



Maryland's

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MEET MELANIE LYTLE, Executive Director

In May, the MAHDC Board of Directors appointed Melanie Lytle as executive director. Melanie comes to MAHDC from URS Corporation (San Diego, CA and Germantown, MD), where she is a part-time architectural historian. Melanie is also the owner of My Friend in DC, a microbusiness based in Washington, DC. She is a Master of Arts in historic preservation (Goucher College) and a Bachelor of Arts in history (California State University, Sacramento).

Melanie's vision for MAHDC is for it be a thriving organization with financial sustainability to maintain its initiatives, an active board and membership, and a national reputation as a trailblazer for preservation education and advocacy for historic district commissioners, staff, and preservationists working at the local and state level. Melanie lives in Rockville. Please welcome her by emailing Melanie at director@mahdc.org.

SEPTEMBER SOCIAL HOUR

On September 19th, MAHDC hosted the first of our quarterly social hours at the historic Union Mill in Baltimore. We had a great turnout from our members and commissioners, and hosted representatives from our partners at Preservation Maryland and Maryland Historical Trust. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to network, sample complimentary Boordy Vineyards wine, and tour Union Mill with Tom Liebel. Fred Stachura, MAHDC president, and Melanie Lytle, MAHDC executive director, spoke briefly about the past year and our plans for the future.



Historic district commissioners from throughout Maryland gathered at historic Union Mill on September 19th.

NEW WEBSITE

MAHDC has a new and improved website! Now you can read all of the up-to-date news, register for upcoming training online, download resources, pay your annual membership dues, make a charitable donation, and contact us directly. Please visit www.mahdc.org.



Social hour participants listened as Fred Stachura, MAHDC president, spoke about the organization's plans for the next year.



Tom Liebel, architect and MAHDC board member, described the historic rehabilitation at Union Mill.



Providing advocacy, training,
and program support for
Maryland's Historic Preservation
Commissions and local
governments.

MAHDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Melanie Lytle
Executive Director
director@mahdc.org

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

2013 has been a year of transition and outreach for the MAHDC. Karen Theimer Brown, executive director from 2009 to 2013, stepped down in May, and the board appointed Melanie Lytle as executive director. The transition gave the MAHDC board the opportunity to review our resources and goals, and to approach the rest of the year with a renewed commitment to our mission: to provide advocacy, training, and program support for Maryland's Historic Preservation Commissions and local governments.

Since funding remains limited, MAHDC must be strategic in how to best serve our membership, with our primary source of revenue coming from annual membership dues and training program workshops. Therefore, the board identified two main priorities for the rest of 2013 and the first few months of 2014 that would simultaneously support our core mission and improve our financial resources: (1) grow our associate (individual) membership and (2) market our training program.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

The strength and value of our organization is dependent upon our membership. MAHDC has a loyal membership base comprised of preservation commissions; however, many of those who MAHDC serves, or who could serve, are not members. Individual preservation commission members, staff, historic district residents, independent consultants, and preservationists would all gain from our excellent training program and resources.

The first few months of the new executive director's tenure were devoted to establishing the framework for our membership growth, which correspondingly improved our communication with and support for our current members. The framework included improving our online presence, establishing a system for more efficient communication with our members and partners, holding the first of our quarterly regional networking events, and adding a student membership level and a graduate student board member. Going forward, we will launch a formal membership drive and promote membership in our communications and events.

■ New Website and Social Media Presence

MAHDC launched a new and improved website in August. It includes a host of resources for our members, including:

1. About page with current information about our board and staff
2. Training program tab with downloadable resources and (soon) online registration tools
3. News and events tab with current, up-to-date policy updates, funding opportunities, and training news
4. Join page where the benefits of becoming an MAHDC associate (individual member) are provided and individuals and commissions can become members online
5. Contact page to make reaching MAHDC easy
6. Donate buttons to accept charitable donations
7. Social media links to MAHDC's new Facebook page and Twitter feed
8. Maps showing locational and contact information for all the Maryland commissions

MAHDC has also launched a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/mahdc) and a Twitter feed (www.twitter.com/mahdcorg).

■ Efficient Email Communication with Members and Partners

Many of our members have asked that MAHDC make it easier to ask for our help, so we established a main email address for the organization: director@mahdc.org. In addition, the organization created an email marketing account to streamline and better manage our mailing list, which contains members, partners, and individuals who have downloaded our training materials or attended our training workshops.

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2013 ANNUAL REPORT

■ UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

National Trust Conference Indianapolis, IN

Oct. 29 – Nov. 2, 2013

[www.preservationnation.org/
resources/training/npc/?gclid=
CNTI6Kra0rkCFU-Z4AodQT4
ASw#.UjhwgGQ_9xl](http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/npc/?gclid=CNTI6Kra0rkCFU-Z4AodQT4ASw#.UjhwgGQ_9xl)

■ MAHDC REGIONAL SOCIAL HOURS

Winter – Frederick
Details will be announced soon!

Spring – Eastern Shore
Watch for more info in the
coming months!

■ Networking Events

Part of our identity and service to commissions is the availability of networking opportunities. To this end, we have begun to host quarterly regional social hours. These meetings are informal and attract commissioners from neighboring communities to encourage networking and exchange of ideas. Our first social hour was held on September 19.

TRAINING PROGRAM MARKETING

Concurrently with all the actions above, MAHDC has worked to make the training program more visible and available this year. The training program components equip commissioners with the tools to fulfill their statutory roles and others with the information to support defensible preservation decisions in their community.

We believe that education is the foundation of a strong historic preservation commission. Not only must commissioners be equipped to fulfill their statutory roles in a responsive and sensitive way, they must also provide leadership for the historic preservation movement at the local level, as they have done over the last fifty years. This requires commissioners to possess a depth of knowledge that enables them to explain to others the importance of heritage preservation. Moreover, as the field of historic preservation is always evolving, commission members must constantly pursue educational opportunities that enable them to continue to fulfill their duties faithfully and capably.

Further, those who work with the commissions, such as municipal staff, historic district residents, cultural resource consultants, preservation educators, and grassroots activists, can improve their collaboration with their commissions by taking part in the training program.

MAHDC can do a better job of marketing the training program so that our members and the preservation community are aware of the resources that are available to them. We held a Design Review workshop in September, and we continue to have people download the training materials on a regular basis. The new website will allow for online registration once more training workshops are scheduled.

We depend on and are grateful for your support of our mission to provide advocacy, training and program support for historic preservation commissions and local governments across the state.

MAHDC'S TRAINING PROGRAM RECEIVES HIGH MARKS



MAHDC's training program is Maryland's first statewide, comprehensive educational program for commissioners. It is comprised of two components: a tutorial and training manual, available to download for free off the MAHDC website, and a series of workshops. The program equips commissioners with the tools to fulfill their statutory roles and others with the information to support defensible preservation decisions in their community.

This summer we polled those who had downloaded the free tutorial and training manual. The overwhelming majority of the responders reported that they strongly agree or agree with the following statements:

1. I was satisfied with the tutorial and training manual.
2. The tutorial and training manual content was clear and easy to understand.
3. The topics covered were relevant to the tutorial and training manual.
4. I feel confident about taking what I learned from this tutorial and training manual and applying it to my role.
5. I would recommend this tutorial and training manual to others.

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TRAINING PROGRAM RECEIVES HIGH MARKS

Have you downloaded the tutorial and training manual yet? You can find it here: www.mahdc.org/training-programs/.

We also sent a survey to workshop attendees that is ongoing, and we need your help! Have you attended a workshop offered by MAHDC as part of the Maryland Historic Preservation Commission Training Program? Will you please take a few moments to tell us about your experience? Your evaluation of our program will help us to improve and plan for additional workshops.

To complete the brief survey, please click on the Web address below:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/118FKTG8bVGC2EFmaP_Ss04VzVGdmt8iUIEqOuywjkBE/viewform.

We appreciate your thoughts and suggestions.



PRESERVEMARYLAND UPDATE

A message from Nell Ziehl, Chief, Office of Preservation Planning and Museum Programs, Maryland Historical Trust



On September 30, the Maryland Historical Trust posted the draft statewide preservation plan—called “PreserveMaryland”—for comment by the general public. Following guidelines from the National Park Service, the statewide preservation plan covers a five-year period and sets a series of goals and recommended actions as benchmarks for the whole preservation community, including agencies with preservation programs, non-profit preservation advocates, preservation commissions,

historical and cultural museums, and archaeology groups. In PreserveMaryland, we have organized actions around the following themes:

- Connect with Broader Audiences;
- Improve the Framework for Preservation;
- Expand and Update Documentation;
- Build Capacity and Strengthen Networks; and
- Collaborate Toward Shared Goals.

To distill themes and action items out of all the great feedback we received, we asked ourselves two questions: What can the preservation community reasonably accomplish, given available resources? What are the first steps in getting there? We wanted to make sure that PreserveMaryland, the first statewide preservation plan since 2005, would be actionable and realistic, and help us move from a somewhat fragmented preservation community to one that is interconnected, well-supported and sustainable.

We deeply appreciate all the excellent comments and participation from preservation commissions and staff through the public survey and regional meetings. Please visit the Maryland Historical Trust’s web site (www.mht.maryland.gov), take a look at the draft plan and let us know if we’ve missed any critical issues of concern or great opportunities to work together better.



MAHDC depends on the support of our members, dedicated commissioners and individuals who understand that preservation, at it’s most vibrant and compelling, takes place locally.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Access to the MAHDC training programs at the discounted membership rates
- Subscription to MAHDC’s timely e-newsletter
- Participation in a professional network of historic preservation commissioners, preservation professionals, and grassroots activists
- Influence in advocating for responsible government decisions affecting historic resources

PLEASE JOIN US! The membership application and payment can now be completed online at www.mahdc.org/join/.



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

We’ve ventured into the world of Facebook and Twitter, so we can provide you with more timely policy updates, news, and training opportunities. Please “like” us on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/mahdc) and follow our Twitter feed (www.twitter.com/mahdcorg).

