



Maryland's

# HISTORIC DISTRICTS

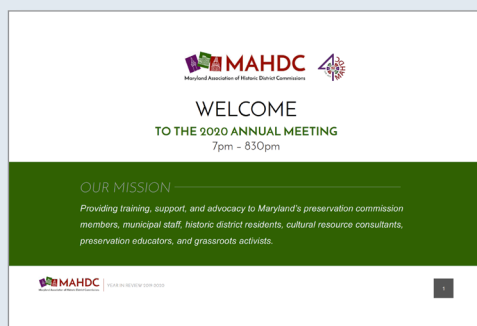
A Publication of MAHDC: The Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions

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## FIRST VIRTUAL MAHDC ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 11TH



On November 11, the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions held its 2020 Annual Meeting virtually with over twenty-five attending, including Commissioners, CLG staff, and business and individual associates attending from across the state.

Fred Stachura, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The program included the vetting of two new members of the Board of Directors, Kathy McKenney (Allegany County) and Chris Berger (Gaithersburg), a tribute to Bernie Callan by Kirsti Uunila, a PowerPoint presentation of the Year-in-Review by Leslie Gottert, Executive Director, the Finance Report by Fred Stachura, as Acting Vice-President of Finance, and a lively discussion of new business: Education and Training led by Sheila Bashiri and Fundraising led by Cathy Thompson. The program ended at 8:30 p.m. The bios of the new board members are found on the About Us page.

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**MARYLAND'S HISTORIC DISTRICTS** is growing from a quarterly e-newsletter to a semi-annual online journal! The inaugural issue will be published Fall 2021.

## LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

### Greetings!

In this unprecedented time of transition, when our state and our country are experiencing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on all aspects of daily life, the State of Maryland has persevered in its efforts to protect its citizens and stimulate its economy. During the last quarter of 2020, the Maryland Historical Trust certified the award of FFY2020 Certified Local Government Education and Training Grant funding to seven CLGs. Annapolis, Calvert County, Cumberland, the City of Frederick, Frederick County, Gaithersburg, and Montgomery County. Then, at the start of 2021, Governor Hogan announced the results of the Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program:

- **Maryland Historical Trust Releases Economic Impact Study for 13 Maryland Certified Heritage Areas in Maryland** <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MDMDP/bulletins/2ba71fb?reqfrom=sh> **The full report is available at:** <https://bit.ly/mhaaimpact>
- **The State Heritage Preservation Grant: \$9 million in Tax Credits to Revitalize Historic Buildings. Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program:** "The Historic Revitalization Tax Credit, administered by MHT, has invested more than \$412 million in Maryland rehabilitation projects since it began in 1996. The investments have helped make improvements to 5,075 homeowners and 772 commercial historic structures, preserving buildings that contribute to the distinct character of Maryland's towns, cities, and rural areas. According to a study by the Abell Foundation, the program has helped to create an estimated 29,898 jobs through construction and new or expanded occupation of these significant historic resources." **For more information,** go to: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MDMDP/bulletins/2b403bd>

As you know from my message in the Summer-Fall 2020 issue of *Maryland Historic Districts*, MAHDC began to offer its training program online last May. Since then, its virtual programs have been well-received. In her article on page 4, Meghan Jenkins, reviews the session organized by the Washington County HDC at the end of November. All Commissioners and CLG staff are encouraged to participate in training. Attendees remark on the usefulness of what they learn in the courses from case studies that provide insight into issues that they often face. We invite you to consult with us about your training needs and make a plan for a course in 2021.

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

## MAHDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Frederick C. Stachura**  
President  
Prince George's County

**Sheila Bashiri**  
Rockville

**Christopher J. Berger**  
Gaithersburg

**Aaron Marcavitch**  
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**Kathy McKenney**  
City of Cumberland

**Gaver Nichols**  
At-large

**Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.**  
At-large

**Kathleen Seay**  
Calvert County

**Cathy Thompson**  
Charles County

**Kirsti Uunila**  
At-large

**Leslie Larsen Gottert**  
Executive Director  
[director@mahdc.org](mailto:director@mahdc.org)

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## Letter from the Board President

We would like to thank all of the Historic District Commissions, Contributing and Business Associates and Individual Members for their support. Your annual dues provides the critical financial support that allows MAHDC to develop and offer training courses to Commissions around the State of Maryland, to publish and provide services to members and the public through its website and Online Restoration Contractor Directory.

We encourage you to send news of your district's activities and articles about your preservation programs for *Maryland's Historic Districts* for the fall launch of its new online journal format. Please contact co-editors, Cathy Thompson - [ThompsCa@charlescountymd.gov](mailto:ThompsCa@charlescountymd.gov) - or Kirsti Uunila - [kuunila20@gmail.com](mailto:kuunila20@gmail.com) - about the guidelines for submissions. **Thank you!**

Respectfully yours,

**Frederick C. Stachura,**  
MAHDC Board President

## MAHDC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

The MAHDC Board of Directors extends a warm thanks to the 23 Historic District Commissions that renewed their annual membership during the first two months of the annual renewal campaign. Together they represent nearly 50% of all 47 Maryland HDCs. They are: Baltimore City, Bel Air, Calvert County, Cambridge, Carroll County, Cecil County, Charles County, Cumberland, Denton, the City of Frederick, Frederick County, Frostburg, Gaithersburg, Harford County, Laurel, Laytonsville, Montgomery County, Ridgely, St. Mary's County, St. Michaels, Sykesville, Washington County and Wicomico County.

## NEWS from MAHDC and Maryland's Historic District Commissions

### Welcome! New MAHDC Board Member: Gaver Nichols

■ Meet Gaver Nichols, architect and long-time member of the Cambridge Historic District Commission.

### Farewell!

■ Aaron Marcavitch will resign from the MAHDC Board of Directors in May 2021 when he will depart from Maryland to serve as the Executive Director of Connecticut Heritage.

### Congratulations! Christopher Sperling, Planner III, Calvert County

■ Chris recently joined the Calvert County Planning Department and has nearly thirty years of experience in cultural resource management, including ten years with the Fairfax, Virginia Park Authority as Senior Archaeologist. He holds a BA in anthropology and an MA in American History from George Mason University.

### Thank you!

■ MAHDC thanks Eric Sennstrom, Cecil County, and Gloria Smith, Wicomico County, for their many years of service to their county Historic District Commission as staff.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Maryland Historical Trust recently awarded a grant to the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Office for an Asian-American Historical and Cultural Context Study.

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/montgomery-plannings-historic-preservation-office-awarded-grant-for-asian-american-historical-and-cultural-context-study/?fbclid=IwAR1JqZjy9Z8C8qktmh3PPUCFm1eyYHWzdprbctHPb4ZoUhRk1eR1TSfp4>

- It is with great sadness that MAHDC shares the news of the passing of former Laurel Historic District Commission Chair, Douglas Hayes. A long-time HDC member, Mr. Hayes was a stalwart advocate for the recognition and preservation of Laurel's beautiful architectural and natural heritage. Mr. Hayes and his service to the community will be greatly missed.

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/laurel/cng-ll-douglas-hayes-1217-20201215-bz3k2bbmpvco7h5pi7jzmlvbq-story.html>

New  
Publication



## In the Midst of these Plains

CHARLES COUNTY'S HISTORIC  
BUILDINGS AND LANDSCAPES

By Nicole A. Diehlmann, Architectural Historian, RK&K and MAHDC Board Member Cathy Hardy Thompson, Preservation and Long Range Planning Program Manager, Charles County

Co-authors Nicole A. Diehlmann and Cathy Hardy Thompson are in the final stages of publishing a culmination of research on the historic buildings and landscapes in Charles County, tracking the county's development through the built environments of agriculture, naval proving grounds, and casinos, to name a few. The upcoming book, *In the Midst of These Plains: Charles County Buildings and Landscapes*, will be available in early 2021.

# WASHINGTON COUNTY HDC PARTICIPATES IN *First MAHDC Virtual Training* LAST NOVEMBER

..... By Meghan Jenkins, Washington County .....

As for many Commissions across the state, virtual meetings have become the norm for the Washington County Historic District Commission. With two new members this year and a Commission now comfortable with the virtual setting, it seemed appropriate to reach out to MAHDC about its new virtual training program. In the past, members received limited training and the HDC and staff agreed to improve upon that throughout the coming year.

First, the Commissioners deemed the first MAHDC foundational course, **HPC 100: Design Review** as the most appropriate starting point due to the range of topics that it covered. Fred Stachura, MAHDC Board President and preservation lawyer, offered to serve as the instructor. The virtual program took place on Friday, November 20th. As Fred covered each topic, he prompted staff and members to identify local policies and examples to consider during the discussion.

As a result, the exchange not only addressed the overarching goals of the training, but also opened up the discussion so that it was relevant to the needs of the Commission. For example, as Fred provided Commission members with examples of

meeting structure and the important components of the design review process, staff noted elements where the HDC could improve County procedure. Some of these will require policy changes or the updating of local ordinances while others could be effective immediately. Ensuring consistency in the review process in order to have defensible actions by the HDC was by far the most important take-away from the training.

As the Washington County HDC is initiating a outreach effort to inform the public about programs and resources available to stewards of the County's historic resources, the examples that Fred provided in about additions and green principles and the ensuing discussion produced some great ideas for the information campaign.

Overall this training was of great value to Commission members and staff. According to one of our newest Commissioners, it was "excellent and well presented". While it would be great to meet in person, the virtual environment certainly did not detract from the value of this course to the participants and there is no denying the convenience of a virtual meeting setting. ■

## (Continued from page 1) First Virtual Annual Meeting



Here are links to the 2020 MAHDC Annual Report and the Annual Meeting program, slate and 2020 Year-in-Review:

<https://mahdc.org/ma/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/MAHDC-Year-in-Review.pdf>

<https://mahdc.org/ma/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/MAHDC-2020-Annual-Report.docx>





# HIGHLIGHTING MAHDC Contributing Associates



**Allen Construction and Restoration, Inc.** is a firm based in Towson, Maryland, that provides consulting and project management services for the restoration of historic buildings. Peter Allen, principal, is a licensed building contractor and appraiser. He is an experienced carpenter, specializing in the conservation of wood, glass and other historical fabric and the repair of wood windows. Recent projects include the restoration of the Rockville Cemetery garden shed and the McComas Institute in Harford County. Contact information is available at [mahdc.org/contractor-directory/allen-construction-restoration-inc-2/](http://mahdc.org/contractor-directory/allen-construction-restoration-inc-2/)

based in historic Easton – on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It provides consulting services to building owners throughout the Chesapeake Bay region and across the US and Canada. Areas of focus are historic preservation, adaptive reuse and building modernizations/upgrades and additions. Additional information and photographs are available on the Goebel Architect website: <http://www.cpgoebel.com>

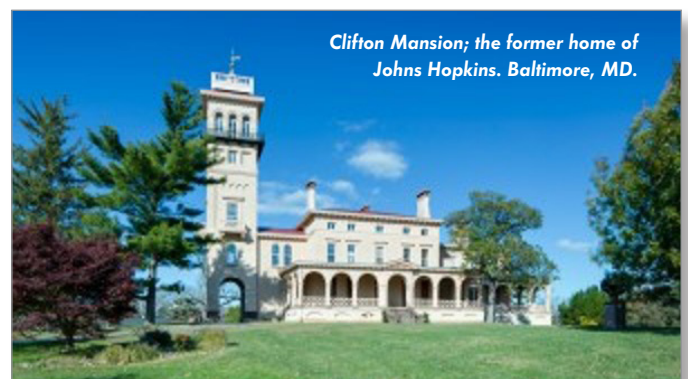


**John Brunnett, Architect and President, heads Gant Brunnett Architects**, a firm with the knowledge and expertise in multiple aspects of project development, including planning, condition surveys, historic tax credit applications, production of construction drawings and oversight of the restoration construction. Gant Brunnett is regularly engaged in preservation projects that require close coordination with local and State historic preservation officials, as well as public funding sources. Its award winning portfolio includes numerous National Historic Trust-listed properties, including Landmark designated buildings similar to the recently completed Clifton Mansion, the former home of Johns Hopkins in northeast Baltimore. Additional information and photographs are available on the GBA website: [www.gba-architects.com](http://www.gba-architects.com) ■

**Michael Coomes, owner/principal of LaGrange Hall Masonry**, is a licensed contractor specializing in stone restoration. Coomes brings over thirty years of experience in masonry, including fifteen years restoring a 6,000 sq. ft., ca. 1790 stone mansion and fifteen years repairing and restoring fountains and hardscapes at Ladew Topiary Gardens. Michael says, "I believe I am well suited to repair and maintain most issues with historic homes. Including slate roofing, copper work, woodwork replication, plaster, water infiltration problems, etc. with homes built before 1930 preferred. The older the better for me." Additional information and photographs are available on the LaGrange Hall Masonry website: [lagrangehall.com](http://lagrangehall.com)



**Charles Paul Goebel, Registered Architect and Planner, American Institute of Certified Planners**, is the owner and lead architect at Charles Paul Goebel, Architect, Ltd. The firm is a well established, highly respected and award-winning architecture and land-planning firm





## MAHDC ONLINE RESTORATION CONSULTANT AND CONTRACTOR DIRECTORY

The public continues to turn to the *MAHDC Online Restoration Consultant and Contractor Directory* as a valuable resource to identify qualified experts and firms to work on the restoration and maintenance of historic properties.

MAHDC also welcomes the following new and renewed Business Associate members:

### CONTRIBUTING ASSOCIATES

- Allen Construction & Restoration
- Charles Paul Goebel, Architect, Ltd.
- Gant Brunnett Architects
- LaGrange Hall Masonry

### BUSINESS ASSOCIATES

- All Star Ecology
- Bleak Hill Restorations
- Brennan + Company, Architects
- Commonwealth Heritage Group
- C. R. Bennett Construction
- Dovetail Cultural Resource Group
- Durable Slate Company
- EAC/Archaeology, Inc.
- Gray & Pape, Inc.
- Stantec Consulting Services
- Old Line Architects
- Thomas J. Taltavull, Architect

..... *Your support is greatly appreciated!* .....

Contact information and a description of these firms is available online in the MAHDC Restoration Consultant and Contractor Directory:

<https://mahdc.org/contractor-directory/>

## OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE!

MAHDC is looking for two new board members. The MAHDC Board of Directors meets virtually once every two months. Board members carry out various tasks such as editing and contributing to *Maryland's Historic Districts*, planning the Annual Symposium and social hours, and providing support for Historic District Commissions across the state as requested.

If you are interested in learning more about serving in this capacity, please contact Leslie Gottert, Executive Director, at [director@mahdc.org](mailto:director@mahdc.org).

*Thank you!*



Become an  
**MAHDC  
ASSOCIATE**

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

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Access to MAHDC training programs at the discounted membership rates.
- Subscription to MAHDC's new semi-annual journal.
- 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](#).



### JOIN US ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

Please "like" us on our [Facebook page](#) and follow our [Twitter feed](#) (@mahdcorg) for timely policy updates, news, and training opportunities.

