

State of Maryland

2012 Bond Bill Fact Sheet

1. Senate LR # Bill #		House LR # Bill #		2. Name of Project
lr2783	sb0936	lr2780	hb0953	Heritage House
3. Senate Bill Sponsors			House Bill Sponsors	
Miller			Proctor	
4. Jurisdiction (County or Baltimore City)			5. Requested Amount	
Charles County			\$100,000	
6. Purpose of Bill				
<p>Authorizing the creation of a State Debt not to exceed \$100,000, the proceeds to be used as a grant to the Board of Directors of the African American Heritage Society of Charles County, Inc. for the repair, renovation, and reconstruction of the Heritage House.</p>				
7. Matching Fund				
Requirements: Equal		Type: The matching fund may consist of real property, in kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act.		
8. Special Provisions				
<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Easement		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sectarian		
9. Contact Name and Title		Contact Phone	Email Address	
Dorothea Smith		(301) 843-2150	dhsmith42@netzero.net	
10. Description and Purpose of Grantee Organization (Limit Length to Visible area)				
<p>The African American Heritage Society of Charles County, Inc. is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization that was established by William A. Diggs, the founder, and Veronica Coates, the co-founder. Its mission is to foster public awareness and an understanding of the African American American way of live; to share the cultural and historical contributions of African Americans to the growth and development of Southern Maryland and to American history and culture. The present goal of the society is to establish a cultural center in Charles County. With the renovation and reconstruction of Heritage House, the society envisions a cultural/educational center that would serve as a community resource while promoting tourism within the Southern Maryland region. The center would also showcase the Diggs collection of artifacts and decrease the need for the "Traveling Museum."</p>				

11. Description and Purpose of Project (Limit Length to Visible area)

The purpose of the project is to complete the reconstruction and renovation of Heritage House. This would include the addition of an elevator shaft with an elevator; a north portico; masonry base; a heavy timber trellis in the rear at the west entrance of the house; replacement of six entry doors and a heat pump for the lower level. This construction would be an addition of 500 square feet. The inclusion of the elevator will enhance the interior accessibility of both levels and complete the renovation as originally envisioned. At present there is access to both levels only from the outside. There is heat on the upper level, but none on the lower as the lower unit needs replacement. Heavier doors are needed for security measures. The other improvements to the building make it more picturesque in its wooded environment of 2.76 acres and will provide added functionality for outdoor events.

Round all amounts to the nearest \$1,000. The totals in Items 12 (Estimated Capital Costs) and 13 (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.

12. Estimated Capital Costs

Acquisition	
Design	\$5,000
Construction	\$136,500
Equipment	\$58,500
Total	\$200,000

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

Source	Amount
State Bond Bill	\$100,000
Fundraising, Pledges, Donations, Membership	\$75,000
In-Kind Services	\$25,000
Total	\$200,000

14. Project Schedule (Enter a date or one of the following in each box. N/A, TBD or Complete)			
Begin Design	Complete Design	Begin Construction	Complete Construction
Summer 2012	Fall 2012	Spring 2013	Fall 2013
15. Total Private Funds and Pledges Raised		16. Current Number of People Served Annually at Project Site	17. Number of People to be Served Annually After the Project is Complete
15,000		500	1,700 +
18. Other State Capital Grants to Recipients in Past 15 Years			
Legislative Session	Amount	Purpose	
2004	300,000	Reconstruction and renovation of the exterior with ADA accessibility; meeting local and state standards as a public facility	
19. Legal Name and Address of Grantee		Project Address (If Different)	
African American Heritage Society of Charles County, Inc. P.O. Box 2250 La Plata, MD 20646		7485 Crain Highway La Plata, MD 20646	
20. Legislative District in Which Project is Located	28 - Charles County		
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:	N/A	Has An Appraisal Been Done?	Yes/No
Phone:			N/A
Address:	If Yes, List Appraisal Dates and Value		

24. Impact of Project on Staffing and Operating Cost at Project Site			
Current # of Employees	Projected # of Employees	Current Operating Budget	Projected Operating Budget
None	2 Part-time	13,000	20,000
25. Ownership of Property (Info Requested by Treasurer's Office for bond issuance purposes)			
A. Will the grantee own or lease (pick one) the property to be improved?			Own
B. If owned, does the grantee plan to sell within 15 years?			No
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	
26. Building Square Footage:			
Current Space GSF	2200		
Space to Be Renovated GSF	1100		
New GSF	500		
27. Year of Construction of Any Structures Proposed for Renovation, Restoration or Conversion			1989

28. Comments: (Limit Length to Visible area)

The African American Heritage Society of Charles County, Inc. was founded in 1974 by William A. Diggs, an elementary school teacher and historian of American history with an emphasis on the African American experience in the United States. Veronica Coates was the co-founder. When Mr. Diggs retired in 1979 from the Charles County School System, he was allowed to utilize the old Nike site on Bumpy in La Plata, Maryland as a temporary museum to display the collection of artifacts that he and the society had accumulated. There he welcomed the county's students and other visitors who had heard of this inspiring griot. During this time Mr. Diggs and other members of the Black community such as Luther Stuckey presented at the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival in Washington, D.C. and various venues in Southern Maryland and the Metropolitan area. In later years Mary Louise Webb accompanied him in their creation of the "Traveling Museum."

Mr. Diggs died on February 12, 1995, without fulfilling the dream of building a cultural center on the five acres of land that the society had acquired in 1983 on Crain Highway in La Plata, MD. But Mrs. Webb persevered, obtained the 501(C)(3) status for the society in 1995 and hand-picked the officers to lead the organization in 1998. In 1999 several founding members were told of a two-dwelling on 2.76 acres of land that was for sale and it was adjacent to the five acres. Would this be the opportunity to fulfill the dream? How would they pay for it? Well, the society stepped out on faith! During the last twelve years, the membership, the business community, a capital campaign, in-kind services, donations, and an annual fundraiser with co-sponsoring of the Waldorf Jaycees have enabled the society to pay two-thirds of the mortgage from \$153,000 to \$49,000. In 2004 Senator "Mac" Middleton sponsored a Bond Bill which enabled the organization to begin the reconstruction and renovation of Heritage House and to make it meet ADA requirements. After the chosen contractor for this project had completed the beginning phase, the society was left with the task of continuing to renovate the downstairs lower level. A few of the faithful members with community support have labored since the Fall of 2009 in anticipation of the opening of Heritage House. There have been numerous calls with requests for visitations from the public - schools, daycare centers ohter non-profits, community agencies, families, and even the county's Welcome Center in Newburg that is anxiously awaiting the re-opening.

When complete, the facility will have five display rooms, a library, a multipurpose room, an office/workroom, and two ADA restrooms, one on each level. The society hopes to collaborate with the Charles County Board of Tourism in promoting the richness of the county's history and diversity.