

SB616_Testimony_MDP.pdf

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Position: FAV



Maryland DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

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HEARING DATE: February 7 at 2:00 PM

BILL NO: SB616

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

POSITION: Support

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristin Fleckenstein (410) 767-7243

TITLE: Maryland Historical Trust – Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program
- Funding

BILL ANALYSIS:

SB616 would authorize the Governor to include \$5M annually in the budget to support the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Maryland Historical Trust strongly supports the reinstatement of the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program.

Historical and cultural museums serve important roles both as heritage tourism destinations and repositories of community memory. Ranging from large institutions with nationally significant holdings to smaller, community-based groups, these organizations provide tremendous benefits as community anchors, as places for residents and visitors alike to learn how history and culture shape our present and our future. They operate throughout the state, offering unique educational programming and experiences to Maryland's citizens, and especially to our youth. They create jobs, pay taxes on their sales shop receipts, and enhance the economic vitality of their neighborhoods and towns. Although many of these organizations successfully raise funds from private donors, membership programs and events, more support is necessary to develop new, high-quality programs, enhance engagement with diverse constituents and histories, sustain organizational capacity, and ensure the proper stewardship of the state's cultural treasures.

Maryland currently has no program funding or staff dedicated to supporting this important work. Unlike many other states, Maryland has few directly State-supported museums and heritage sites. Complementary programs, such as the Maryland Heritage Areas Program and programs of the Maryland State Arts Council, support cultural institutions but are limited by their programs' missions and restrictions. Importantly, existing funding programs do not meet the critical needs of museums in – especially – the broader development of educational programs and exhibits, collections care, organizational capacity-building, and operations.

The Museum Assistance Program was always overwhelmingly popular, with demand holding steady at two to four times the available funds. Since the lapse of program funding after FY2011, the needs of Maryland's more than 450 historical and cultural museums have only grown more urgent.

Recognizing the importance of the state's historical and cultural museums in protecting, stewarding and interpreting our shared heritage, MHT has assessed the needs of museums through its statewide preservation planning process in 2014, 2018, and – most recently – in 2023. In 2016, MHT prepared a report at the request of the Maryland General Assembly, to the Chairmen of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and House Appropriations Committee. In each instance, participants clearly and repeatedly indicated the need to restore dedicated technical assistance and funding for historical and cultural museums, particularly for activities (e.g., collections care) that are not eligible for other grants. This ongoing gap in support limits the ability of Marylanders to engage with their history – a situation made even more pressing as we approach the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in 2026.

Shatto testimony HB0616 favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Shatto

Position: FAV

February 6, 2024

Maryland General Assembly
Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: *Written testimony for Maryland Historical Trust – Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program- Funding (SB0616), Position **FAVORABLE***

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter as written testimony in support of an \$5M appropriation in FY 2025 for the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program (MAP) at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) as presented in Senate Bill 0616. I am writing as an individual, but as the former Coordinator of the Frederick Historic Sites Consortium, I was deeply involved with the former iteration of this program. For nearly every year from 1992-2011, I was a member of the peer review panel for the Maryland Museum Assistance Program. I saw firsthand the important difference the program made to Maryland's Museums. And, because I was an employee of the Tourism Council of Frederick County, I witnessed the difference that investment in museums made to the tourism economy where museums benefitted from the MAP program.

Maryland is home to 400 history museums, historical societies, and community archives in our state that serve countless Marylanders and steward irreplaceable connections to our diverse history. If recognized, this reactivation of MAP would build urgently needed capacity within Maryland's network of underfunded yet vitally important history museums.

MAP served history museums by providing operating grants, technical assistance, and networking opportunities from 1991 until 2011 – when the funding stopped. In 2016, the Maryland General Assembly required a report by MHT regarding museum and preservation funding. The report's top recommendation was to reinstitute and fund MAP, which is still in statute at MHT despite receiving no funding for 12 years. Without this essential and steady support, history museums of all sizes struggle to maintain baseline operations.

As the nation looks forward to celebrating 250 years of history, it is essential to strengthen the museums and historic sites that preserve and share the full sweep of Maryland and US history. Yet, it is difficult for many Maryland to plan legacy projects and preserve Maryland's history when struggling with basic infrastructure needs. Instituting MAP now will make it possible for Maryland's museums to serve Marylanders with 250th projects from a position of greater stability.

Maryland's past, present and future deserves the State's investment in Maryland museums. Please support SB0616.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Scott Shatto
9796 Chestnut Oak Court
Frederick, MD 21701

SB 616 - SUPP - B&T - Feb 7 Museum Assistance.pdf

Uploaded by: Henry Bogdan

Position: FAV



February 7, 2024

Testimony on Senate Bill 616

**Maryland Historical Trust - Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program – Funding
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is the only association advocating for the 40,000 nonprofit organizations in Maryland. With our nearly 2,000 members, we advocate for greater quality of life and equity. Maryland Nonprofits urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 616 to fund the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program at the Maryland Historical Trust.

The over 450 nonprofit museums in Maryland are not merely repositories of history; they are vibrant community centers that foster education, understanding, and inclusivity. By supporting SB 616, we seize a pivotal opportunity to enhance the operational capacity of Maryland’s historical and cultural museums, many of which are grappling with financial vulnerabilities exacerbated by the recent pandemic.

The proposed \$5 million allocation for the Museum Assistance Program (MAP) in the FY 2025 operating budget is a strategic investment in our shared cultural infrastructure. This funding will empower museums to offer competitive wages, thereby attracting and retaining top talent; implement necessary upgrades to facilities ensuring the preservation of invaluable collections; expand outreach initiatives to engage diverse community voices; and innovate programming that brings Maryland’s rich history to life for all its residents.

The importance of this funding cannot be overstated at a time when access to comprehensive and inclusive historical education is under threat. As we approach the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, our museums must be equipped to share the multifaceted stories of our state and nation, promoting understanding and dialogue across communities.

Maryland Nonprofits urges you to recognize the essential role that museums play in our society by supporting SB 616. By doing so, we can provide these institutions with the stability needed to thrive and continue their mission of education and preservation.



SB0616 Testimony Historic Annapolis, Inc.pdf

Uploaded by: Karen Brown

Position: FAV



HISTORIC ANNAPOLIS

Karen Theimer Brown
President and CEO

Historic Annapolis, Inc.
Shiplap House
18 Pinkney Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
410.990.4513
karen.brown@annapolis.org

February 6, 2024

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Guzzone,

Please accept this letter as written testimony in support of an \$5M appropriation in FY 2025 for the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program (MAP) at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) as presented in Senate Bill 0616. I represent the Historic Annapolis in Anne Arundel County. We are one of over 400 history museums, historical societies, and community archives in our state that serve countless Marylanders and steward irreplaceable connections to our diverse history. If recognized, this reactivation of MAP would build urgently needed capacity within Maryland's network of underfunded, yet vitally important, history museums.

MAP served history museums by providing operating grants, technical assistance, and networking opportunities from 1991 until 2011 – when the funding stopped. In 2016, the Maryland General Assembly required a report by MHT regarding museum and preservation funding. The report's top recommendation was to reinstitute and fund MAP, which is still in statute at MHT despite receiving no funding for 12 years. Without this essential and steady support, history museums of all sizes struggle to maintain baseline operations.

Our larger institutions struggle with frequent staff turnover, losing invaluable institutional knowledge to state and federal cultural agencies offering higher salaries and benefits. In the worst-case scenarios, museums have radically reduced their operations or shut down completely due to a lack of support and failing infrastructure. During this fraught time with many states restricting access to knowledge through book bans and restrictive history curriculums, Maryland has the opportunity to be a national leader in advancing inclusive, accurate, and empowering opportunities to engage with history. Our network of history museums is a critical part of the necessary work to bolster our larger cultural infrastructure in Maryland, but we need the State of Maryland's support to continue our innovation and public service, leaving no history behind.

Sincerely,

Karen Theimer Brown
President & CEO

**PRESERVE.
PROTECT.
CONNECT.**

annapolis.org

MAP Written Testimony SB0616.pdf

Uploaded by: kevin cabrera

Position: FAV

Written testimony for Maryland Historical Trust – Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program-Funding (SB0616)

February 6, 2024

Maryland General Assembly
Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter as written testimony in support of an \$5M appropriation in FY 2025 for the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program (MAP) at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) as presented in Senate Bill 0616. I represent the museums in Prince George's County. We are one of over 400 history museums, historical societies, and community archives in our state that serve countless Marylanders and steward irreplaceable connections to our diverse history. If recognized, this reactivation of MAP would build urgently needed capacity within Maryland's network of underfunded yet vitally important history museums.

MAP served history museums by providing operating grants, technical assistance, and networking opportunities from 1991 until 2011 – when the funding stopped. In 2016, the Maryland General Assembly required a report by MHT regarding museum and preservation funding. The report's top recommendation was to reinstitute and fund MAP, which is still in statute at MHT despite receiving no funding for 12 years. Without this essential and steady support, history museums of all sizes struggle to maintain baseline operations.

Our larger institutions struggle with frequent staff turnover losing invaluable institutional knowledge to state and federal cultural agencies offering higher salaries and benefits. In the worst-case scenarios, museums have radically reduced their operations or shutdown altogether due to a lack of support and failing infrastructure. During this fraught time with many states restricting access to knowledge through book bans and restrictive history curriculums, Maryland has the opportunity to be a national leader in advancing inclusive, accurate, and empowering opportunities to engage with history. Our network of history museums is a critical part of the necessary work to bolster our larger cultural infrastructure in Maryland, but we need the State of Maryland's support to continue our innovation and public service, leaving no history behind.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cabrera
Secretary, Maryland Museum Association

SB0616 Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance P

Uploaded by: Lindsey Baker

Position: FAV



108 West Centre Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-4565

(410) 685-0095
www.mdhumanities.org

Maryland General Assembly
Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

Please accept this letter as written testimony in support of Senate Bill 0616 for the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program (MAP) at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT).

I represent Maryland Humanities and am excited to see an important program revived that supports our state's history museums, historical societies, and community archives that serve countless Marylanders and steward irreplaceable connections to our diverse history. If recognized, this reactivation of MAP would build urgently needed capacity within Maryland's network of underfunded yet vitally important history museums.

Maryland's cultural leaders have been working together strategically to identify the gaps in funding for organizations in Maryland. Maryland Humanities' SHINE program, also being heard before this committee, focuses on smaller organizations, many of whom are not eligible for SHINE funding as they are not museums or historical societies and instead fall into categories such as cultural awareness organizations, organizations building community through consensus and dialogue, arts and humanities programming for underserved youth, organizations working at the intersection of nature and the humanities, literary organizations, and cultural preservation through music history.

Meanwhile, MAP is another essential piece of the puzzle and has a strong history of serving history museums by providing operating grants, technical assistance, and networking opportunities from 1991 until 2011 – when the funding stopped. In 2016, the Maryland General Assembly required a report by MHT regarding museum and preservation funding. The report's top recommendation was to reinstitute and fund MAP, which is still in statute at MHT despite receiving no funding for 12 years. Without this essential and steady support, history museums of all sizes struggle to maintain baseline operations.

Our larger institutions struggle with frequent staff turnover losing invaluable institutional knowledge to state and federal cultural agencies offering higher salaries and benefits. In the worst-case scenarios, museums have radically reduced their operations or shutdown altogether due to a lack of support and failing infrastructure. Our network of history museums is a critical part of the necessary work to bolster our larger cultural infrastructure in Maryland, but we need the State of Maryland's support to continue our innovation and public service, leaving no history behind.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsay Baker".

Chief Executive Officer
Maryland Humanities

Testimony.pdf.pdf

Uploaded by: Marlena Jareaux

Position: FAV

Written testimony for Maryland Historical Trust – Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program-Funding (HB0688)

February 6, 2024

Maryland General Assembly
House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter as written testimony in support of an \$5M appropriation in FY 2025 for the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program (MAP) at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) as presented in Senate Bill 0616. As Executive Director of Howard County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc., I can attest to our struggle for funding to continue doing the things that we've been doing in Howard County and the state to create a more balanced historical narrative for students, residents and visitors. We've never been a recipient of MAP funds and we understand their funding stopped in 2011, but we are a history nonprofit that has a stake in this.

A community research effort created via a process I called Roundtable Truth Lab led to the return of critically important Black History for and to our state: the accurate story of the log house in Ellicott City that had actually been built by a free Mulatto man named Levi Gillis for his wife Eliza Jane and their children around the year 1851! That finding led to our published book, which led to a small MHAA grant to continue the research, which led to amazing findings coming soon to our students, visitors and residents. While we operate to try to assist our county government in "doing history" for residents etc in ways that are engaging to capture the attention of increasingly demanding consumers, we also must LIVE in a state that has the highest housing costs around. While I love what I do, nonprofits like ours need assistance to do the work we're doing to benefit our local jurisdictions and state. History is far more than just a graduation requirement, and there's much to be done to undo prior damage from unbalanced narratives that leave critically important parts out. Come to Ellicott City this year after April and see/hear the new story of Levi and his family while standing in his house that's currently on Main Street and Ellicott's Mills Drive. WE did that, and we have more! Please help us to do it.

Sincerely,

Marlena Jareaux
Executive Director, Howard County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc.
P.O. Box 174; Simpsonville MD 21150
marlena@hocoltr.org

SB0616 Written Testimony MCAAHC Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Maya Davis

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY TO THE BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE

SB 616 - Maryland Historical Trust - Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program - Funding
POSITION: Support

Submitted By: Maya Davis, Vice Chair Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

Date: February 6, 2024

Please accept this letter as written testimony in support of an \$5M appropriation in FY 2025 for the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program (MAP) at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) as presented in Senate Bill 0616. I represent the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture which works with museums across the state of Maryland. On this Commission I specifically represent the constituency of museum professionals, visitors, and stakeholders in Prince George's County, Maryland.

Over the years the Commission has provided technical support and capital grants for the 400 history museums, historical societies, and community archives in the state that serve countless Marylanders and steward irreplaceable connections to our diverse history. The reactivation of MAP funding would build urgently needed capacity within Maryland's network of underfunded yet vitally important history and culture museums.

As an individual who has worked directly with most of the museums in our state and a museum professional, I can say that many museums within our state have struggled with frequent staff turnover, losing invaluable institutional knowledge due to nearby federal cultural agencies offering higher salaries and benefits. In the worst-case scenarios, museums have radically reduced their operations or shutdown altogether due to a lack of support and failing infrastructure. During this time of heightened racial tensions, an increase in crime amongst our youth, and the need to be more community centered, Maryland can be a national leader in driving community centered work through its museums, advancing inclusive, accurate, and empowering opportunities to engage with history. Our network of history and culture museums is a critical part of the necessary work to bolster our larger cultural infrastructure in Maryland.

We urge you to support Senate Bill 616 to fund the Museum Assistance Program.

Sincerely,

Maya Davis

Vice Chair, Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

WrittenTestimonySB0616Baco.pdf

Uploaded by: Meagan Baco

Position: FAV

January 6, 2024

Maryland General Assembly
Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senators:

The Maryland Museums Association, Inc. is in enthusiastic support of SB0616 Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program (MAP) at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT).

From 1991 until 2011, MAP grants served Marylanders by providing operating grants, technical assistance, and educational opportunities to museums, historic sites, and historical societies – then the funding stopped. In 2016, the Maryland General Assembly required a report by MHT regarding museum and preservation funding. The report's top recommendation was to reinstitute and fund MAP. Now is the time.

Maryland's organizations have lacked state financial support for too long – yet, countless organizations feed our minds with online lectures during Pandemic lockdowns and let us walk their historic grounds – and sadly, some institutions were not able to endure and have closed.

If we are to be able to have the opportunity to return to preserved collections to continue to untangle and reveal and commemorate and celebrate Maryland history, like during the upcoming commemorations of America 250 (2026) and Maryland Rediscovery 400 (2034) I, then those collections must first exist. To ensure that, it is imperative that we support museums of all sizes to care for their collections with professional staff and suitable storage conditions. These are the first steps to providing access to students, researchers, and visitors. MAP was an essential source of funding for this never-ending need.

Please join Maryland's more than four-hundred museums in support of SB0616 and a minimum appropriation of \$5M for the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program (MAP) at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT).

Sincerely,

Meagan Baco, Board Chair
Maryland Museums Association, Inc.
www.mdmuseums.org

SB616 PresMD FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nicholas Redding

Position: FAV



PRESERVATION MARYLAND

February 6, 2024

Hon. Guy Guzzone
Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: SB0616 FAVORABLE

Chairperson Guzzone,

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Preservation Maryland and our thousands of statewide supporters, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **SUPPORT of SB0616**— a piece of legislation which will authorizes the Governor, beginning in fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$5M to the Maryland Historical Trust to be used to provide grants to museums under the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program.

Preservation Maryland is the nonprofit, statewide voice for historic preservation that harnesses the power of historic places by revitalizing and reinvesting in communities, advocating, and building the historic trades workforce for the benefit of all Marylanders. (Learn more at: presmd.org)

Why We Support This: Preservation Maryland has long championed the state's investment in museums and previously worked to have the Maryland Historical Trust study and document the overwhelming need for this type of funding. With the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States approaching in 2026, now is the time to increase the state's investment in history. As Maryland is without a singular official state museum, the tradition has been to provide support to the state's network of museums of all sizes via the Museum Assistance or Advancement grant program. The program was used to enhance museum exhibits, visitor facilities, and provide educational programming across the state. Without funding for over a decade, this infusion of support could make a profound difference for the state's history and heritage.

Favorable

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Redding, President & CEO

In Support of SB0616.pdf

Uploaded by: Paul Kovalcik

Position: FAV



WALKERSVILLE SOUTHERN RAILROAD MUSEUM, INC.

In Support of Senate Bill 616 concerning the Maryland Historical Trust

Honorable Senators,

In my capacity as the director of a Maryland nonprofit organization and speaking on behalf of our Board of Directors, I wish to present testimony in favor of State Senate Bill 0616, which pertains to funding for the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program.

Allow me to provide insight from the perspective of a longstanding tourist attraction originating in Frederick County over three decades ago. Similar to numerous small museums, our organization thrives due to the dedication of our volunteers. We diligently preserve historic properties, buildings, and equipment that played pivotal roles in the industrial history and development of Central Maryland. Annually, we welcome over 20,000 visitors; however, we are compelled to reduce our operating hours and accessibility as we strive to manage our resources judiciously.

Like our counterparts in the historical preservation field, we aspire to position ourselves as a premier visitor destination within Maryland. Despite our volunteers' commendable efforts in preserving and showcasing artifacts, they encounter challenges in modernizing our facilities to meet the evolving expectations of 21st-century tourists.

Enhancing educational exhibits, strategic planning, design upgrades, and ensuring accessibility pose significant hurdles for many museums. The support provided by the Maryland Historical Trust directly addresses these challenges, fostering impactful enhancements that expand our capacity to welcome visitors to our state. Resources available to small museums dedicated to promoting Maryland's rich heritage remain scarce, underscoring the importance of advocating for this bill.

I urge you to lend your support to State Senate Bill 0616, recognizing its vital role in bolstering Maryland's cultural landscape and ensuring the continued success of institutions like ours in preserving our shared history for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Kovalcik
Director
Walkersville Southern Railroad Museum Inc
Paul@WSRR.Org



One of the exhibits at the WSRR Museum.

WrittenTestimonySB616Leshher.pdf

Uploaded by: Pete Leshher

Position: FAV

February 6, 2024

Maryland General Assembly
Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senators,

Please accept this letter as written testimony in support of Senate bill 616 for a \$5M appropriation in FY 2025 for the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program (MAP) at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). I represent Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, Talbot County, which welcomes 80,000 visitors yearly. We are one of over 400 history museums, historical societies, and community archives in our state that serve countless Marylanders and steward irreplaceable connections to our diverse history, such as the story of Black Kent Island waterman Fillmore King and his workboat, *Alverta*, exhibited in CBMM's new Welcome Center that opened this fall with Maryland capital funding support. If recognized, this reactivation of MAP would build urgently needed capacity within Maryland's network of underfunded yet vitally important history museums.

MAP served history museums by providing operating grants, technical assistance, and networking opportunities from 1991 until 2011 – when the funding stopped. In 2016, the Maryland General Assembly required a report by MHT regarding museum and preservation funding. The report's top recommendation was to reinstitute and fund MAP, which is still in statute at MHT despite receiving no funding for 12 years. Without this essential and steady support, history museums of all sizes struggle to maintain baseline operations.

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum is stronger today because of past MAP grants, including one that supported our first digital collections database – now with more than 80,000 artifacts, historic photographs, documents, and oral histories accessible online. Another past MAP grant enabled the development of our third-grade curriculum program, the Chesapeake's Best Crab Cakes, which supports Maryland learning goals in reading, social studies, and science; last year we welcomed more than 4500 Maryland students, teachers and chaperones. While CBMM has benefited from Maryland's nationally-recognized Heritage Areas program, curriculum development and museum collections cataloging projects tend not to rank well in that vital heritage tourism program. I urge you to support SB 616.

Respectfully,

Pete Lesher
Chief Historian & Ambassador at Large
Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum
213 N. Talbot Street
St. Michaels, MD 21663

SB0616 2024-02-06.pdf

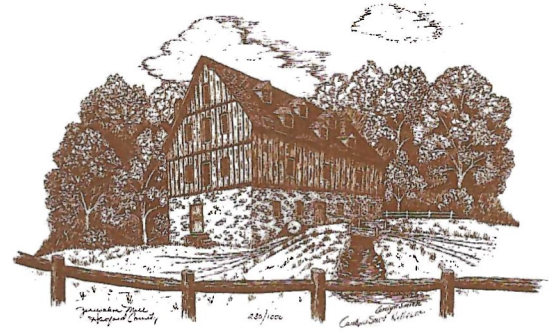
Uploaded by: Richard Albright

Position: FAV

Written testimony for Maryland Historical Trust –
Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program
Funding (SB0616)

February 6, 2024

Maryland General Assembly
Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401



To whom it may concern

Please accept this letter as written testimony in support of a \$5M appropriation in FY2025 for the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program (MAP) at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) as presented in Senate Bill 0616. I represent the Friends of Jerusalem Mill in Harford County, one of over 400 history museums, historical societies, and community archives in our state that serve countless Marylanders and steward irreplaceable connections to our diverse history. If recognized, this reactivation of MAP would build urgently needed capacity within Maryland’s network of underfunded yet vitally important history museums.

MAP served history museums by providing operating grants, technical assistance, and networking opportunities from 1991 until 2011 when funding stopped. Without this essential and steady support, history museums of all sizes struggle to maintain baseline operations. These struggles are particularly challenging for small, non-profit, charitable organizations such as ours, as we attempt to preserve an entire 18th-19th century mill village that is owned by the State. The impact of these programs not only provides educational and recreational opportunities for Marylanders, but also demonstrates that Maryland is a leader in preserving the nation’s rich history and sharing it with the general public. As an example, our guest register includes visitors from every state in the United States, and so far from 57 other countries. Without grants such as MAP, we can’t keep up with the demands of maintaining, restoring, and preserving Maryland’s history, and making it available for all to appreciate.

Current funding shortfalls have forced us and many other institutions to abandon some preservation efforts, reduce operations, and limit the free programs available to a broad audience. The reinstatement of MAP funding will help to increase access to knowledge about Maryland’s struggles for independence and freedom that serves as inspiration for future generations. Our network of history museums is a critical part of the necessary work to preserve our cultural infrastructure in Maryland, but we need the State of Maryland’s support to continue this effort.

Sincerely,

Richard Albright
Vice President
Friends of Jerusalem Mill

Senate SB0616 and HB0688 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Stephen Heaver

Position: FAV

To Senate RE: SB0616 and

To House RE: HB0688

From the Fire Museum of Maryland, 1301-R York Road, Lutherville, MD 21093

Date: 6 February 2024

Museums Assistance Program Funding

Written Testimony from Stephen G. Heaver, Director, Fire Museum of Maryland

State funding for the Museums Assistance Program is very important to sustaining the cultural heritage of the State of Maryland. Collecting cultural objects and maintaining these 'relics', not necessarily ancient things, is critical to reminding us about who we are and teaching us about our past so that we may build a stronger future, and not repeat our mistakes. Pride of Place is one of the popular phrases that comes to mind!

Museums need financial assistance from the Maryland State government as we, the Maryland history museums have yet to be able to raise adequate funds. Individual gifts are growing but we need government support to make stronger programs and to broaden the application of compelling stories to those who are unable to pay for their creation.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen G. Heaver

Written Testimony (SB0616)_MAP.pdf

Uploaded by: Veronica Gallardo

Position: FAV

Written testimony for Maryland Historical Trust – Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program-Funding (SB0616)

February 6, 2024

Maryland General Assembly
Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter as written testimony in support of a \$5M appropriation in FY 2025 for the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program (MAP) at the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) as presented in Senate Bill 0616. I represent the Surratt House Museum in Prince George's County. We are one of over 400 history museums, historical societies, and community archives in our state that serve countless Marylanders and steward irreplaceable connections to our diverse history. If recognized, this reactivation of MAP would build urgently needed capacity within Maryland's network of underfunded yet vitally important history museums.

MAP served history museums by providing operating grants, technical assistance, and networking opportunities from 1991 until 2011 – when the funding stopped. In 2016, the Maryland General Assembly required a report by MHT regarding museum and preservation funding. The report's top recommendation was to reinstitute and fund MAP, which is still in statute at MHT despite receiving no funding for 12 years. Without this essential and steady support, history museums of all sizes struggle to maintain baseline operations. The reinstatement of MAP would bring Maryland up to par with other states that already support their historical and cultural organizations.

Much of Maryland's history can be found in small institutions, and these have the potential to inspire new generations of Marylanders to even greater heights. Knowing where we've come from to imagine where we might go has never been more crucial knowledge than it is today. During this fraught time with many states restricting access to knowledge through book bans and restrictive history curriculums, Maryland has the opportunity to be a national leader in advancing inclusive, accurate, and empowering opportunities to engage with history. Our network of history museums is a critical part of the necessary work to bolster our larger cultural infrastructure in Maryland, but we need the State of Maryland's support to continue our innovation and public service, leaving no history behind.

Sincerely,

Veronica Gallardo
Museum Director, Surratt House Museum, M-NCPPC
9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton, MD 20735

Senate Testimony on SB 0616.pdf

Uploaded by: Victor Rezendes

Position: FAV

Testimony

Before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Maryland Senate

February 6, 2024

Allegany Museum

Statement of Victor S. Rezendes
Vice President Administration
Allegany Museum
3 Pershing Street
Cumberland, Maryland

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

The Allegan Museum strongly supports SB 0616 which authorizes the Governor beginning in fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$5,000,000 to the Maryland Historical Trust to be used to provide grants to museums under the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program.

The Allegany Museum is also an education organization. It is well known that Allegany County is an economically challenged area of Maryland due to industrial downsizing and closures. We support the goal of providing comprehensive childhood services for children and their families to promote academic achievement and creativity through student literacy, cultural, art and history experiences. We participate in the Allegany County Public School's extended day program as a partner. The Allegany Museum provides staff and/or volunteers at the Museum to present a variety of historical informational exhibits and hands-on art activities, literacy, history and music activities.

Allegany Museum is helping promote Maryland as a destination for heritage tourism. Currently, over 60 percent of our visitors are from out of State. Tourism gives the area an essential economic boost and creates pride in the region's history. One of every ten jobs in Allegany County is now related to our tourist industry. Allegany Museum is also integral to the Cumberland Arts and Entertainment District. We currently are the second poorest county in the state so many of our local visitors are below the poverty level. Over 65% of the children in our county's school are eligible for USDA free school lunch reimbursement. A couple of the schools we host are at the 100% level. We believe heritage tourism can play a vital role in revitalization of our community.

Each year the Museum barely covers operating expenses. We are a volunteer non-profit organization. The proposed legislation would give the Museum some much needed financial support. We appreciate your continued support in empowering local tourism organizations in their quest to make Maryland a top tourist destination.