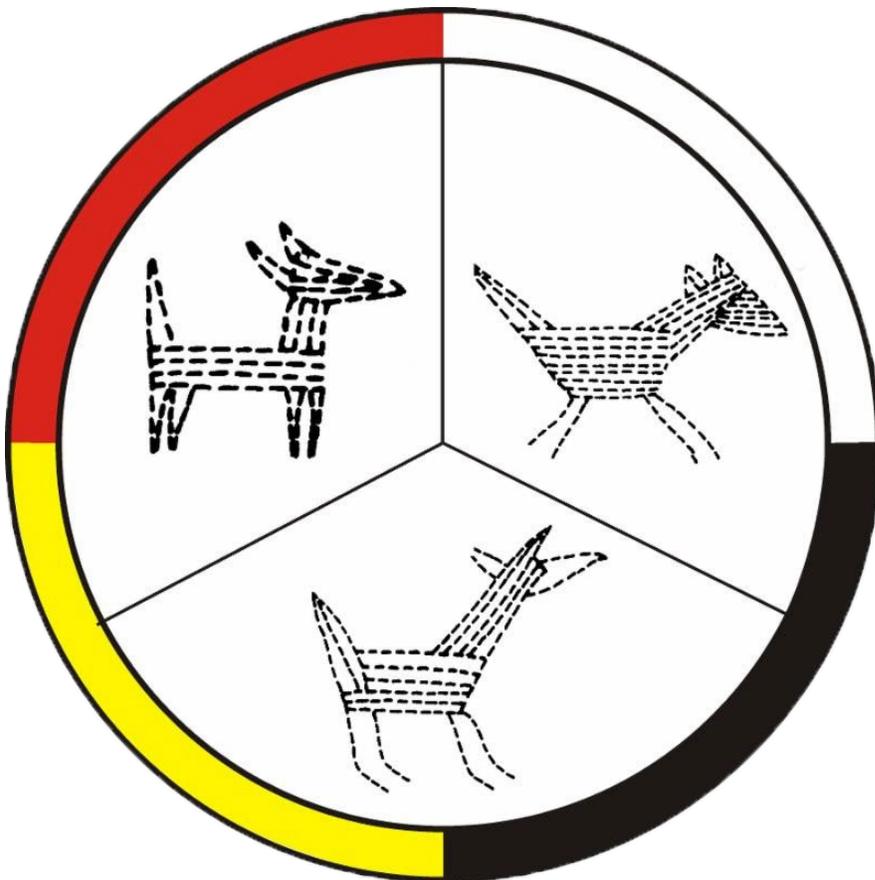




**Maryland Commission on  
Indian Affairs**

Annual Report  
**2017**



State of Maryland  
Office of the Governor

## A MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present to you the 2017 Annual Report of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs (MCIA). This report highlights the work and accomplishments of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs over the past year.

In 2017, I had the great pleasure of signing the executive order granting “Maryland Indian Status” to the Accohannock Tribe. Our administration will continue to work with the American Indian community in Maryland by providing information and opportunity where possible in our great state. We will also hold each state agency accountable for fiscal responsibility, improved reform, and initiatives that help provide an improved quality of life.



I would like to acknowledge the great work of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, specifically for the supervision of the recognition process and the assistance it provides. Their effort was highlighted during the successful American Indian Heritage Month Kick-Off at the University of Baltimore. I commend the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs - with special thanks to the Chair of the Commission, Lisa Savoy - for their leadership in supporting the good work achieved in 2017.

I am confident that the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs and the American Indian community will continue to work collaboratively with the community at large in 2018 to help us change Maryland for the better.

Sincerely,

Larry Hogan  
Governor

State of Maryland  
Governor's Office of Community Initiatives

**A Message from Steve McAdams**  
**Executive Director, Governor's Office of Community Initiatives**

Dear Friends,

Our diversity brings strength to our communities, as Marylanders from all backgrounds contribute their unique perspectives and skills to make our great state the best to live, work, and play. The Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI) is committed to connecting Marylanders with the resources they need to help build and develop our communities.

Through our cultural and ethnic commissions, we learn about and share in the culture and heritage of our citizens and address issues important to each community and coordinates community and volunteer activities statewide to enhance and improve community programs.

We are proud of the accomplishments of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs this year, including the recent passage of the Accohannock Tribe's petition for Maryland Indian Status. I would like to thank and congratulate the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs for your work serving our communities. We hope to continue celebrating the rich heritage and cultures of our native American communities, and ensuring that they have the resources they need to thrive in our great state.

Through your continued perseverance and leadership, we can work towards more vibrant communities in the coming year.

Thank you.

Steven McAdams  
Executive Director  
Governor's Office of Community Initiatives



State of Maryland  
Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs

**A Message from Lisa A. Savoy (Piscataway Conoy Tribe)  
Commission Chair, Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs**

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the 2017 Annual Report of the Maryland Commission on Indian affairs. This report provides insight on the accomplishments, challenges, and activities of the Commission throughout this year.

The MCIA is fully committed to helping the American Indians residing in Maryland. We remain persistent with our work with the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, state agencies, private sector and the Indigenous groups in order to address the needs of the various communities. MCIA encourages partnering with



American Indian organizations and those that service American Indians. This past year we have focused on building our committees by reaching out to key individuals in an effort to develop stronger alliances in education, archaeology, business, and health, as well as economic and social welfare. The Commission would like to thank Governor Larry Hogan and his administration concerning opportunity, fiscal responsibility, and customer service to all Marylanders.

This report allows MCIA to recount the initiatives and express our appreciation to all who have stepped forth to assist.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Savoy  
MCIA Chair

## Administrative Summary

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The Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs (MCIA) began 2017 with a list of goals and initiatives that would reflect growth and opportunity for not only members of Maryland's native community but also the community at large. Each initiative and goal set forth by the commission became a measurable result with lasting impact. Through over 32 initiatives and events, the Commission reached Marylanders across the state to share in celebration of our culture and the diversity of our great state.



Below are some of the major highlights and events:

- **2017 Legislative Reception** – On March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs along with all of the ethnic commissions under the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives hosted a reception in Annapolis in a celebration of the diversity of our communities.
- **Strategic Planning Session** – On March 18, 2017 – MCIA commissioners and administrative staff reviewed the commission's accomplishments of 2016, current bylaws, and committee structure and set a list of initiatives and events for the 2017.
- **(UMB) Indigenous People's Day** – In October of 2017, MCIA Administrative Director Keith Colston gave a lecture entitled "The Cultural Competency Bridge" at the University of Maryland at Baltimore. The lecture discussed the utilization of culture competency to increase comprehension of distrust and issues that surround Indigenous Peoples. Administrative Director Colston provided information on the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs as well as testimony from previous initiatives and what the MCIA are working on for the future.
- **UMD top U.S. University at the Solar Decathlon 2017** – On October 10, 2017 Administrative Director E. Keith Colston, Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, and Nanticoke Indian Tribe Chief Natosha Carmine were VIP guests at the Team Maryland Dinner Party, part of the Home Life Contest. The event was part of the U.S Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2017. Team Maryland created a resilient adaptive climate technology – a solar powered house that blended Native American traditional knowledge with cutting-edge technologies and won second place in the competition for their design. Designed by an interdisciplinary team of students at the University of Maryland, the prototype house, beat 10 collegiate teams from around the globe.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Annual American Indian Heritage Month Kickoff Commemorative celebration**– On November 1, 2017, MCIA held their 4th Annual American Indian Heritage Month Kickoff Commemorative celebration, officially marking the beginning of the 2017 American Indian Heritage Month celebration in Maryland. The event was held at the University of Baltimore. The kickoff honored American Indians that serve in law enforcement in the State, and included a panel discussion themed "Native Youth and Elders Working Together."

- **American Indian Heritage Day at Port Discovery Children’s Museum** – Each year, the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday in November is declared American Indian Heritage day, which celebrates the history, culture, accomplishments and modern day activities of the Indigenous Peoples of Maryland. On November 24, 2017, Port Discovery Children’s Museum became the first major business to celebrate American Indian Heritage Day and open specifically with the purpose of celebrating the day.

The work of the Commission is not only limited to the major events outlined in this report, but also includes partnerships with other entities developed through the Commission’s Administrative Director and Commission’s committees. Committee members are selected on their expertise and willingness to attend conference calls, meetings, and events. Recommendations are made and forwarded to the Commission to discuss and vote.

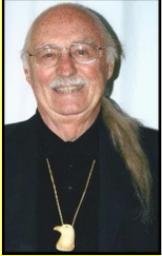
The information and photos displayed in this annual report provide a snapshot of the hard work that unfolded throughout the year. I hope that you will be encouraged and inspired by the events portrayed in our 2017 Annual Report.

E. Keith Colston  
Administrative Director, MCI

## 2017 Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs Commissioners

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Photo:</u>	<u>Tribe:</u>	<u>County</u>
<b>Lisa Savoy</b> <i>Chair</i>		Piscataway Conoy Tribe	Charles County
<b>Ashley Minner</b> <i>Vice Chair</i>		Lumbee Indian Tribe	Baltimore County
<b>Virginia R. Busby Ph.D.</b>		Historian/Archeologist	Harford County
<b>Rico Newman</b>		Piscataway Conoy Tribe	Prince George's County
<b>Leanora Winters</b>		Piscataway Indian Nation	Calvert County
<b>Robert Killen</b> <i>Chair</i>		Pocomoke-Indian Tribe, Inc.	Prince George's County

## 2017 Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs Commissioners

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Photo:</u>	<u>Tribe:</u>	<u>County</u>
Rebecca Stone		Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma	Howard County
Robert Gajdys		Mohawk Tribe	Calvert County
Donna Abbott		Nause-Waiwash	Dorchester County

## **2018 Strategic Planning Session**

On March 18, the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs met for a review of events that took place in 2016. Each year, the strategic planning session allows commissioners to review current bylaws and committees, and engage in an open discussion. Commissioners also develop and review a plan of action for the year.

During the review, best practices were discussed and each commissioner was presented an opportunity to share ideas and feedback on initiatives including Indian Heritage Month kickoff and the Legislative Night, annual events that promote new themes each year.

The commission also discussed existing partners and available assistance for tribal communities, including partnerships with organizations such as the Baltimore American Indian Center, which provides continued support to Maryland's American Indian community.

Michael Lord, Director for the Maryland State Ethics Commission provided a refresher training on the code of the ethics for appointed commissioners to members of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs including, guidelines, procedures, and answers to frequently asked questions.

## 2017 Legislative Reception

On March 29, the ethnic and cultural commissions housed under the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI) came together for the 2017 Joint Legislative Night. Commissioners from the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs joined fellow commissioners from the Governor's Commission on African Affairs, Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs, Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs, Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs, and Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture for an evening of interaction and collaboration. Over 235 Marylanders attended and celebrated in diversity and community, tasting cuisine from around the world, and engaging in conversation to develop future collaborations between communities.

Opening remarks were provided by Steven McAdams, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, and also including remarks from: Maryland Secretary of State John Wobensmith; Lisa Sanford, Maryland Business Enterprise Compliance Manager for the Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs; and Governor Hogan's Chief Legislative Officer Chris Shank. Speakers discussed how their respective agencies are working to improve Maryland communities through initiatives and legislative priorities. Also, in attendance was Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford who provided the keynote remarks with a legislative update on the priorities of the Administration.



MCIA would like to thank all of our Indigenous community members and leaders for attending.



## Indigenous People's Day

On October 8, Keith Colston, Administrative Director of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs presented a lecture at the University of Maryland, Baltimore on the theme, "The Cultural Competency Bridge." Administrative Director Colston was invited by Ebony Nicholson, Academic Coordinator for Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives for the University of Maryland at Baltimore.

During the lecture, Mr. Colston provided a brief history of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, and discussed the important accomplishments of American Indians in Maryland, including initiatives in the areas of state recognition, education, health and an overall cultural awareness specific to American Indians. He also shared facts, dispelled common misconceptions, and provided insights on current issues related to the American Indian community.

Mr. Colston addressed questions from lecture attendees ranging from statistical information on Maryland's American Indian community to methods of tracing American Indian ancestry in an individual's family.

As a health sciences and human services focused campus, with graduate programs in fields including: medicine, nursing, law, pharmacy, dentistry, and social work, the University of Maryland at Baltimore held the lecture as part of their mission to educate students and faculty on diverse populations so that they are more culturally responsive in serving clients/patients.



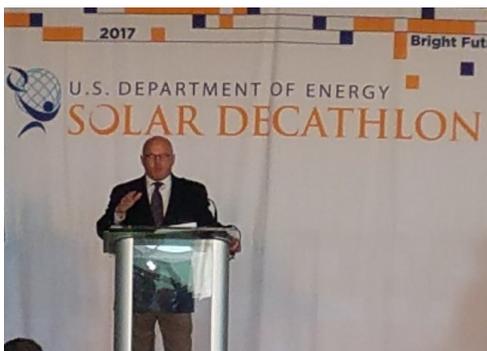
## Solar Decathlon 2017

On October 10, Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs Administrative Director Keith Colston, and Nanticoke Indian Tribe Chief Natosha Carmine joined *Team Maryland* for their dinner party during the U.S Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2017.

For the competition, *Team Maryland* developed a solar powered house that blended Native American traditional knowledge with cutting-edge technologies and was awarded second place for their design. Consisting of an interdisciplinary team of students at the University of Maryland, Team Maryland presented a prototype house, edging out 10 other collegiate teams from around the globe.

While developing their prototype, *Team Maryland* contacted Nanticoke tribal representatives and the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs regarding the project, strengthening the ongoing, working relationship with the University of Maryland and Indigenous people. This would continue the ideals set by the Commission to work with surrounding tribal communities of Maryland.

The Solar Decathlon is a biennial completion that challenges collegiate teams that represent from all over the world. Each team designs and builds an energy-efficient, solar-powered house that is attractive, affordable, and follows a theme.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual American Indian Heritage Month Kickoff Commemorative Celebration

The 4th Annual American Indian Heritage Month Kickoff Commemorative Celebration officially marked the beginning of the 2017 American Indian Heritage Month celebration in Maryland, which is observed in conjunction with the National Native American Heritage Month.

The event began with a call to order by Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs Administrative Director Keith Colston, followed by a “grand entry” including a presentation of tribal flags, a cultural etiquette of American Indians. Flags were carried by veterans serving from the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs. An invocation in the Piscataway language was given by Commissioner Rico Newman.



Remarks were provided by:

**Dr. Karla Shepherd**, *Director of Diversity and Culture Center*,  
University of Baltimore

**Lisa Savoy**, *Chair*, Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs

**Patrick Lally**, *Senior Executive Director*, Governor’s Coordinating Offices

**Steve McAdams**, *Executive Director*, Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives

The event also featured a presentation of the official proclamation declaring American Indian Heritage Month, as well as cultural singing, presentations, and demonstrations. The Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs presented honors to one (1) youth and one (1) adult selected from each participating tribal community and also honored tribal members that serve as law enforcement officers in Maryland. Certificates of Appreciation and proclamations provided to selected guests.

New in 2017, was a panel discussion held after the ceremonial agenda items. Employing the theme of “Native Youth and Elders working together,” four (4) panelists spoke on topics including health, funding, arts, and history. A brief Q&A followed the panel discussion.

Panelists included:

**Lillian Sparks Robinson**, Owner and CEO, Wopila consulting, LLC;

**Kerry Lessard**, Executive Director of Native American Lifelines;

**Anna Tsouhlarakis**, Native Artist; and

**Robert Gajdys**, Commission, Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs member.

Informational table were also organized with representatives from various federal and state agencies and individuals displaying artistic pieces.

The State of Maryland  
**Proclamation**  
From the Governor of the State of Maryland  
**AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH**  
**NOVEMBER 2017**

**WHEREAS,** the assemblage of the American Indian in the State of Maryland is immense, stretching from the aesthetic mountains to the shores of the Chesapeake Bay and beyond; and

**WHEREAS,** many of our islands, towns, forest, trails, rivers, streams and historical landmarks bear ties to our Indigenous Tribes/Clans/Bands/Groups of Indians; and

**WHEREAS,** the humbled members of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs have demonstrated a steadfast commitment in their endeavors to edify the public with infallible facts and spirit of the American Indian people of the State of Maryland, and worked faithfully to assist with the historic recognition of the Piscataway People

**WHEREAS,** Indigenous Peoples celebrate over 40 years of service by the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs and by regulation, establish and oversee a process for an Indian community that is indigenous to the State to apply to the Commission for recognition of Maryland Indian status

**WHEREAS,** Maryland is pleased to recognize November as American Indian Heritage Month as we celebrate the legislation that designates November as one of the commemorative months in the State of Maryland and all Marylanders are encouraged to acknowledge and join in this grand achievement

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LARRY HOGAN, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim November 2017 as AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH in Maryland and do commend this observance to all of our citizens.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,  
This 1<sup>st</sup> day of November  
Two Thousand and Seventeen

## List of Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs Public Meetings

February 6, 2017	Crownsville, Maryland	7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
April 3, 2017	Crownsville, Maryland	7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
June 5, 2017	Crownsville, Maryland	7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
August 1, 2017	Crownsville, Maryland	7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
October 2, 2017	Crownsville, Maryland	7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
December 4, 2017	Crownsville, Maryland	7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

The Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs held all of the regularly scheduled public meetings at the 100 Community Place, Crownsville, Maryland. A special thanks to all of our guest speakers and presenters who share valuable information with our commissioners and visiting audience. We are especially thankful to each Marylander for taking your time to be witness the business of the Commission being conducted.

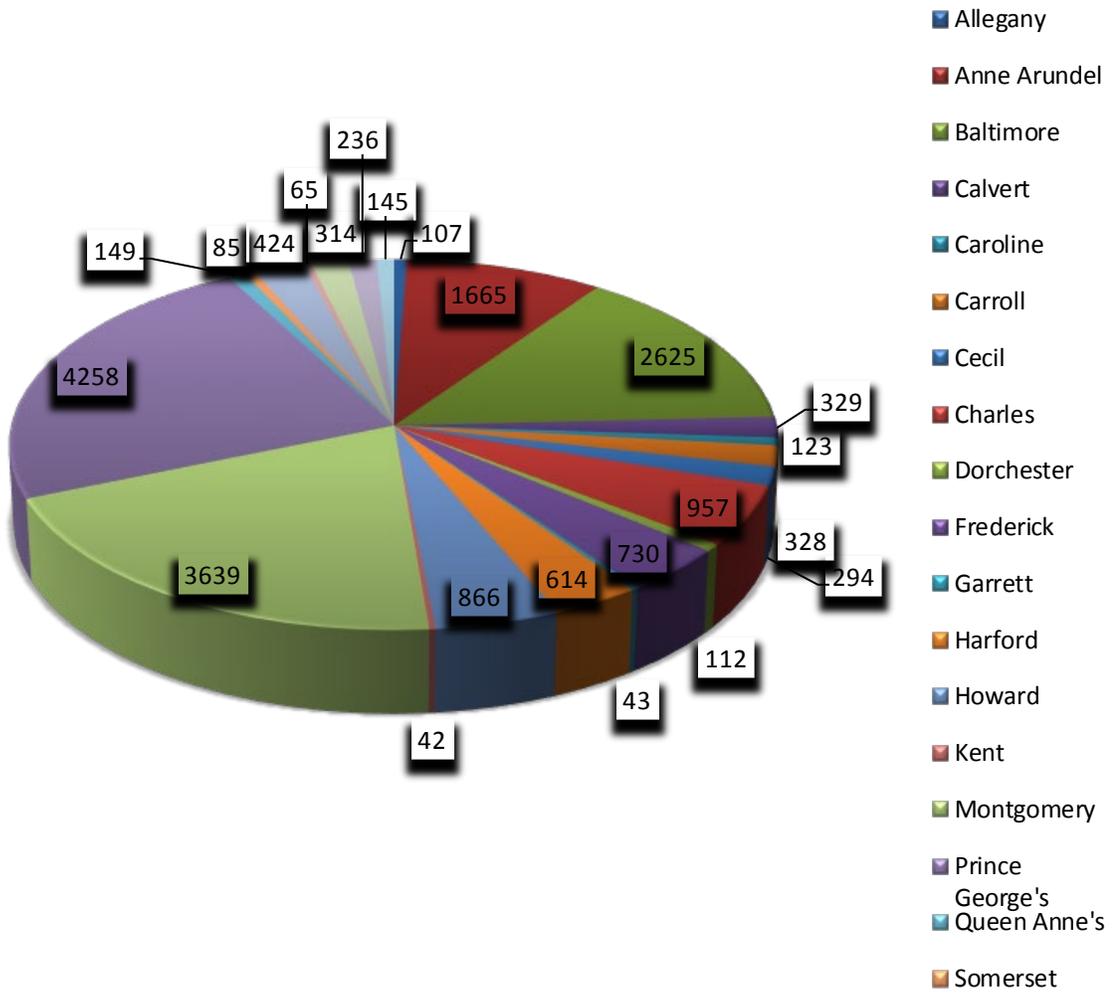


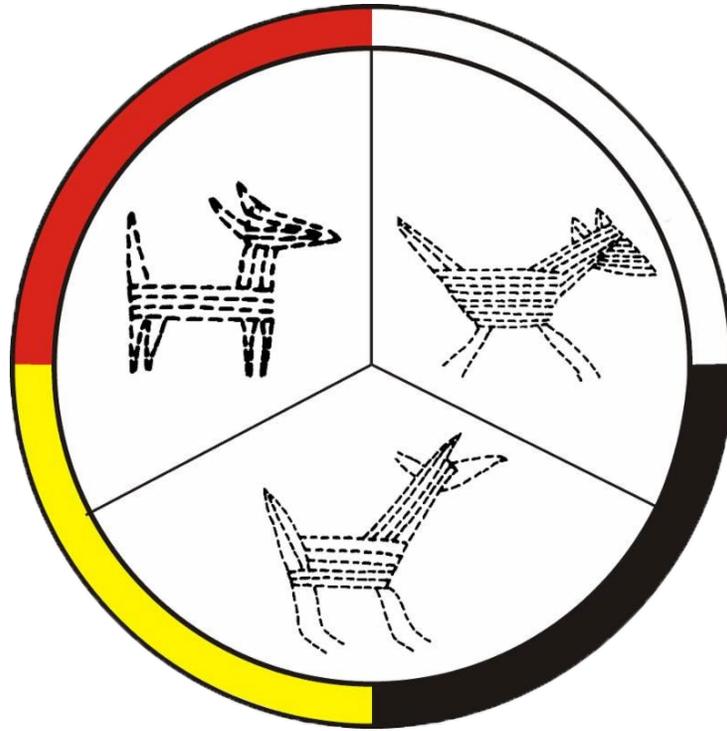
**Table 17. American Indian or Alaska Native Alone or In Combination with One or More Other Races in Maryland by Jurisdiction, 2010**

	All races	American Indian	% of jurisdiction that is Am-Indian	% of Maryland Am-Indian Pop that lives in the Jurisdiction
<b>MARYLAND</b>	<b>5,773,552</b>	<b>58,657</b>	<b>1.02%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>NORTHWEST AREA</b>	<b>485,999</b>	<b>3,681</b>	<b>0.76%</b>	<b>6.28%</b>
GARRETT	30,097	141	0.47%	0.24%
ALLEGANY	75,087	406	0.54%	0.69%
WASHINGTON	147,430	1,120	0.76%	1.91%
FREDERICK	233,385	2,014	0.86%	3.43%
<b>BALTIMORE METRO AREA</b>	<b>2,662,691</b>	<b>25,131</b>	<b>0.94%</b>	<b>42.84%</b>
BALTIMORE CITY	620,961	6,441	1.04%	10.98%
BALTIMORE	805,029	7,395	0.92%	12.61%
ANNE ARUNDEL	537,656	5,347	0.99%	9.12%
CARROLL	167,134	973	0.58%	1.66%
HOWARD	287,085	2,887	1.01%	4.92%
HARFORD	244,826	2,088	0.85%	3.56%
<b>NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA</b>	<b>1,835,197</b>	<b>21,175</b>	<b>1.15%</b>	<b>36.10%</b>
MONTGOMERY	971,777	9,613	0.99%	16.39%
PRINCE GEORGE'S	863,420	11,562	1.34%	19.71%
<b>SOUTHERN AREA</b>	<b>340,439</b>	<b>4,982</b>	<b>1.46%</b>	<b>8.49%</b>
CALVERT	88,737	1,068	1.20%	1.82%
CHARLES	146,551	2,683	1.83%	4.57%
ST MARY'S	105,151	1,231	1.17%	2.10%
<b>EASTERN SHORE AREA</b>	<b>449,226</b>	<b>3,688</b>	<b>0.82%</b>	<b>6.29%</b>
CECIL	101,108	936	0.93%	1.60%
KENT	20,197	136	0.67%	0.23%
QUEEN ANNE'S	47,798	350	0.73%	0.60%
CAROLINE	33,066	330	1.00%	0.56%
TALBOT	37,782	213	0.56%	0.36%
DORCHESTER	32,618	315	0.97%	0.54%
WICOMICO	98,733	761	0.77%	1.30%
SOMERSET	26,470	240	0.91%	0.41%
WORCESTER	51,454	407	0.79%	0.69%

Source: 2010 Census Demographic Profiles, Department of Planning, Projections and Data Analysis/State Data Center, May 2011[1]

# Maryland American Indian Population by County





### **The Meaning of the Logo**

The symbols of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs logo are representations of historical findings, cultural ideology and unity. Three ancient drawings found in Maryland, represent the first Indigenous Peoples of the State. The four colors represent the four directions (North, South, East and West) traditional to American Indians and the “circle” that connects us all.

### **Mission Statement**

The Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs works to serve as a statewide clearinghouse for information; to identify unmet social and economic needs in the native community; to support government education programs for American Indian youth; to provide support in the process of obtaining Recognition of State and Federal Indian Status; and to promote the awareness and understanding of historical and contemporary American Indian contributions in Maryland.

## MARYLAND INDIAN STATUS

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- ✚ Piscataway Conoy Tribe (MARYLAND INDIAN STATUS –Enrolled members of the Piscataway-Conoy Tribe (PCT))  
Tribal Chair Francis Gray  
P.O. Box 638  
Bryans Road, Maryland  
LaPlata, Maryland 20616  
[piscatawayconoycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:piscatawayconoycouncil@gmail.com)
- ✚ Piscataway Indian Nation (MARYLAND INDIAN STATUS – Enrolled members of the Piscataway Indian Nation (PIN))  
Chief Billy “Red Wing” Tayac  
P.O. Box 312  
Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677  
301-932-0808  
[www.piscatawaynation.org](http://www.piscatawaynation.org)

## American Indian Organizations

- ✚ Maryland Indian Tourism Association (MITA)  
Appointed Speaker Rico Newman – Choptico Band of Piscataway (Maryland Indian Status) Enrolled member of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe  
3953 Pine Cone Circle  
Waldorf, Maryland 20602  
301-744-9553
- ✚ Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indian, Inc.  
Tribal Chairwoman Natalie Standingontherock Proctor (Maryland Indian Status) Enrolled member of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe  
American Indian Cultural Center  
16816 Country Lane  
Waldorf, Maryland 20601  
[240-640-7213](tel:240-640-7213)  
[www.piscatawayindians.org](http://www.piscatawayindians.org)  
[piscatawayindians@gmail.com](mailto:piscatawayindians@gmail.com)
- ✚ Baltimore American Indian Center –  
113 South Broadway  
Baltimore, Maryland 21231  
410-675-3535  
BAIC.org
- ✚ Native American Lifelines Baltimore  
106 West Clay Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
410-837-2258  
410-837-2692 fax  
[help@nativelifelines.org](mailto:help@nativelifelines.org)

## Indigenous Tribal communities and supporting non-profit organizations

Accohannock Indian Tribe, Inc.  
Chief Clarence “Lone Wolf” Tyler  
P.O. Box 404-28380 Crisfield Marion Road  
Marion Station, Maryland 21838  
410-623-2660  
[Accohannock@verizon.net](mailto:Accohannock@verizon.net)

Assateague Peoples Tribe  
Chief Michael “Quite Bear” Morabito  
P.O. Box 63  
Frankford, Delaware 19945  
[Mancat732@aol.com](mailto:Mancat732@aol.com)

Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians, Inc.  
Chief Donna Abbott  
2363 Elliott Island Road  
Vienna, Maryland 21869  
410-376-3889  
[wkdrknmom@aol.com](mailto:wkdrknmom@aol.com)

Pocomoke Indian Tribe, Inc.  
Paramount Chief Norris Howard, Sr.  
3355 Allen Road  
Eden, Maryland 21822  
[quindocqua@aol.com](mailto:quindocqua@aol.com)

Youghiogheny River Band of Shawnee Indians