



MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES  
FISCAL 2016 OPERATING BUDGET TESTIMONY

House Appropriations Committee  
Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee, February 18, 2015

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Health and Human Services Subcommittee, February 20, 2015

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Subcommittee:

I am Timothy D. Baker, Acting State Archivist. With me today are Nassir Rezvan, Director of Administration, Elaine Rice Bachmann, Director of Artistic Property and Public Outreach, 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>.

In the interest of time, I will simply offer that Jolshua Rosado's analysis is excellent work. I would like to elaborate on a couple of things:

For many years now, I have come before the budget committees to talk about the most significant problem facing my agency: a lack of adequate space to house our historic documents. Last year, the leadership and the budget committees helped me solve that problem for at least the next generation. Thank you.

We have successfully moved over 200,000 cubic feet of record material to the new warehouse. Over the next year, we will be working diligently on completing the renovations that we outlined in last year's budget proposal, and we look forward to reporting on that at the next General Assembly Session.

Next, back in 2007, the Maryland State Archives developed a "*Visitor Experience Master Plan*" for our State House. The report we developed provided a road map for the reinterpretation of

the State House, including improvements in wayfinding, visitor and crowd management, exhibition design and use of spaces. It envisioned a more comprehensive approach to providing interpretation of the four centuries of the history of our capitol.

We can all take pride in the enormous progress made toward meeting the goals of the Master Plan. The unveiling of George Washington's speech resigning his commission this week; the near completion of the Old Senate Chamber, the Committee Room and the Stairwell Room -- these events mark significant achievements in our efforts to pay tribute to the national treasure that is our State House and to celebrate and recognize its historic role in our Nation's history.

But, we are not done yet. There are still some aspects of the Visitor Experience Master Plan that have yet to be implemented. Built in 1735, the Old Treasury Building is the oldest public building in our capital. It is empty at the moment except for some material that may have been used in the Old Senate Chamber reconstruction. We need to plan for some level of renovation / restoration work and ultimately, we will install stand-alone rugged displays that highlight the capital at St. Mary's City and the early part of the 18th century of Maryland's history.

I would also like to mention that the budget committees have expressed interest in the Archives promoting a more robust records management program for State agencies. We are working on some recommendations that we will have for you by the established deadline of June of this year. In the meantime, we are developing a basic training program for State and local government employees. We have also really stepped up our educational outreach to the public through events such as our Family History Festival, various workshops on preservation and through collaborative partnerships with academic institutions such as University of Maryland College Park and University of Maryland Baltimore County. More on those events and partnerships can be found at the link noted above.

With that, I am happy to answer any questions.