

**DBM-DA-21A
ARCHIVES PRIORITY 1**

**FISCAL YEAR 2011
OVER THE TARGET REQUEST**

TITLE/DESCRIPTION: D60A10.03 The State House Visitor Experience

FINANCIAL/PERSONNEL SUMMARY:

General Fund: Amount \$ 263,971	Positions: 1	FT	PT	3	Contractuals
Special Fund: Amount \$ _____	Positions: _____	FT	PT	_____	Contractuals
Federal Fund: Amount \$ _____	Positions: _____	FT	PT	_____	Contractuals
Reimb Fund: Amount \$ _____	Positions: _____	FT	PT	_____	Contractuals
Total Funds: Amount \$ 263,971	Positions: _____	FT	PT	_____	Contractuals

A. TYPE OF REQUEST:

New Program___ Expand Existing Service___ Restore Service___ New Facility___

Other X New Major Information Technology Development Project (MITDP)___

B. REASON FOR REQUEST:

In January 2009, upon the direction of the State House Trust, the Maryland State Archives assumed responsibility for visitor services in the Maryland State House to fill the vacuum left by the departure of the Division of Tourism (DBED), from the building. In this six-month period, Archives employees have provided complimentary guided tours and information on a daily basis to over 100,000 people. The State House, a National Historic Landmark, is visited by nearly a half million people annually and Archives staff provide the only regular service to these visitors who come from around the world.

The capital budget component for the recreation of the Old House of Delegates Chamber is funded and is set to be completed in 2010. The Archives is responsible for exhibits and artwork that are a critical part of the completion of this public room. Funds are requested to complete the necessary conservation treatment for the historic paintings that will be featured in the room, as well as the interpretive exhibits in the room that are part of the Visitor Experience Master Plan approved by the State House Trust.

C. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

During Fiscal Year 2010, Archives will seek to increase the number of volunteers who offer guided tours in the State House to augment the contractual staff.

The Old House of Delegates Chamber, upon completion of the DGS construction project, can reopen to the public without interpretive exhibits and historic paintings.

Archives will seek private grant monies and support for the implementation of the Visitor Experience Master Plan exhibits in Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013.

D. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REQUEST:

The Maryland State House is a National Historic Landmark, given this prestigious distinction the same year as Mount Vernon. It is the oldest State House in continuous legislative use in the country. The

importance of the building in our nation’s history, and as the seat of Maryland government, make it a tourist destination for people from all over the world, and a primary source of interpretation for Maryland school students of all ages. An historic site of this caliber requires a visitor center that serves the public with basic orientation information, as well as accurate, historical interpretation.

Historical interpretation and exhibits are essential to interpreting the significance of the nationally important events that have taken place in the State House over four centuries. All of the previous exhibits that were installed in the early 1980s have been removed and temporary exhibits have been installed by Archives staff until such time as permanent exhibits can be created. The completion of the Old House of Delegates Chamber is the first significant step toward implementing the Visitor Experience Master Plan completed in 2007. The inclusion of historic paintings and interpretive exhibits is a critical component of this project.

Funding requested in Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013 is for the continued implementation of the Visitor Experience Master Plan exhibits in the Old Senate Chamber; the Senate Committee Room; the Stairwell Room; the Archives Room; the ground floor; and the Old Treasury Building.

Performance Measure	FY 2010 Appropriation	FY 2011 Target	FY 2012 Target	FY 2013 Target	FY 2014 Target	FY 2015 Target
	0	<u>263971</u>	<u>1253055</u>	<u>1253055</u>	<u>153055</u>	<u>153055</u>

E. FISCAL IMPACT:

See attached.