Arts Center	Brentwood, MD
March 16, 2011	C. Burr Artz Library	Frederick, MD

These workshops, which were specific to this grant program, reached and informed well over 100 interested individuals. Throughout the spring and summer, MHT and MCAAHC staff responded to specific inquiries from potential applicants and provided guidance about the application process.



Attendees at the AAHPP grant workshop at the Harriet Tubman Museum in Cambridge, Maryland, in March 2011.

Twenty-four eligible applications for FY2013 funding were received by the postmark deadline of July 15, 2011. The total funding request was \$1,972,900; the majority of the funding requested was for rehabilitation, with the remainder for acquisition and predevelopment costs. Applications represented 15 counties and the City of Baltimore.

After a threshold review of the applications by MHT staff, MCAAHC evaluated, ranked, and developed recommended funding levels for eligible applicants in accordance with the project selection criteria during August and September of 2011. In mid September 2011, MCAAHC transmitted to the MHT Board of Trustees eligible application summaries as well as recommended funding levels. The MHT Board of Trustees then reviewed each grant award recommended by MCAAHC at its September 15 meeting.

On or before November 1, MCAAHC and MHT will forward the list of projects and grantees recommended by MCAAHC and the MHT as a recommendation to the Department of Budget and Management for inclusion in the Governor's Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2013.

Ongoing Program Activity

MHT and MCAAHC staff, along with staff from MHAA, DHCD, SHA, the Maryland Humanities Council, and Preservation Maryland, offer grant workshops covering a range of funding options for preservation projects. Typically there are three workshops each September in various locations across the state. The African American Heritage Preservation Program is featured in these workshops.

Date	Partner Institution	Location
September 14, 2011	Carroll County Community Media Center	Westminster, MD
September 20, 2011	Greenbelt Community Center	Greenbelt, MD
September 28, 2011	Historical Society of Talbot County Auditorium	Easton, MD

A similar workshop was also held in Annapolis on May 19, 2011, as part of the Maryland Preservation and Revitalization Conference.

Applications for fiscal year 2014 funding will be available through MHT's website early in 2012; applications must be postmarked by July 15, 2012.