



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2009

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### HERITAGE TOURISM ALLIANCE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY BRINGS MAJOR GRANT DOLLARS TO LOCAL HERITAGE GROUPS

The Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County (Heritage Montgomery) is pleased to announce the local recipients of seven 2010 Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) Grants totaling \$199,910:

- § \$50,000 project grant to Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission to develop a training program for Interpreting the Quaker, Underground Railroad and Civil War Heritage in Montgomery County Parks
- § \$25,000 project grant to Heritage Montgomery for production of the Civil War in Montgomery County Video/Podcast
- § \$10,010 capital grant to the Sandy Spring Museum for retrofitting outbuildings to expand educational program capacity
- § \$9,000 project grant to Heritage Montgomery for Heritage Days 2010
- § \$5,400 project grant to Sugarloaf Regional Trails for website development and branding
- § \$5,000 project grant to the Sandy Spring Civic Association for heritage area signage
- § \$95,500 operating grant to Heritage Montgomery

Since 1996, the MHAA has certified eleven Heritage Areas located across Maryland, including the Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County. Historic buildings, sites, and districts; distinctive natural landscapes; museums; parks; and other arts and cultural resources located in Certified Heritage Areas are eligible to receive MHAA grants for capital and non-capital projects. This is the fifth round of MHAA grants awarded to Heritage Montgomery and the most grants the Heritage Area has received.

"Investment in heritage tourism and, specifically, Maryland's Heritage Areas is a key ingredient to preserving the historic character found in all parts of our State," Governor O'Malley said. "I applaud the activities of these Heritage Areas and congratulate them on these well-deserved awards. Their efforts impact positively on the State's economy and contribute to a Smart, Green and Growing Maryland."

Peggy Erickson, Executive Director of the Alliance, stated that she "greatly values the continued support for Montgomery County Heritage Areas MHAA has demonstrated over the years. This \$199,900 in FY 2010 funding will help promote a variety of special programs in our Heritage Areas. We will continue to work to bring additional state dollars to benefit the County.@"

The mission of the Heritage Tourism Alliance is to enhance economic development in the designated Heritage Areas of the county by combining quality heritage tourism and small business development with preservation, cultural and natural resource conservation and education.

For more information, contact: Peggy Erickson at the Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County, 301-515-0753, [director@HeritageMontgomery.org](mailto:director@HeritageMontgomery.org).

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