



Maryland DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

Maryland Department of Planning Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis

**House Appropriations Committee
Transportation & the Environment Subcommittee
Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
February 2, 2021**

**Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment Subcommittee
Senator Sarah Elfreth, Chair
February 3, 2021**

Key Observations:

2. Maryland250 Commission Lays Groundwork for Celebrations to Come

DLS Questions:

MDP should discuss the status of partnerships for which funding is planned and what agreements are in place with these organizations and how funding will be reallocated if partnerships do not achieve the estimated outcomes or schedule.

MDP Response:

- The Maryland250 Commission is in the process of developing a variety of collaborative partnerships with organizations across Maryland to ensure the success of its goals. The Commission has initiated discussions and is developing formal agreements with these entities. MD250 intends to pursue the partnerships described in greater detail below and does not foresee any major hindrances to moving forward given the current allocation of funding for the project. Thus far, potential partners have been very eager to collaborate on the MD250 endeavor.



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Current MD250 partnerships in development:

Maryland Public Television

The MD250 Commission is finalizing discussions of an interagency agreement with Maryland Public Television (MPT) to utilize the wide range of state resources, expertise, and communication reach the agency is uniquely equipped to offer as the public broadcasting entity within the state. Discussions include a collaboration on communications and branding, documentary production, and event production and promotion. **No formal agreements have been signed.**

- Should this partnership not achieve estimated outcomes or schedules, MD250 would shift their efforts to another means of collaboration for the project either through another vendor or partnership with another entity such as a university or nonprofit keeping within the budgetary guidelines already established.

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra

Key members of the MD250 Commission have been in direct contact with the leadership of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) to collaborate on a MD250 musical event or possible series of events to be held starting in the fall of 2025. The specifics are still being clarified, but the initial goals would include items such as an original musical score, youth involvement, state-wide inclusion events, opportunities for local composers, HBCU involvement, and gospel choir collaboration. **No formal agreements have been signed.**

- If the potential partnership with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra were unable to proceed, the Commission would then seek guidance from an organization such as the Maryland State Arts Council, or similar entity, on organizations, programs, and composers within the State capable of partnering for the project within current budget allocations.

Sail Baltimore

The MD250 Commission has been in discussions with Sail Baltimore regarding a Tall Ships visiting event to Baltimore's Inner Harbor, as well as a potential fleet week type of event in June 2026. Sail Baltimore's efforts to bring ships to Baltimore and publicize the 250th anniversary would allow visitors to board and tour unique vessels, learn about different cultures, interact with people



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from around the world, and learn about navigation, geography, technology, and maritime history. **No formal agreements have been signed.**

- This partnership would not have as many options should it not materialize. However, MD250 could shift plans to facilitate another opportunity for a history-focused alternative centered around creative learning experiences for Marylanders and reallocate the funding accordingly.

Sons of the American Revolution

MD250 has initiated discussions with the Maryland chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (MDSSAR) to collaborate on commemorating several key moments in Maryland history that led to the independence of the nation. Discussions have touched on an event commemorating what is known as Annapolis' own "tea party" with the burning of the Peggy Stewart ship in 1774. The Commission looks forward to further discussion with MDSSAR on collaboration opportunities. **No formal agreements have been signed.**

- MD250 would shift this partnership to another commemorative organization/nonprofit should this partnership not materialize.

250th Book Publication and Curriculum

MD 250 is currently in discussions with What on Earth Publishing, a children's non-fiction publishing house partnering with Bridgewater State University (BSU), the BSU Foundation, and the Bill of Rights Institute to develop a new suite of state history teaching resources for the nation's first 13 states in time for America250 in 2026. These resources will be donated free of charge to the states as a digital learning platform in the run-up to America250 – the national celebration of the Declaration of Independence – that will take place in 2026. **No formal agreements have been signed.**

- **This potential partnership is in the very early stages of discussions.**

Pomeroy Foundation

The Maryland250 Commission has connected with the William G. Pomeroy Foundation to create historical markers for the State of Maryland tied to events surrounding the revolutionary war period

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and beyond. Since 2005, the Pomeroy Foundation has funded nearly 2,000 signs across the United States, all the way to Alaska. Please note that this is a funding source and not a vendor. **No formal agreements have been signed.**

Operating Budgeted Recommended Actions:

The Maryland Department of Planning concurs with the DLS recommendation.

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