



Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson Presents Governor's International Underground Railroad Month Proclamation

On August 29, Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson presented a proclamation issued by Governor Wes Moore declaring September 2023 as the 5th annual International Underground Railroad Month in Maryland. The month acknowledges the significance of the Underground Railroad, and all those involved, for its contribution to the eradication of slavery in the United States and as a cornerstone for the more comprehensive civil rights movement that followed. The event took place in partnership with the National Aquarium and two new historical markers were unveiled on the grounds of the National Aquarium as a part of the proclamation event.

“With nearly 100 Network to Freedom experiences throughout the state, Maryland is uniquely positioned as the world’s most powerful Underground Railroad storytelling destination,” said Secretary Anderson. “Visiting museums, attractions, and taking part in

special activities this month honors the brave men and women who were committed to freedom for themselves and others.”

A range of sites offer permanent Underground Railroad exhibits and experiences, including the Josiah Henson Museum & Park, the Visit Hagerstown Underground Railroad Walking Tour, the Southern Maryland African American Heritage Guide, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway Driving Tour, and Maryland’s Frederick Douglass Driving Tour.

A full list of International Underground Railroad Month events, exhibits, and activities can be found [here](#).

Pictured: Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson; National Aquarium President and CEO John Racanelli; Chair of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture Dr. Edwin T. Johnson.



OTD Attends Joint Regional Motorcoach Meeting

The Maryland Office of Tourism recently attended the joint regional meeting of Virginia Motorcoach Association (VMA), North Carolina Motorcoach Association (NCMA) and the Motorcoach Association of South Carolina (MCASC). The event was held at Harrah’s Casino Resort in Cherokee, NC. In addition to educational sessions, the regional meeting included brief appointment sessions with motorcoach operators and travel planners to pitch tour ideas for the upcoming year.

Pictured: Scott Barr, Consignment Sales Coordinator, National Aquarium; Rebecca Gisriel, Senior Sales Manager, Hotel Monaco; and Rich Gilbert, Travel Trade Sales Manager, OTD.



Maryland Mosaic Launches Website In Preparation for Nation's 250th

The recently launched website will promote the exploration of Maryland's role in the history and evolution of our country and will include a digital collection of people, places, events, documents, objects and buildings that occurred first in Maryland, and also happened first in the nation. The Mosaic will include material on each of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. If you or your site have a "first" to contribute, click [here](#) to enter it into Mosaic.



Applications for Winery & Vineyard Grant Programs Being Accepted

The Maryland Department of Commerce is accepting applications for the state's Winery & Vineyard Economic Development Grant Program. Administered by Commerce's Office of Tourism, the program provides assistance to existing wineries and vineyards interested in making capital improvements, as well as new entities looking to establish a presence in Maryland.

A total of \$1 million is available for this program, with grants supporting up to 25 percent of qualified capital expenses for new or existing wineries and vineyards in Maryland. Eligible expenses and improvements include barrels and bins; canopy management machines; fermenters or other recognized fermentation devices; fruit harvesters; irrigation equipment; presses, seeders, and tanks; and more. Applications must be submitted by September 15.

"The Winery & Vineyard Economic Development Grant Program is an excellent resource to help our agritourism businesses grow and thrive," said Maryland Department of Commerce Secretary Kevin Anderson. "Additionally, we

want to be sure to provide new opportunities for those looking to do business right here in Maryland. With help from our Office of Tourism, we can ensure this program does both.”

Awards will be made by December 15, 2023. For more information about business qualifications and eligible expenses, as well as how to apply, visit commerce.maryland.gov/wvedg.

Photo Credit: @coryvnhm



Participate in #MarylandMondays

#Maryland Mondays, OTD’s weekly promotional giveaway program, is a great way to bring awareness to you or your partners’ events, destinations, and activities. With a combined social media presence of more than 255K followers, #MarylandMondays generates buzz through our Visit Maryland Now! consumer newsletter as well as via social media outlets. Each Monday a new contest begins and runs through the following Sunday, with winner(s) selected Monday morning. The giveaways are scheduled two-to-three weeks before an event and promote the event and/or partner during the promotion period. The winner is randomly selected at the end of the promotion via a third-party application. If you're interested in partnering with us go to the [Visit Maryland website](https://www.visitmaryland.org) or Ana Hall-DeFoor at ahall-defoor@visitmaryland.org to discuss scheduling your giveaway.

Photo Credit: Edwin Remsberg, Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts.



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

Here's What You'll Find at the 142nd Maryland State Fair

M&T Bank Exchange Opens this Week as Baltimore's Newest Performance and Events Venue

Before Fort Frederick: A Ring of Small Forts Played a Role in the French and Indian War

Dorchester Center for the Arts to Present Showcase 2023

St. Mary's County Arts Council Offers a total of \$15,000 in Grants to Local Artists

Enjoy Maryland's Waterways This Summer and Into Fall

Frontier to Add Daily Flights to Tampa from BWI Airport

20 Must-Take Fall Trips Across The South

Five Nearby End-of-Season Getaways That Will Keep the Summer Vibe Going

Where to Travel in the U.S. this September

Checkerspot Brewing Co. Moves into New South Baltimore Building

10 Prettiest Towns In Chesapeake Bay

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!](#)

