

# Maryland's HISTORIC DISTRICTS

*A Publication of MAHDC: The Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions*

Volume 8 Number 1

January 2013



**Maryland Association  
of Historic District  
Commissions**

P.O. Box 783  
Frederick, MD 21705

[www.mahdc.org](http://www.mahdc.org)

## *FOCUS on...*

### **Letter from the Chairman:**

Dear Fellow Preservationists,

Happy New Year from MAHDC! One of our goals for 2013 is to provide more networking opportunities for our membership. We see great value in exchanging ideas and sharing best practices with one another. Look for our 'regional social hours' this coming year. These meetings will be informal and hope to attract commissioners from neighboring communities. We hope to see you at one of these gatherings so we can get to know your commission a little better. We will send out an announcement once the schedule is complete. Training workshops also provide valuable networking opportunities for our membership. We continue to conduct training courses on law/ethics and design review, and have added a third course on Education and Outreach for HPCs. Ongoing training is very important for commissioners, both new and old. Contact Karen if you are interested in coordinating a regional social hour and/or hosting a training session in your community.

This year we will also be transitioning from a printed newsletter to an electronic format. This way we can provide updates to you in a more timely manner and on a more regular basis. Should you wish to still receive a printed copy, let us know.

In December, we convened our annual meeting and membership social hour in Annapolis. At that meeting we distributed our 2012 Annual Report (*see page 3*). Please take a look at the action plan for the coming year, and let us know how you would like to get involved. We look forward to working with you in 2013.

**Fred Stachura**  
*President, MAHDC Board*

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*Chestertown Historic District*



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

### **MAHDC Board of Directors**

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**Kirsti Uunila**  
Calvert County

**Karen Theimer Brown**  
Editor  
ktheimerbrown@gmail.com

## **MAHDC News**

### ■ **MAHDC welcomes the following new board members for 2013.**

**Lisa Mroszczyk Murphy** is an Historic Preservation Planner for the City of Frederick. She has served as staff to the Historic Preservation Commission for the past five years. During her tenure she has worked with the Commission to establish an active education and outreach program, a Preservation Month program and awards, implementation of new property tax credit, and an active designation committee.

**Kirsti Uunila** is a registered professional Archaeologist and has served Calvert County since 1993 as Historic Preservation Planner and staff to the Calvert County Historic District Commission. In this position she reviews all development projects in the county for potential effects on cultural resources and has designed and managed research projects to capture, preserve, and share the history of Calvert County. Kirsti is a certified instructor for the MAHDC educational program and has served on the MAHDC board in the past.

**Tom Liebel** is a practicing architect with the firm Marks, Thomas Architects in Baltimore. He served on the Baltimore City Commission on Historic and Architectural Preservation since 2010 and is currently serving the role as Chair. He is also the Chair of the Maryland Green Building Council and a member of the Maryland Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. He brings to the board his expertise in architecture, green design and building techniques, and sensitive restorations.

### ■ **Thank you to...**

The board would also like to thank Betty Carlson-Jameson and Brigitte Fessenden for their service to MAHDC, and we wish them well in future endeavors.

### ■ **Internship Opportunity**

MAHDC is looking for an intern to assist us with our website management. Please contact Karen for more information.



*On-going maintenance is essential for preserving the integrity of the Easton Historic District.*

# MAHDC 2012 Annual Report

MAHDC's primary focus in 2012 was to expand training and educational opportunities for our membership. The on-line component of our statewide training initiative was completed by Winter 2011 and posted on our web site before the New Year. The on-line program consists of eight tutorials and an accompanying reference manual. The tutorial is freely accessible through our website and is organized in an easy-to-read format. Over 140 users have downloaded the program, and in the recent months it has been circulated more widely outside the state.

In January 2012, we embarked on phase two of the statewide training program. Phase two consisted of a series of on-site workshops scheduled in various locations on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. We developed two three-hour onsite training sessions, one on law and the other on design review. The final product included a power-point presentation, a number of case studies, associated handouts, and an instructor's guide. In early spring, MAHDC put out a 'call for trainers' to solicit prospective instructors to teach the workshops. We recruited some of the best in the state to represent MAHDC in this initiative. In March we held a one-day training session for prospective instructors. Attendees included representatives from all our funding contributors. At the completion of the 'train the trainers' session, we had approximately ten MAHDC certified instructors to teach the workshops.



*A contributing resource to the Chesapeake City Historic District.*

Six pilot sessions were conducted on the Eastern Shore from April-June. Design workshops were held in Chesapeake City, Easton, and Cambridge. Law and Procedures workshops were conducted in Chestertown, Berlin, and Salisbury. We had a total of 72 people attend the training sessions, with 14 different commissions represented. MAHDC staff participated in all six sessions.

Building on the pilot series, we conducted four additional courses elsewhere in the state over the summer and fall. Frederick and Cumberland hosted law workshops, and Prince George's County hosted both law and design sessions.

This year MAHDC expanded our training effort outside Maryland, and in November we held a workshop in Dover, Delaware. With the assistance of Preservation Maryland, MAHDC created a third workshop that focuses on Education and Outreach Strategies for Commissions. Five of the nine Delaware commissions were represented at the session. The training course was hosted by Preservation Delaware and the Certified Local Government (CLG) program in Lewes funded the event. Delaware's statewide CLG coordinator and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer also participated in the training. MAHDC will be conducting a second Education session in February and a follow-up session on Education and Design Review in March 2013.

The feedback we have received for the training workshops and materials has been overwhelmingly positive. Many users have reported that the material is easily digestible, interesting, and comprehensive. We have learned over the years that commissions want us to bring the training to them, and they appreciate the opportunity to discuss issues that are happening in their particular community at the on-site sessions.

In addition to our training focus, MAHDC board and staff held a retreat in October. In preparation of the retreat, we reached out to a select number of individuals who have worked closely with MAHDC over the years to identify how we can best assist our membership. Highlights from the 2013 action plan include the following:

- **Commission Mentoring Program:** MAHDC will establish a mentoring program that will help broaden our profile among commissioners across the state. Board members and interested partners will 'adopt' a commission who has the desire and support to develop their program. Active members of MAHDC are eligible for the one-year program.
- **Outreach Efforts:** A large part of our identity and service to commissions is the availability of networking opportunities. Quarterly 'regional social hours' will be planned to provide networking and exchange of ideas (*see above*).

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*address service requested*

## MAHDC 2012 Annual Report *continued from page 3*

- **Improved Marketing:** MAHDC will investigate and pursue ways to better package the training materials and improve how we market the materials to our membership, which includes on-site delivery of the training modules, step-by-step.
- **Survey:** A survey is needed to formally evaluate the effectiveness of the training. The survey would also help guide the development of future training modules and workshops. Staff has initiated discussions with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service (NPS) for assistance.
- **CLG Program:** MAHDC will pursue opportunities to work with Maryland Historical Trust and the National Park Service to enhance the existing CLG program.
- **Education Program Expansion:** MAHDC will continue to broaden its training program outside of the state. Staff has been working with NPS about using aspects of our training program as a model for other states.

Lastly, we would like to thank and recognize the MAHDC board who assisted with the training programs this past year.

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|--|------------------------------------|
| ■ Betty Carlson-Jameson, Chairman              | ■ Sharon Kennedy                   |
| ■ Bernie Callan, Vice President for Operations | ■ Roger Bollman ( <i>phase 1</i> ) |
| ■ Fred Stachura, Vice President                | ■ Zach Smith ( <i>phase 2</i> )    |
| ■ Brigitte Fessenden                           | ■ Robert Hershey                   |