



Maryland Preservation Awards

Nomination Instructions



Submission Deadline:
February 6, 2026



Historic Façade at the Flower Theater (Montgomery County) | Excellence in Restoration 2025



Evergreen Heritage Center (Allegany County) | Excellence in Community Impact 2025 for the Appalachian Time Travel Program

The Maryland Preservation Awards, presented annually since 1975 by the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), are the highest level of recognition for historic preservation, heritage education, and community development projects in Maryland.

The awards honor and celebrate significant achievements by individuals, businesses, contractors, nonprofit organizations, local governments, and others who protect, promote, share, and give continued life to the historic places and cultural heritage that make Maryland unique.

The MHT Board of Trustees encourages nominations for a variety of historic and cultural preservation activities including those undertaken by community development organizations, local governments, museums, heritage areas, historic preservation commissions, elected officials, neighborhood organizations, homeowners, and private developers.

The William P. and Marjorie Doeckens Family (Anne Arundel County) | Outstanding Stewardship of a Cultural Site 2025

ABOUT THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MHT is the state agency dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. Through research, conservation, and education, MHT assists the people of Maryland in understanding their historical and cultural heritage. Part of the Maryland Department of Planning, MHT serves as Maryland's State Historic Preservation Office pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. In addition to its administrative office in Crownsville, MHT includes the Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum in St. Leonard, Maryland, which houses the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE



Ruth Davis-Rogers (Allegany County) | Outstanding Individual Leadership at the Local Level 2025

Awards presented for Leadership and Service recognize individuals and organizations for laudable activities or accomplishments that advance the public's appreciation, understanding, and involvement in historic preservation, archaeology, or cultural heritage in Maryland. The Board of Trustees gives three awards in this category (listed below).

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL LEADERSHIP AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

This award recognizes significant contributions made by individuals to historic preservation or archaeology in Maryland including activities such as community development or heritage education. Eligible nominees include, but are not limited to, individual commissioners, elected officials, government workers, staff members at a nonprofit organization, members of the local business community, and volunteers. Recipients will have played an instrumental role in planning or leading a project, program, or advocacy effort and/or will have served in a leadership capacity within an organization during a time of significant achievement. The activity or service must be ongoing or have been completed within the last two years.

OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

This award recognizes significant contributions made by agencies, organizations, businesses, or institutions to historic preservation or archaeology in Maryland including activities such as community development or heritage education. Recipients will have played an instrumental role in planning or leading a project, program, or advocacy effort and/or have a demonstrable track record and history of successes related to heritage preservation and stewardship activities. The activity or service must be ongoing or have been completed within the last two years.

MARYLAND LEGACY PRIZE

The Maryland Legacy Prize (formerly The Calvert Prize) is MHT's highest honor recognizing an individual's or organization's long-standing dedication to the preservation of Maryland's architectural, archaeological, and cultural heritage at the statewide level. The Maryland Legacy Prize is given based on the significance of the nomination and the impact of the nominee. It is not conferred every year.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Beach to Bay Heritage Area for the African American Heritage Project (Wicomico County) | Excellence in Public Programming and Exhibits 2025

Awards presented for Education and Community Engagement recognize outstanding achievements by individuals, organizations, government agencies, and others in developing and producing projects and materials that connect the public to Maryland history, historic preservation, archaeology, or cultural heritage. The Board of Trustees gives four awards in this category. The activity or product must have been completed within two years of being nominated.

EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC PROGRAMMING & EXHIBITS

This award recognizes significant achievements in the development and execution of programs and projects that engage members of the public with history, historic preservation, and/or archaeology in meaningful, dynamic, and innovative ways. Recipients will have played a significant role in the planning and/or presentation of the program or exhibit. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, creative training programs and innovative museum exhibits.

EXCELLENCE IN MEDIA & RESEARCH

This award recognizes outstanding achievements in the research and presentation of information related to history, historic preservation, and/or archaeology through print or electronic media. Eligible projects may document the history of a region, subject, or culture; serve as instructional materials in fields related to preservation; or contribute to the general understanding of Maryland's heritage.

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY IMPACT

This award recognizes individuals, programs, and projects that have spurred public discussion, debate, planning, advocacy, and/or new investment for the preservation of archaeological or historic resources. This award honors the catalyzing positive revitalization and transformation an individual, program, or project can have on the wider community.

EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION PARTNERSHIPS

This award recognizes individuals, organizations, governments, agencies, and/or institutions that have collaborated during a project's planning, development, and/or execution. This award honors the unique and mutually beneficial relationships that are often vital to a preservation project's success. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, advocacy campaigns, restoration or rehabilitation projects, and projects that promote or achieve the preservation, protection, or enhancement of historic properties, archaeological sites, or cultural heritage.

STEWARDSHIP



U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (MARAD) for the N.S. Savannah (Baltimore City) | Outstanding Stewardship by a Government Agency 2025

Stewardship awards recognize the hard work, time, effort, money, and dedication that are often required to maintain and preserve historically significant buildings and sites. Nominations do not need to be focused on a particular project, but rather should illuminate a history of care and commitment by individuals, businesses, organizations, and government agencies to stewarding historical, archaeological, or cultural heritage sites. The Board of Trustees gives three awards in this category.

OUTSTANDING STEWARDSHIP OF CULTURAL SITES

This award recognizes owners and caretakers of historic properties, archaeological sites, and cultural/historical landscapes with a demonstrated track record of care and dedication to the site. Nominees may include, but are not limited to, individuals, museums, businesses, and nonprofit organizations. Public education efforts and public access are considered but not required for award eligibility.

OUTSTANDING STEWARDSHIP OF AN MHT EASEMENT PROPERTY

This award recognizes owners and caretakers of properties subject to an MHT historic preservation easement for a demonstrated track record of care and dedication to the property. Nominees may include, but are not limited to, individuals, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies.

OUTSTANDING STEWARDSHIP BY A GOVERNMENT AGENCY

This award recognizes federal, state, or local government agencies that have made an extraordinary commitment to cultural properties owned or cared for by the agency. Nominees must address the number, complexity, and significance of the properties under agency control. Additional consideration is given to policies and procedures for management and maintenance, long-term planning for physical and financial stewardship, and the extent to which the agency's programs and policies can serve as positive examples for other agencies and jurisdictions.

PROJECT EXCELLENCE



Claggett Center (Frederick County) |
Excellence in Rehabilitation 2025

Project Excellence awards are presented to property owners, project sponsors, contractors, and other entities for restoration and rehabilitation projects of all sizes and scopes and on all types of properties. The design, materials, and workmanship of honored projects must demonstrate superlative historic preservation standards. Projects can include the restoration, rehabilitation, or adaptive reuse of historic structures, additions to historic structures, and/or restoration or rehabilitation projects informed by or sensitive to archaeological and cultural resources. The Board of Trustees gives three awards in this category. Projects must have been completed within the last two years.

EXCELLENCE IN REHABILITATION

This award recognizes outstanding projects that rehabilitate historic buildings for commercial, institutional, or residential uses, including rental housing, by following the Secretary of the Interior's [Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#). Nominees may include, but are not limited to, businesses, homeowners, community development organizations, and nonprofits. Rehabilitation projects will typically maintain the historic character of a property while altering aspects to meet continuing or changing uses.

EXCELLENCE IN RESTORATION

This award recognizes outstanding projects that restore historic properties to a particular period in its history by following the Secretary of the Interior's [Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#). Projects may include, but are not limited to, museum properties, monument restoration, and historic structures such as bridges.

EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

This award recognizes projects that successfully integrate green building and sustainable design practices and technologies into historic and cultural properties in a manner that respects the character and distinguishing features of the buildings, sites, and/or landscapes.

SUBMITTING A NOMINATION

Nominations must be completed via MHT's grant application system online by 11:59pm on February 6, 2026. You must first create an account if you have never used our system.

Questions? Contact Brenna Spray by emailing brenna.spray@maryland.gov or calling (410) 697-9561.

Click here to apply: tiny.cc/MDPresAwardsApp

ELIGIBILITY

Individuals and nonprofit and for-profit organizations and institutions, as well as federal, state, and local agencies are all eligible to receive Maryland Preservation Awards. Please review award categories for specific guidance.

Current MHT staff, trustees, or area representatives currently serving on the MHT Board and projects solely undertaken by MHT are not eligible. Projects using MHT grant funds, loans, and tax credits are eligible. Self-nominations are accepted.



“Recovering Identity” Survey (Frederick County)
| Excellence in Media and Research 2025

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

All nomination materials are reviewed for completeness by MHT staff prior to presentation to the Board's Survey, Registration, Community Education, and Museums Committee. The Committee then recommends award recipients to the full Board of Trustees for consideration and final approval.

When preparing your nomination, please consider the following:

- Nominations are reviewed and selected on a competitive basis within each category and as a full slate of awards. MHT typically makes approximately ten awards each year.
- MHT may choose not to present an award in a given category.
- MHT reserves the right to evaluate nominations for categories other than those proposed by the nominator.
- Concise, accurate, and complete proposals that clearly state the worthiness of the nominee will be the most competitive. Nominators may submit no more than two nominations per category.

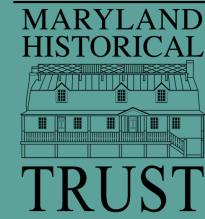
NOTIFICATION AND AWARD

Award recipients and nominators will be notified by email following the Board's selection in March. Awards will be presented on-site (or at a site of the awardee's choosing) for a live-streamed presentation in May, to coincide with Preservation Month. Check the [Maryland Preservation Awards webpage](#) for the latest information.

CONTACT

Brenna Spray
Outreach & Communications Officer
brenna.spray@maryland.gov
410-697-9561

mht.maryland.gov



SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 11:59PM, FEBRUARY 6, 2026



Montgomery Parks, TEBS, and UMD Historic Preservation
Department for the Oakley Cabin AR Experience | Excellence in
Preservation Partnerships 2025