



MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES
FISCAL 2018 OPERATING BUDGET TESTIMONY

Before the: House Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee, February 2, 2017
Senate Health and Human Services Subcommittee, February 3, 2017

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Subcommittee:

I am Timothy D. Baker, State Archivist and Commissioner of Land Patents. With me today are Elaine Rice Bachmann, the Deputy State Archivist; Nassir Rezvan, Director of Administration; and Elizabeth Newell, our Legislative Officer.

For your reference and further reading, our annual report is provided on our website in the form of Minutes and Agenda of the Hall of Records Commission, which we publish electronically following each meeting at <http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/intromsa/hrc/html/hrc.html>

I would like to thank Sierra Boney for her complete and thoughtful analysis of our budget. She always has a thorough understanding of our budget posture and the issues we face.

In the interest of time, my presentation this afternoon will only address the issue presented in the analysis. Specifically, the mold remediation project currently underway at our main facility in Annapolis. The written testimony will highlight some other items of interest.

Since October 2016, the Archives has been undergoing extensive remediation for conditions that resulted from a mold-tolerant environment throughout the building. This past Summer evidence of mold was discovered on the surfaces of some of our library books in the Archives Search Room. The Department of General Services launched a comprehensive investigation of the Archives' physical plant and also conducted a series of tests that verified the presence of mold throughout the building.

While the results of the physical plant investigation have not yet been fully analyzed, it would seem that the mold presence occurred due to the confluence of a number of circumstances and events, the cumulative effects of which accelerated or compounded the problem.

The Department of General Services is to be commended for swift action and a comprehensive approach to the situation. All of the occupied spaces of the Archives have been successfully remediated, although it may be at least one more month before operations are back to normal.

What is not yet clear is the extent of the repairs that will be needed to the “envelope” of the Archives building and the mechanical systems.

My assessment is that DGS has done an excellent job to date, and that they are committed to resolving all systemic issues. In the meantime, we have continued to provide walk-in services to the public. Though this is not without its difficulties, as remediation work continues the Archives’ primary goal remains to provide a high level of customer service to all those who rely on us for documents, information, and timely assistance.

Rolling Run Drive Adjunct Archives Facility Update

I would like to once again thank the Legislature and the Executive for solving our long-running storage problem by pushing forward the initiative to purchase the warehouse in Woodlawn. The renovations to the mechanical systems there are nearly complete. The roof has been replaced and is, thankfully, no longer leaking. We have been able to consolidate over 200,000 cubic feet of material that were formerly housed in three separate warehouses all of which lacked even rudimentary temperature and humidity control. We will next be installing racking and storage solutions to house the State’s artistic property that has for so many years been in storage at other institutions such as the Walters and the Baltimore Museum of Art.

Artistic Property

We are so pleased with the recent installation of the extraordinary paintings of the first four Lords Baltimore in the rotunda of the State House. Lords five and six are set to join the rest of the Calverts in late February - early March. These full-length portraits depicting the proprietors of the Maryland Colony, painted by various court painters of the British monarchy, will allow the estimated 200,000 visitors per year the opportunity to stand in the presence of our State’s earliest history.

Staff at the Archives have overseen the cleaning and conservation of all of the paintings and frames. Their presence in the State House truly allows the public to view them in a way they have never before been seen. It elevates the way that all of us understand, experience, and can think and talk about the men who first imagined Maryland and what it could be.

Adding to our ability to interpret Maryland’s beginnings, the Artistic Property Commission has also just negotiated the loan (an anticipated future gift) of a large (approx 4’h x 6’w) painting, *The Landing of the Maryland Colonists from the Ark & the Dove, St. Clement’s Island, March 25, 1634* by artist Peter Egeli, 1974.

Below is the Artist’s statement regarding the painting:

“The painting depicts an incidence, reported by Father Andrew White, which occurred soon after the colonists arrived at St. Clement’s Island on the Potomac River. A small boat had been sent ashore with some women to wash clothes. At the shore the boat capsized and many of the precious linens were lost. Men on the stern of the Ark can be seen pointing to the shore, where

the bottom of the overturned boat is barely visible. People are trying to recover the lost goods. The Dove is being hailed to help while the Ark's longboat has been launched and will soon be pulling for shore to lend some hands. In the end it was determined that the island was too small for the new colony so the two ships sailed back down the river to Saint Mary's."

On February 15th, this painting will be installed in the Senate Caucus Room directly across from the portrait of Leonard Calvert who accompanied this momentous voyage. Along with the Lords Baltimore it will add so much to visitor's ability to visualize the risks taken by our founders.

Restoration of the State's full-length portrait of Queen Henrietta Maria by the studio of Anthony Van Dyck, c. 1632 is set to begin this spring thanks to a generous gift from the Historic Projects Committee of The Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Maryland. This will allow us to move forward with the restoration of the companion portrait of King Charles I c. 1640 through the allocation of conservation funds provided by the Governor and the Legislature. Though later copies can be seen elsewhere such as Government House, these are the authentic portraits painted at the very time that these monarchs provided for Maryland's Charter. State conservation funds permitting (what remains of this year's funding and in hope of next year's funding) we also plan to conserve the portrait of Queen Anne c.1702 so that the group may be installed together in the Executive suite of offices - overlooking the Lords who they authorized to found the colony.

The state-owned art collection is a very important part of the Maryland State Archives collections. It is a way the public and, each of us, can connect with our history. It has the power to spark the imagination, and inspire young people's concepts of service to our state.

We very much look forward to continuing the work of implementing the State House Visitor Experience Master Plan with interpretive statues of Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglas. We also will continue to work in the coming year with the Department of General Services on improved signage around the State House, enhanced landscaping and developing one of the last, as yet, unfinished components of the Master Plan: The Old Treasury Building on State Circle.

Outreach and Public Programs

The Archives hosts a variety of public programs throughout the year, at our building in Annapolis, as well as at the State House and other locations, including 'virtual' public programs, in order to reach a broad audience. Our staff also presents lectures and programs off-site to a variety of cultural and heritage groups, as well as in schools. A brief description of these follows:

Annual Family History Festival on Saturday, October 1, 2016. Throughout the day, the Archives' staff led a newly designed behind-the-scenes tour that focused on the life of a permanent record as it moves through the Archives from retention schedule, transfer, preservation, containerization, digitization, storage and access. We also offered hands-on workshops including: Orientation to the Archives' Website; How to Use the Guide to

Government Records; How to Use MDLANDREC; How to Use Special Collections Guide to Newspapers and Church Records; How to Handle and Preserve Family Photos.

Additionally, we presented several panel discussions throughout the day highlighting tips and tricks for more effective research by professional genealogists, archivists and historians. The event included exhibitors from a variety of genealogical and cultural groups across the state.

Workshop Series

On Friday, July 1, 2016, the Archives' staff debuted a new public workshop focused on vital records in our collections. Vital Records, including birth, death, and marriage records, are the most used and requested record groups by researchers in the Search Room. They are simply invaluable to genealogists and researchers, thus the workshop was completely full to capacity and very well received. We are continuing to work on scripting out this material for our ongoing production of YouTube videos which we hope to begin posting online by the end of this calendar year.

Brick Wall Sessions

Our quarterly Brick Wall Sessions remain overwhelmingly popular, with each date offered filling up in advance. We held a summer session on August 13, and are making plans for the next virtual online session to be held this winter. We are very grateful for the continued support of local genealogists who volunteer their time to join Archives staff in working these events. Due to their popularity, and the fact that the majority of Brick Wall participants stay at the Archives to research for the entire day, we have included additional staffing on the days of these events to provide outstanding customer service in the Search Room to keep pace with heavier usage.

Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Series

The Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Series, inaugurated in January 2015, is still going strong with each event averaging approximately 30 attendees. In recent months, we have held numerous fascinating programs with a focus on the different ways Maryland's rich documentary record can be used to understand our shared history.

State House by Candlelight

Annual holiday event featuring six groups of youth ensembles performing vocal and instrumental music while the public is invited to tour the State House with interpretation provided by Archives staff. This annual program is managed by the State House Office of Interpretation, a program of the Archives.

Thank you for this opportunity. I would be happy to answer any questions the Subcommittee may have.