



Maryland State Archives
Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget Testimony
Response to the Department of Legislative Services Budget Analysis

House Appropriations Committee
Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee
The Honorable D. Antonio (Tony) Bridges, Chair
January 28, 2022

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Health and Human Services Subcommittee
The Honorable Melony Ghee Griffith, Chair
January 26, 2022

Chair, Members of the Subcommittee:

I am Elaine Rice Bachmann, State Archivist and Commissioner of Land Patents. Also attending are Teresa Fawley, Director of Administration, and Liz Coelho, Director of Special Projects, who also serves as our legislative liaison.

For your reference and further reading our annual report is provided on our website. It includes the Minutes and Agendas of the bi-annual meetings of the Hall of Records Commission, and can be found at:

https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/intromsa/hrc/pdf/msa_annualreport21.pdf

I would like to thank Caleb Weiss for his thorough analysis of our budget. Caleb is new to our agency this year and we appreciate the time he has spent learning about the Archives, including visiting our main building in Annapolis.

On behalf of all the staff and patrons of the Archives, I am gratified by the governor's allowance which restores funding in two critical areas: Personnel and Information Technology. Over the past decade, the Archives has responded to economic necessities by streamlining our staff complement with a focus on the mission critical aspects of our agency, which means any vacancy creates pressure points within our operations. I am very optimistic now as we are engaged in multiple recruitments that are bringing new faces to the Archives to fill these critical vacancies. I want to thank Loni Young, our Human Resources analyst in the Office of Personnel and Benefits at DBM for

her continual support and collaboration, principally with Teresa Fawley, in guiding us through the process of classifying, recruiting, and hiring for these positions into which we are now welcoming a range of new talent. The restored funding for Personnel not only shores up our daily operations, it also ensures that we are able to plan for the future and the transfer of institutional knowledge, so critical in government and especially important for Archives.

The restored funding for information technology, including expenses for equipment and services, underpins the foundation of our agency, which maintains the largest electronic archive of any state. It is because of the depth and strength of our electronic archives that we were able to pivot so efficiently to enhance our remote service during the pandemic, including expanding our online collections and eCommerce solutions for constituents, government partners, and non-residents to remotely access and order from our collections. This restoration of funds also supports the enhancement of our cyber security and data storage initiatives. In support of that, we are currently embarking on a thorough security assessment of our websites in cooperation with the Department of Information Technology and their contractors.

We are also gratified by the restoration of a moderate amount of funding for art conservation, which allows our curatorial staff to ensure the restoration and safe display of items from the state's extensive art collection displayed throughout the Annapolis complex. These are most prominently featured in our historic State House, which next month will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the laying of its cornerstone on March 28, 1772.

Finally, I will speak directly to the item mentioned in the Analysis and will then answer any additional questions you may have.

From the Analysis:

The State Archives should comment on whether consideration is being given to expansion of online access and programming considering the decline in more traditional program opportunities during the pandemic.

Excellence in public programming has been a hallmark of this agency for decades, utilizing our vast archival and special collections as well as the expertise of staff in interpreting them. Like many cultural institutions, we adapted as much of our programming as we could to a virtual format during the pandemic, including a highly successful partnership with the Enoch Pratt Library presenting lunchtime lectures. Remote programming is less effective, obviously, for "hands-on" workshops which teach patrons to access collections and conduct research. Although we are working toward developing online tutorials and instructional/interactive programs, we are limited in this effort by scarcity of staff time, as programming is secondary to the agency's core mission of records order fulfillment and collections processing.

With that I would be happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted and for more information:

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