

State of Maryland

2006 Bond Bill Fact Sheet

1. Senate		House		2. Name of Project
LR #	Bill #	LR #	Bill #	
1717	SB170	2779	HB511	Creation of a State Debt – Baltimore City - Peale Museum
3. Senate Bill Sponsors				House Bill Sponsors
Sen. Della				Del. Krysiak, et al.
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)				5. Requested Amount
Baltimore City				\$500,000
6. Purpose of Bill				
Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$500,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Trustees of the Baltimore City Historical Society, Inc. for the planning, design, construction, repair, renovation, reconstruction, and capital equipping of the Americans with Disabilities Act required upgrades to the Peale Museum.				
7. Matching Fund Requirements				
This bill requires a standard match.				
8. Special Provisions				
The bill requires the grantee to convey to the Maryland Historical Trust a perpetual preservation easement to the extent of its interest in the property.				

9. Description and Purpose of Grantee Organization (3000 characters maximum)

The Baltimore City Historical Society (BCHS) was founded in December 1999 by retired Circuit Court Judge John Carroll Byrnes to fill the void left by the closing of the Baltimore City Life Museum. This closing made Baltimore the only major city in the east without a city historical society. The mission and goals of the organization are stated in the By Laws:

- a) To be a clearing house for historical data related to Baltimore City.
- b) To encourage scholarship and public interest in Baltimore history.
- c) To cooperate with and support the Maryland Historical Society in its mission to preserve and display Baltimore City historical resources.
- d) To support and promote the Baltimore museum community.
- e) To collect Baltimore related publications and art.
- f) To develop and maintain an internet website and such other electronic or other means of communication to facilitate access by the public to pertinent historical resources.

Current Activities:

History Honors: Each year the BCHS names individuals who have made significant contributions to Baltimore history through scholarship or by personal accomplishment. These individuals are honored at the Annual Mayor's Reception.

Joint Education Programs: There are numerous history organizations in Baltimore, each with an interest in a specific subject or historic site -- Civil War Museum; the H.L. Mencken House; the Irish Shrine; the Poe Society; Baltimore Heritage, Inc.; the B & O Railroad Museum, just to name a few. The BCHS mission is to promote and cooperate with these sister organizations. To this end, the BCHS sponsors events at historic sites through out the city, with particular emphasis on new and under-utilized sites. Recent programs took place at Clifton Mansion; Westminster Hall; Old Saint Paul's Rectory; Great Blacks in Wax Museum; the Mitchell Court House; the Reginald E. Lewis Museum and the Babe Ruth Birth Place and Museum.

Newsletter: The BCHS publishes a Spring and Fall newsletter for the purpose of announcing its own programs and those of related organizations in addition to informing its readership of significant events impacting the Baltimore history community.

Book Collection: The BCHS has collected several hundred books and publications on Baltimore and Baltimore history from members and friends. This collection is currently stored at the Maryland Historical Society. Upon completion of the restoration of the Peale Museum building, the collection will be housed in a public reading room at the Peale along with the books on Baltimore architecture owned by the Baltimore Architecture Foundation, Inc.

10. Description and Purpose of Project (3000 characters maximum)

Baltimore's Peale Museum, a National Historic Landmark, is of unusual architectural, historical and political significance. Designed in 1813 by noted Baltimore architect, Robert Cary Long, Sr., the Peale is the first structure in the Western Hemisphere to be built specifically as a public museum and possibly the second in the world. Further, it is a prime surviving example of the classical revival style popular in Baltimore during the economic boom of the early 19th century.

Rembrandt Peale commissioned the building for a museum which has been described as a "Cabinet of Curiosities" having a variety of scientific, archaeological, natural and performance-based attractions in addition to fine arts. A series of portraits of the heroes of the War of 1812 was part of the original collection. Gas light experiments in the Peale led to the founding of the Gas Light Co. of Baltimore, a precursor of Constellation Energy.

The museum closed in 1829. Purchased by the City of Baltimore, the building served as Baltimore's City Hall from 1830 to 1878 when the seat of government was moved to the present building. From 1878 to 1889, it was an elementary school for African/American children. In 1931, after a major renovation, it opened as the Municipal Museum of Baltimore.

This important structure has been vacant for almost a decade. The BCHS has undertaken the long-term project of reopening the Peale Museum to the public for contemporary adaptive reuse as the Baltimore City History Center. The Center will include an area for exhibits on the history of Baltimore, a public reading room with an extensive collection of books and publications on Baltimore, an auditorium open for use by the City and community groups plus offices for the BCHS, Baltimore Heritage, Inc. and the Baltimore Architecture Foundation, Inc. In addition, its location makes the Peale an ideal, ADA-accessible stop for tourists and local visitors on both the Jonestown and the Mount Vernon Heritage Area Walking Tours.

The first step toward this long-term goal is to prepare architectural drawings based on preservation and structural needs in addition to current code and ADA requirements. Architectural drawings are in process.

Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 11 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 12 (Proposed Funding Sources) must match. The proposed funding sources must not include the value of real property unless an equivalent value is shown under Estimated Capital Costs.

11. Estimated Capital Costs

Acquisition	0
Design	\$40,000
Construction	\$1,226,000
Equipment	\$0
Total	\$1,266,000

12. Proposed Funding Sources – (List all funding sources and amounts.)

Source	Amount
Baltimore Heritage Area Grant	\$20,000
France/Merrick Foundation for architectural drawings	\$5,000
Constellation Energy for architectural drawings	\$10,000
Wm. D. Schaefer Civic Fund for architectural drawings	\$2,000
Individual Contributions for architectural drawings	\$6,000
Constellation Energy for restoration and construction	TBD

France/Merrick Foundation for restoration and construction				TBD
Individual Contributions for restoration and construction				TBD
City of Baltimore for repairs				\$150,000
State of Maryland Bond Bill				\$500,000
Total				\$1,266,000
13. Project Schedule				
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction	
January 2006	June 2006	July 2006	December 2008	
14. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised as of January 2006	15. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site		16. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete	
\$23,000 plus \$150,000 from City of Baltimore	Site is closed.		Not available	
17. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in Past 15 Years				
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose		
None				
18. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)		
Baltimore City Historical Society, Inc. c/o Maryland Historical Society 201 West Monument Street Baltimore, MD 21201		225 Holliday Street Baltimore, MD 21202		
19. Contact Name and Title		Contact Phone	Email Address	
Romaine Somerville		410-523-4221	romainess@aol.com	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located			46th	
21. Legal Status of Grantee (Please Check one)				
Local Govt.	For Profit	Non Profit	Federal	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
22. Grantee Legal Representative		23. If Match Includes Real Property:		
Name:	Gordon, Feinblatt, Rothman, Hoffberger & Hollander	Has An Appraisal	Yes/No	
Phone:	410-576-4000	Been Done?	No	
Address:		If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value		
233 E. Redwood Street Baltimore, MD 21202				
24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site				
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget	

All volunteers, except architect	Not available	\$50,000 allocated in City budget	TBD
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond issuance purposes)			
A. Will the grantee <u>own</u> or <u>lease</u> (pick one) the property to be improved?			Lease
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?			
C. Does the grantee intend to lease any portion of the property to others?			No
D. If property is owned by grantee and any space is to be leased, provide the following:			
Lessee	Terms of Lease	Cost Covered by Lease	Square Footage Leased
E. If property is leased by grantee – Provide the following:			
Name of Leaser	Length of Lease	Options to Renew	
City of Baltimore (Lease being prepared City Law Department)	TBD	TBD	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	8,549 sq. feet		
Space to Be Renovated GSF	8,549 sq. feet		
New GSF	approx. 600 sq. feet (ADA elevator and fire stair on outside of building)		
27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion			1813
28. Comments: (3000 characters maximum)			

Urgency

The need is urgent. The Peale Museum has been vacant for almost a decade with occasional use of the auditorium by the City Fire Department for educational sessions. The roof has a leak; the wood window frames are deteriorating (one on the north side fell out); the brick work needs repointing and homeless people, living in the entry porch, set the building on fire in December 2005. The fire was put out without major damage. All of this a quarter block from City Hall in an area where both major private and public investment is being made. For example, the recent renovation of City Hall Plaza and the conversion of area commercial properties into residences.

Economic Impact

This project will support tourism, an important factor in the economy of Maryland and Baltimore as acknowledged by the recent \$1.5 million increase proposed for tourism in the State budget. When reopened, the Peale will serve the Jonestown and Mount Vernon Heritage Area Walking Tours in addition to being accessible from the Inner Harbor. Further, it will stand on its own as both a tourist attraction and local history center. The building will house exhibits on local history such as the Peale portraits of the heroes of the War of 1812 and a reinstatement of the popular "Row House Exhibit"; a reading room open to the public with books and publications on Baltimore and Baltimore history; an auditorium for community and City use; the offices of three local history organizations: the Baltimore City Historical Society, Inc., Baltimore Heritage, Inc. and the Baltimore Architecture Foundation. ADA accessible facilities will be open to the public