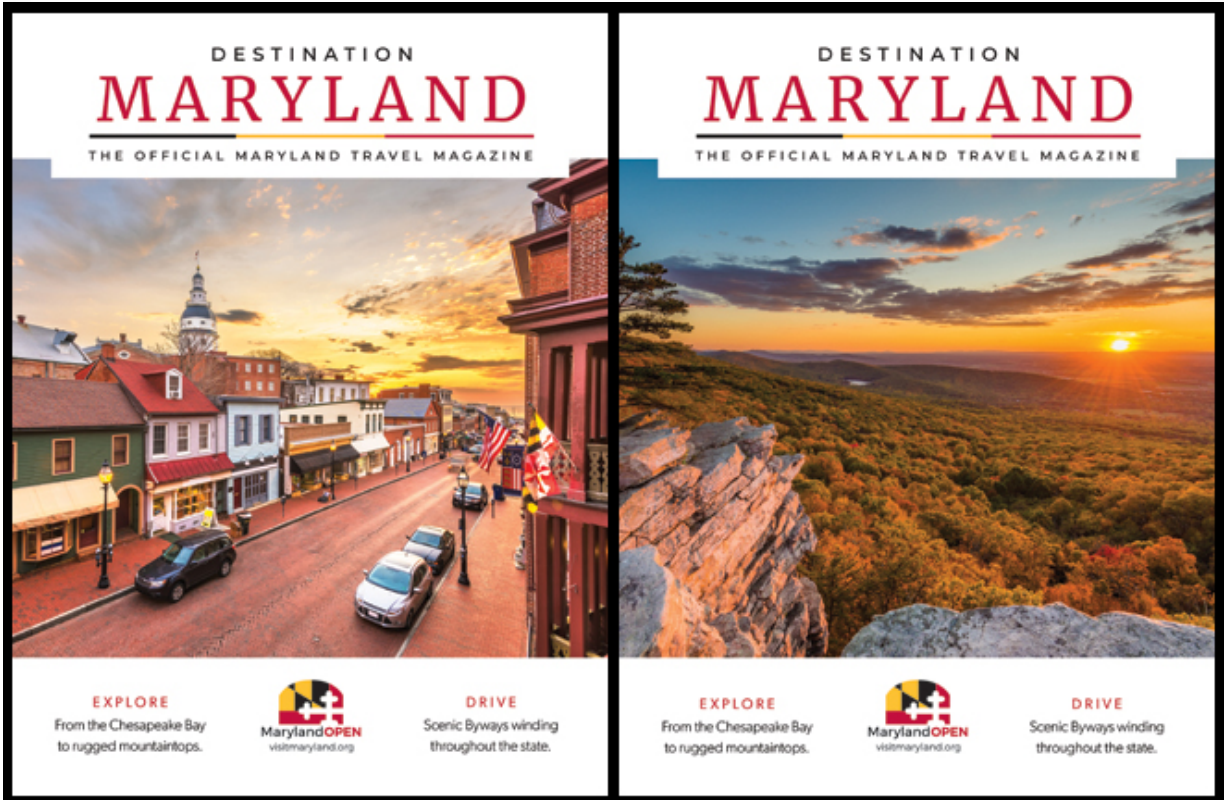


MARYLAND INSIGHTS

DIVISION OF TOURISM AND FILM
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Destination Maryland Magazine 2021 is Here

Destination Maryland Magazine is our vibrant, information-packed travel guide produced by the Maryland Office of Tourism Development in conjunction with Miles Partnership. It combines exhilarating photography and page-turning features sure to inspire dreams and plans for Maryland travel. This year's edition spotlights adventures around the Great Chesapeake Bay Loop, Western Maryland's mountains, a guide to Maryland craft beverages, road trip suggestions, unique Maryland cuisine, and travel along our 18 designated Scenic Byways. *Destination Maryland Magazine* is available free at Maryland Welcome Centers, and can be ordered at VisitMaryland.org.

[Order Your Free Copy Now](#)

Get Ready for National Plan For



Vacation Day

January 26 is National Plan for Vacation Day, and after a long 2020, we could all use one. With national media attention focused on this annual event, and millions of Americans expected to plan their 2021 travel, it's time to make sure you're ready. Are your destination/attraction website and social media channels up-to-date? Have you been keeping up with your TripAdvisor and Yelp reviews? Click on the link below to U.S. Travel's Vacation Planning Tool; now is a great time to study it and make sure you are ready to respond to the 21st-century traveler. Together, we can make 2021 a much-needed banner year for Maryland travel!

[U.S. Travel's Vacation Planning Tool](#)



Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grants are Coming Up

The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) is pleased to announce that MHAA is now seeking applications for its FY 2022 grants cycle, and "Intent to Apply" forms are due this month. MHAA provides dollar-for-dollar matching grants for capital and non-capital projects located within Maryland's 13 certified heritage areas. Non-profit organizations, local jurisdictions, state agencies, and federal agencies are all eligible to apply.

Non-capital MHAA grants are awarded for up to \$50,000 per project, while capital MHAA grants are awarded for up to \$100,000 per project. Projects seeking less than \$5,000 in grant funding are not eligible for MHAA project grants. MHAA requires that both capital and non-capital projects support heritage tourism-related activities or infrastructure. An "Intent to Apply" form is due on January 29, 2021. Full applications are due online in late February, March, and April of 2021. Deadlines for the full applications are set by each of the 13 heritage areas for

their applicants. Grant awards will be announced in July of 2021.

[MHAA Intent To Apply Form](#)



Maryland State Parks Superintendent Nita Settina Receives America's State Parks Distinguished Service Award

America's State Parks, the National Association of State Park Directors, has named Maryland State Parks Superintendent Nita Settina the winner of its Distinguished Service Award. The Distinguished Service award is given to a state park director who has demonstrated a long-term, sustained record of professional accomplishment in the field of park and recreation management.

America's State Parks sighted Settina's creation of the Conservation Jobs Corps which focuses on underserved communities and provides jobs for 300-400 people each year. Also noted was Settina's integral role in the acquisition, construction, and development of several parks including the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park as well as her diligent work to enhance and protect the state's natural and cultural resources.

[View Full List Of Winners](#)



OTD to Launch Underground Railroad Certified Host Program

The Maryland Office of Tourism is pleased to announce the launch of a new Certified Host Program in 2021. Certified Host Programs provide training to Maryland tourism partners to increase knowledge about Maryland Office of Tourism initiatives, increase knowledge of

regional visitor experiences, increase business promotion, and provide basic customer service training. Training sessions are 90 minutes long and will be conducted online.

Maryland's Underground Railroad Certified Host Program is designed for tourism partners across the state who are near Maryland National Park Service Network to Freedom sites. For a list and locations of Network to Freedom sites please see www.visitmaryland.org/network-to-freedom. Training is on January 19 at 3 p.m. and January 27 at 7 p.m. Registration is open now; please click below for a registration form.

[Click Here To Register](#)

IN THE NEWS

AAA World Tours the C&O Canal National Historical Park

Columbia Cultural Arts Center Funding Approved by Howard County Council

Historic White's Ferry Has Ceased Operations Across the Potomac

Baltimore and Morgan State Influence Holiday Movie, "Jingle Jangle," according to *The Baltimore Sun*

Carlos Santana Lends Support to Baltimore Jazz Club Fundraiser

BBJ Covers the Year in Tourism

MGM National Harbor Pursues Outdoor Gaming

Patapsco Heritage Greenway Announces More Than \$28K in Grants

New Hotel to Fill Vacancy in National Harbor

Penn National Agrees to Acquire Operations of Hollywood Casino Perryville

Five Maryland Sites to Host Traveling Smithsonian Exhibition

Maryland Minute

Each week, the *Maryland Minute* provides highlights and insights on this weekend's events around the state. *Maryland Minute* is featured on Entercom radio stations in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., WERQ on Baltimore's WBAL-AM 1090.

Maryland Travel Tips

For the latest on events and everything going all around Maryland, view the latest edition of [Visit Maryland Now!](#)

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