

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

Senate Budget and Tax Committee
Health and Human Services Subcommittee
The Honorable Cory V. McCray, Chair
February 2, 2023

House Appropriations Committee
Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee
The Honorable D. Antonio (Tony) Bridges, Chair
February 13, 2023

Chair, Members of the Subcommittee:

I am Elaine Rice Bachmann, State Archivist and Commissioner of Land Patents. Also attending are Assistant State Archivists Emily Oland Squires and Corey Lewis, as well as Teresa Fawley, Director of Administration.

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/annual_report_2022_state_archives.pdf

I would like to thank Jacob Pollicove for his thorough analysis of our budget. Jacob 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 very gratified by the governor's allowance which has increased our budget for equipment replacement. The increase in this area allows the Archives to maintain its information technology infrastructure in accordance with the IT lifecycle replacement plan. This will ensure the safekeeping of the state's electronic archive, which is growing exponentially as we digitize more of our existing records and receive more and more permanent records that are "born digital."

The increase in our equipment replacement budget will allow the Archives to fulfill its core mission of preserving and making accessible the state's permanent records by providing for the necessary updates to hardware and software for receiving and processing electronic records. This equipment replacement and the accompanying updates are essential for us to ingest

electronic records today and ensure that they are maintained on a platform that is accessible tomorrow—and a hundred years from now.

Physical storage space remains essential for the intake of paper government records, a format which will never entirely cease. In fact, decades worth of paper records from agencies are still in the process of being transferred. Shelving and space for object storage is also critical to the Archives' ability to maintain and increase Special Collections (non-government records), which might include collections related to private individuals, churches, or institutions. It is in the area of Special Collections that the Archives is able to address diversity, equity and inclusion in our holdings, bringing representation to people whose history may not be contained within government records.

One of the most publicly accessible Special Collections contained within the Archives is the state-owned art collection, managed by the Maryland Commission on Artistic Property. The modest funding increase for the contractual services provided to this program enables our curatorial staff to repair and restore artwork so it can be removed from storage and placed on public display.

In addition to making our collections accessible through public display, both in-person in the Archives search room or online, we offer a wide variety of diverse public programs. We've been asked by our analyst to comment on attendance data and how we might better determine a balance between virtual and in-person programming to maximize our overall audience. Our public programs are goal driven, with staff selecting the means of presentation based on the objectives of each individual event. For example, training-based talks on how to use our collections and topical lectures grounded in archival research are generally presented virtually to allow for the widest possible accessibility and participation. Online presentations allow guests from all regions of the state to attend, permit immediate closed captioning, and provide recordings for later review without capacity limits. We have seen our Lunch and Learn events go from an average of thirty in-person attendees per session to approximately seventy per live streaming. This does not count those who view the recordings which are searchable, and are available globally and in perpetuity. Alternately, programs provided to students, educators, and community groups are generally held in person to allow for a hands-on interactive component with original materials in a secure environment. By tailoring the means of delivery to each individual presentation's specific goals and intended audience, staff successfully achieve the balance of wide accessibility and effective public outreach.

Finally, again on behalf of all the staff of the Archives, I am grateful for the allowance creating a generally funded PIN position to support Criminal Research. The Archives receives over fifteen hundred criminal research requests annually, the majority of which are from the FBI as part of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). We are mandated by the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (Brady Act) to respond to these within 3-5 days. Each request can take up to five hours of research and has been the primary responsibility of one staff person. This position will enable us to meet that Federal requirement without having to pull

staff from other departments, which creates delays in other areas of customer service, in order to comply with the Brady Act.

With that I would be happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted and for more information:

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