

Over the Target Budget Request, FY09
Maryland State Archives
For the
Implementation of the Master Plan for the
Visitor Experience to the State House

In FY07, in recognition of the fact that the visitor experience to the Maryland State House was in need to upgrading, the state appropriated \$150,000 to the Archives for a Master Plan for the Visitor Experience to the State House. This plan was completed in March 2007 and, at that time, presented to the State House Trust for its consideration. The plan included proposals that will require both operating costs and capital costs for its implementation. The operating cost estimates were included in the plan but the capital costs had yet to be determined. The Trust approved the concept of the Master Plan, subject to being informed of the capital costs involved in its implementation.

Since March, the Archives has proceeded with the Master Plan on several fronts:

- It has engaged the firm Beyer Blinder Belle to do a feasibility study for two of the major capital proposals of the Master Plan – the installation of a new ladies rest room on the lower level of the building and the redesign of the vestibule on the lower level to facilitate security and visitor entrance procedures;
- It has moved forward with one of the major operating cost proposals of the Plan – the creation of a new Web site for visitors to the State House. This is now nearing completion and will go live by the end of September;
- It has engaged the services of exhibit content professionals to assist with developing the new exhibitions proposed in the Master Plan;
- Contracted for images and signage to improve lower level entrance and lobby areas.

All of these initiatives are being funded from the original FY07 appropriation of \$150,000.

The Archives is now requesting Over the Target funding to complete a discrete element of the Master Plan in FY09: the installation of the 17th and 18th century interpretive spaces of both the State House and the Old Treasury Building. Implementation of this phase will provide a far more interesting and educational experience for visitors and students coming to the State House, especially the exhibition of George Washington's personal copy of his resignation speech, purchased by the state earlier this year, and the opening up of the Old Treasury Building, the oldest public building in Annapolis, for the first time in more than 20 years.

Attachments: Excel spreadsheet
[Highlights of Master Plan](#)

**FISCAL YEAR 2009
OVER THE TARGET REQUEST**

TITLE/DESCRIPTION: D60A10.02 Implementation of State House Exhibits Master Plan.

FINANCIAL/PERSONNEL SUMMARY:

General Fund:	Amount \$	<u>2,310,000</u>	Positions:	<u>78,812</u>	FT	<u> </u>	PT	<u> </u>	Contractuals
Special Fund:	Amount \$	<u> </u>	Positions:	<u> </u>	FT	<u> </u>	PT	<u> </u>	Contractuals
Federal Fund:	Amount \$	<u> </u>	Positions:	<u> </u>	FT	<u> </u>	PT	<u> </u>	Contractuals
Reimb Fund:	Amount \$	<u> </u>	Positions:	<u> </u>	FT	<u> </u>	PT	<u> </u>	Contractuals
Total Funds:	Amount \$	<u>2,310,000</u>	Positions:	<u>78,812</u>	FT	<u> </u>	PT	<u> </u>	Contractuals

A. TYPE OF REQUEST:

New Program Expand Existing Service Restore Service New Facility Other X

B. REASON FOR REQUEST:

Maryland's State House is one of the most important National Historic Landmarks in the nation. This initiative will transform it into the world-class visitor attraction that it deserves to be. A master plan has been developed that will guide the design, construction, and installation of new exhibits in the public areas of the building, new signage on State Circle and in the building and other enhancements and will create a greatly improved visitor experience, with consideration for the needs of the people who work within the building. In addition, there is a need for creation of a position to superintend all maintenance and construction of the State House. State Government Article, secs. 9-501 through 9-506 establish the State House Trust and authorize the appointment of an architect. Through this initiative, the Secretary of the Trust will hire an individual with experience as a preservation architect to serve as the Architect of the Capital.

C. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

The alternative to this program is not to implement the master plan that is being prepared and leave the visitor experience to the State House in the condition that it is in today.

D. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REQUEST:

It is generally agreed that the appearance of the State House, its grounds and its exhibits and the overall visitor experience are in need of improvement. In FY 2006, the Archives submitted an Action Plan for addressing these concerns. That Action Plan became the basis for the FY 2007 appropriation of \$150,000 for the development of an Exhibits Master Plan for the State House.

The implementation of the Exhibits Master Plan is complemented by a number of capital budget improvements also planned for the State House. They include:

- HVAC system upgrade
- Replacement of piping
- Restoration of the Old Senate Chamber and the Old Treasury Building
- Improvements to the Senate Chamber
- Painting of the Dome
- Walkway improvements
- The re-creation of the Old House of Delegates Chamber (Calvert and Silver Rooms)

All activities in this historic space, including daily maintenance and cleaning, would benefit greatly by having a dedicated individual trained in preservation architecture providing direct supervision and liaison with the appropriate agencies.

E. FISCAL IMPACT: See attached