

Blue Ribbon Commission to assist in the selection of a new Maryland State Archivist.

In June 2014, the Governor's Appointments Office established a Blue Ribbon Commission to search for a new state archivist. The process is that a nationwide search will be conducted by MSA with a closing date 30 days from the launch of the search, the date of which is still to be determined. MSA staff will review the candidates for minimum qualifications. The Blue Ribbon Commission will then conduct preliminary interviews and recommend no more than three qualified candidates to the Hall of Records Commission. The HORC will then forward its recommendations to the governor for his consideration.

Members of the Blue Ribbon Commission:

Governor's Appointees:

Thomas C. Battle, Ph.D., former Curator and Director at the Moorland Spingarn Research Center, Howard University

Tina H. Sheller, Ph.D., Professor of Early American History and Historic Preservation, Goucher College

Burt K. Kummerow, President, Maryland Historical Society

President's Appointees:

Robert Neall, former senator, CEO, Priority Partners, Inc.

Elaine Rice Bachmann, Director of Artistic Property, Exhibits, and Outreach, Maryland State Archives

Speaker's Appointees:

Virginia Clagett, former member, House of Delegates

Tom Marquardt, former Executive Editor, The Annapolis Capital newspaper

Chief Judge's Appointees:

Robert Duckworth, Anne Arundel County Circuit Court Clerk

Ellen Heller, Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge (retired)

The Search Process to Date:

The job announcement and description were posted on the Maryland State Archives' (MSA) website on September 12 with a closing date of October 13.

The job opening was also posted on the following websites:

DBM/JobAps website

The Maryland State Archives website

Society of State Archivists (SSA)

NAGARA (National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators)

CoSA (Council of State Archivists)

MARAC (Mid Atlantic Regional Archives Association)

MSA also purchased job listings on the websites of the following relevant national organizations:
Society of American Archivists (SAA)
American Records and Management Association (ARMA).

The result was a total of 39 applications that were evaluated by an MSA personnel officer. Only one fully qualified candidate was found to have applied. The applications have not been viewed by any other MSA staff.

The Blue Ribbon Committee met on November 13 and made the following decision:

A new nationwide search will be conducted by MSA with a closing date 30 days from the launch of the search, the date of which is still to be determined. MSA staff will review the candidates for minimum qualifications. The Blue Ribbon Commission will then conduct preliminary interviews and recommend no more than three qualified candidates to the Hall of Records Commission. The HORC will then forward its recommendations to the governor for his consideration.

Archives is now ready to begin a new search and will report to the results of the Commission's decisions for the HORC to make its final recommendations to the governor.