



## OTD Welcome Center Staff Attend Governor's Holiday Open House

On December 13, OTD Bay Country Welcome Center Travel Information Aides Betsy Sipes and Janine Maher attended Governor Wes Moore's Holiday Open House for State Employees.

*Pictured: Gov. Wes Moore and First Lady Dawn Flythe Moore with Bay Country Welcome Center staffers.*

---

OTD Managing Director Liz Fltzsimmons  
Presents at Maryland Association of  
Counties (MACo) Winter Conference



On December 11, OTD Managing Director Liz Fitzsimmons participated in a panel at MACo's Winter Conference in Cambridge. The panel was convened to highlight the vital role of Maryland's DMOs in the state's economic growth. Fitzsimmons discussed the top five differentiators for tourism in Maryland: Maryland's Underground Railroad sites, the Great Chesapeake Bay Loop and Beaches, Maryland's Trail System, our Scenic Byways, and Fish & Hunt Maryland. She emphasized that these differentiators not only attract visitors, but also serve to preserve the state's rich history and natural beauty. Fitzsimmons also highlighted the fact that in 2023, Maryland welcomed 45.1 million visitors who spent \$20.5 billion, proving tourism's significant impact on the state's economy.



## Are You Ready for February's Black History Month?

Do you or your partners have events, programs, tours or exhibits planned for 2025 Black History Month? Make sure you get the most visible coverage for all the events in your area by entering all activities into the events calendar on VisitMaryland.org. And don't forget to direct your stakeholders back to VisitMaryland.org's state-wide Black History content with this [link](#). To put an event in the calendar click [here](#). If you need help entering your events, contact [Florence Brant](#) or [Brandon Chan](#).

Seeking Packages, Incentives and Deals



## for WorldPride 2025

Maryland tourism industry businesses are encouraged to create incentives, deals and multi-night hotel packages (weekday and weekend) welcoming the anticipated three million people coming to Washington, D.C. for WorldPride 2025, May 23 to June 8.

OTD's spring promotions will encourage WorldPride travelers to come early, stay late, dine in and visit Maryland. Your special offers and deals will be amplified on VisitMaryland.org.

(TIP– Offers don't need to be discounts! Think upgrades, complimentary cookies, bundled tickets to attractions and museums, weekday deals, shopping coupons, or free shuttles to MARC and Metro stations.)

[Go here](#) to create an account or sign in with a username and password then upload your deals/offers and images. Look for "how to" tips on the [Free Opportunities flier here](#). Contact [Lisa Hansen Terhune](#) for more information.

*Photo credit: Bryan Barnes Photographys*



## National Park Service (NPS) Accepting Applications for the Semiquincentennial Grant Program

The NPS is accepting applications for the fourth round of funding for the Semiquincentennial Grant Program. This grant program was created by Congress in 2020 to support the preservation of sites and structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places that commemorate the founding of the nation. Grants support the physical preservation of a broad variety of cultural resources associated with the country's Semiquincentennial (250th anniversary). Applications are

due March 18. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.



## Stock Up on the *Destination Maryland Magazine*

Provide your partners and local businesses with the best tool available to showcase all the ways to enjoy travel in our state with Maryland's **official** travel guide, *Destination Maryland Magazine*. Put in your bulk orders for the state's most trusted getaway guide now by clicking [here](#). If you need assistance with the order form please contact [David Schultz](#) or [David Yackley](#).



## Promote Your Events on VisitMaryland.org

Do your partners know how easy it is to add events to [VisitMaryland.org's events calendar](#)? If you or an organization or attraction in your region is hosting an event, it's easy to get the word out through VisitMaryland.org's events calendar. With tens of thousands of regular visitors, it's a great tool, and with our self-entry portal, it's never been easier to use! If you're wondering if an event has the right stuff for the VisitMaryland.org calendar, you'll find the inclusion criteria [here](#), [follow this link](#) for a step-by-step guide for self entry, or if it's not your first rodeo, jump straight to the entry portal [here](#).

*Photo credit: Karmen Osei*



## IN THE NEWS



Maryland Casinos Generate \$158.1 Million in Gaming Revenue During November; Contribute \$68.9 Million to State

Happy 150th Birthday, Ocean City, Maryland! Town to Kick Off Year-long Celebration in 2025

Maryland Leaders Unveil Plans For 2025 Preakness Festival

National Aquarium in Baltimore Celebrates 60 Millionth Visitor, Bolsters Maryland's Economy with \$430 Million Impact

Expanding the Playbook for a Proposed Sports Complex in Worcester County

The Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums Receive \$10,000 from Maryland Humanities, Hatza Memorial SHINE Grant Program 2024

Def Leppard, Mötley Crüe and Many More in Ocean City's Boardwalk Rock Festival Lineup

Commanders A Step Closer to Potential RFK Return with Congressional Funding Bill

Baltimore County Golf Club Gears Up for PGA Tour's Return

Spirit to Cut BWI Service to Major Florida City in 2025

Drawing A Crowd: The Business of Sports Tourism, Episode 9

Maryland State Arts Council Opens Applications for 2025 Grants For Artists

### ***Maryland Minute***

Each week, the *Maryland Minute* provides highlights and insights on this weekend's events around the state. [Maryland Minute](#) is featured on Audacy radio stations in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., WERQ on Baltimore's WBAL-AM 1090.

### ***Maryland Travel Tips***

For the latest on events and everything going all around Maryland, view the latest edition of [Visit Maryland Now!](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

[PRIVACY POLICY](#)

[TOURISM](#)

[FILM](#)



Wes Moore  
Governor

