



**For immediate release
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*****Press Release*****

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Two Important Local Projects to Receive Grants From The State

The Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County is pleased to announce that two important local projects have been chosen for funding by the Maryland Heritage Area Authority, (MHAA). This program funds both capital and non-capital projects for programs that support heritage activities. The two programs identified for funding are:

A grant for \$57,690 for operating expenses for the Alliance.

A grant of \$30,000 for the expansion of the archives and library of the Sandy Spring Museum.

All the grants are for fiscal year 2006. This is the first round of capital grants to come to The Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County. These funds have been made available to non-profits and government sponsored organizations that seek to promote heritage tourism and economic development in certified Heritage Areas.

Peggy Erickson, the Executive Director of the Heritage Tourism Alliance reported that she anticipates that this will be the first of many years of state funding for projects large and small in the heritage areas. "We are working to bring more State money to Montgomery County" said Erickson. "This money will continue to be a source of funding for projects in the Heritage Areas of the county."

Part of the funding for the Alliance is \$7,000 for a Mini-Grant Program. Last year the Alliance's mini-grant were awarded to:

**The Sandy Spring Museum;
The Hyattstown Mill Arts Project;
The National Capital Trolley Museum;
Historic Medley;
Glen Echo Partnership for Arts and Culture;
The King Barn Dairy MOOseum;
The Town of Brookeville.**

The mission of the Heritage 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.

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