



MARYLAND INSIGHTS

DIVISION OF TOURISM AND FILM
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



“State of Tourism” Panel Held

On March 9, OTD’s Managing Director Liz Fitzsimmons moderated a panel on “The State of Tourism” as part of the BWI Business Partnership, Inc.’s Signature Breakfast Series. The panel discussed the tourism industry’s recovery from the pandemic, the challenges still being faced, the opportunities for visitor growth, and how the business community can help promote the region. Fitzsimmons remarked on the recovery from the pandemic that the numbers reflect a return to approximately 90 percent of what they were in 2019, and that Maryland tourism is "heading forward while keeping perspective in the rear view mirror."

Pictured above: (left to right) OTD Managing Director Liz Fitzsimmons; Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Executive Director Kristen Pironis; Visit Baltimore Chief Marketing Officer Trish McClean; and Visit Howard County Executive Director Amanda Hof.



Grant Opportunity

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership, is soliciting proposals through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund to protect and restore water quality and habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams.

NFWF is soliciting proposals under two distinct programs through this request. Through the Small Watershed Grants (SWG) Program, delivered in partnership with EPA and the CBP partnership, NFWF is soliciting proposals for projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed that promote voluntary, community-based efforts to protect and restore the diverse and vital habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. Through the Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense Grants (WILD) Program, delivered in partnership with FWS, NFWF is soliciting proposals for projects that conserve, steward, and enhance fish and wildlife habitats and related conservation values in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Proposals are due by April 20. For more information, [click here](#).



Celebrate Maryland Day

Saturday, March 25 is Maryland Day, but with a state so great, you need more than 24 hours to celebrate! Find your Free State fun at the colonists landing site on St. Clement's Island [here](#) or enjoy these 40 events throughout Anne Arundel County [here](#).



Vote in the *USA Today* 10Best Readers' Choice Awards

The most recent *USA Today* 10Best Readers' Choice Awards voting categories include "Best Rodeos," and Maryland is included for the Bill Pickett Rodeo. Voting expires April 10, and voting can be accessed [here](#).



Save the Date for the 2023 CRUSA Global Travel Exchange

Mark your calendars now to attend the 2023 [Global Travel Exchange](#) at the Westin Annapolis on September 18-20, 2023. Capital Region USA's annual marketplace is designed to connect the region's travel suppliers, overseas buyers, and receptive operators in face-to-face appointments, regional familiarization tours, and engaging networking events. The event will include marketplace orientation, appointments and networking events as well as attendance at Global Market Update, CRUSA's annual education event for the regional travel industry. Breakfasts, lunches, breaks, and receptions are also included with registration. The tentative event schedule is available [here](#). Registration opens April 1.



Promote Your Events on VisitMaryland.org

Do your partners know how easy it is to add events to [VisitMaryland.org's events calendar](#)? If you or an organization or attraction in your region is hosting an event, it's easy to get the word out through VisitMaryland.org's events calendar. With tens of thousands of regular visitors, it's a great tool, and with our

self-entry portal, it's never been easier to use! If you're wondering if an event has the right stuff for the VisitMaryland.org calendar, you'll find the inclusion criteria [here](#), [follow this link](#) for a step-by-step guide for self entry, or if it's not your first rodeo, jump straight to the entry portal [here](#).

Photo credit: Karmen Osei

IN THE NEWS



Gift of Travel Remains Popular, According to *Travel Market Report*

National Park Service Highlights Women's History Locations

Actor William Macy, MPT's Steven Schupak tapped for Maryland International Film Festival-Hagerstown Awards

11th Annual Annapolis Film Festival Arrives

Maryland Businesses Grow New Ventures and Initiatives as State Readies to Celebrate Maryland Day

Hot Air Balloon Festival Coming to Ocean City

Developer Talks About Plans for Harborplace

Maryland Minute

Each week, the *Maryland Minute* provides highlights and insights on this weekend's events around the state. [*Maryland Minute*](#) is featured on Audacy 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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Wes Moore
GOVERNOR

