

D17B0151
Historic St. Mary's City Commission
FY19 - Capital Budget Analysis Response

Senate Subcommittee on Capital Budget
February 27, 2018
4:00 p.m.

House Subcommittee on Capital Budget
February 28, 2018
4:30 p.m.

DLS recommends that the agency comment on the impact of the cancellation of MHIC and how the museum will adapt to the State's new funding priorities.

HSMC Response: The Maryland Heritage Interpretive Center, the Commission's first priority for the past ten years, has been removed from the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan "primarily due to concerns about [HSMC]'s ability to operate and maintain the facility given its limited financial resources." The building and exhibits have already been designed at a cost of \$1.7 M.

The impact of the removal of the MHIC is that the Commission is hindered in enhancing its visitor experience, visibility, academic program, and ability to operate 12 months a year for school tours, programs, and events. No MHIC means the loss of:

- Increased opportunities for community use and earned income for site and equipment rentals, admissions and Gift Store sales
- High visibility location
- A first class orientation space integrated into main visitor sites and college campus
- Completion of the museum/college complex as planned
- Enhancement of joint HSMC/SMCM Museum Studies program with practical academic experience in exhibit planning and programming
- A gateway to the museum and St. Mary's College of Maryland
- Larger long-term exhibit space with more artifacts on display
- Suitable facilities for planning and hosting of events, visitors and publicity for the State's celebration of Maryland's 400th Anniversary
- Changing exhibit galleries to provide new experiences to attract repeat visitation
- Additional restrooms

We will be meeting with DBM to discuss possible solutions for the problems at the current Visitors Center. HSMC's preliminary estimate of \$ 4 M to bring the current Visitors Center to a reasonable standard and meet visitor needs includes:

Installing:

- Fire suppression systems
- Additional restrooms

Renovation/Replacement:

- HVAC
- Auditorium and A/V systems
- Exhibit gallery
- Parking lot

New

- Identification and wayfinding signage