

## MARYLAND INSIGHTS

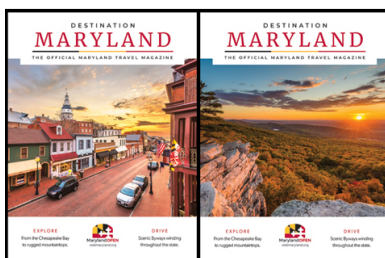
DIVISION OF TOURISM AND FILM  
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



### OTD Welcomes New Board Members

Four new members of the Maryland Tourism Board have been appointed by Governor Larry Hogan and are now officially hard at work supporting the tourism industry across the state. The new members, pictured left to right above, are Albert A. Spence, President, A.S. Midway Tours; Heather Shaffer Braue, Director of Marketing & Public Relations, Royal Farms Arena (and former OTD Intern); Juan Carlos Linares, General Manager, Tanger Outlets National Harbor and Ashley Chenault, Chief of Tourism, Charles County, was appointed as a DMO representative. Please join OTD in welcoming them aboard.

[View All Board Members](#)



### Help OTD Better Serve You

As part of OTD's continuing mission to improve its service to our partners in the tourism industry, we are reaching out to find how we can better serve your needs. OTD is currently hosting a pair of surveys to get partner feedback on *Destination Maryland Magazine* and *Industry.VisitMaryland.org*, our industry-focused website. For 22 years, OTD has published *Destination*

*Maryland Magazine*, Maryland's official travel guide, and by completing this quick, 11 question survey, you can help us make it a more usable, inspiring, and accessible resource for planning Maryland travel. [Follow this link, and let us know what you think about \*Destination Maryland Magazine\*.](#)

OTD is also preparing to redesign and update our industry-focused website, our resource hub for programs, research and information that can help you grow your Maryland tourism business or destination. Review the current [Industry.VisitMaryland.org website here](#), and then let us know how we could improve the experience whether it be through improved content or streamlined navigation. [Follow this link to take the brief survey](#), and thanks for helping us help you!



## **Register Now for Certified Host Training**

The Maryland Office of Tourism is pleased to announce a pair of Certified Host training sessions. Certified Host Programs provide training to Maryland tourism partners who interact with visitors daily. This program's goals are to increase knowledge about Maryland Office of Tourism initiatives and how you and your business/site can benefit from participating in them, increase your knowledge of regional visitor experiences in order to assist visitors, increase your business/site promotion, and provide basic customer service training. Training sessions are 90 minutes long and will be conducted online.

The Great Chesapeake Bay Loop Certified Host Program is designed for tourism partners across the state along the loop. [For more information on the Great Chesapeake Bay Loop, go to VisitMaryland.org](#). The sessions will be held virtually on March 31 from 2:00-

3:30 pm, and April 8 from 10:30 am-12:00 pm. [Follow this link for more information and to register.](#)

Maryland's Underground Railroad Certified Host Program is designed for tourism partners across the state who are near Maryland National Park Service Network to Freedom sites. For a list and locations of Network to Freedom sites please see [www.visitmaryland.org/network-to-freedom](http://www.visitmaryland.org/network-to-freedom). The next training session will be on February 10 at 3:00 p.m. Other training sessions will be scheduled soon. Registration is open now; please [click here for the registration form](#).



## **Bikeways Grants Letters of Intent Due April 2**

In September, Governor Hogan announced \$3.8 million in FY 2021 MDOT Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program awards to improve bicycle access across the State. In preparation for the FY 2022 grant cycle, potential applicants are encouraged to submit a Letter of Intent for your Bikeways projects. Letters of Intent briefly describe project aspects and help MDOT better understand and prepare applicants for a successful application.

MDOT is accepting letters of intent through April 2, 2021. For more information, please visit the [Bikeways website](#) under the Letter of Intent section. MDOT will host an online grant workshop in Winter 2021 for all grant programs including Transportation Alternatives, Recreational Trails, Highway Safety Office, Strategic Transit Innovation and Bikeways. Stay tuned for more details.

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## **Vote for Maryland Trails in USA**



## Today's Poll

*USA Today* wants your help in naming North America's favorite recreational trail, and the C&O Canal Towpath and Great Allegheny Passage are both in the running. Vote for your favorite now!

[Vote Now](#)

## IN THE NEWS

Maryland State Park Attendance Jumps 45 percent in 2020

2021 General Assembly to Address Sports Betting Bill

St. Clement's Island Museum "Maryland Day" to be Held Virtually

Maryland Celebrates Black History Month

MD Department of Labor Offers Virtual Recruitment Series for Temporarily Dislocated Hospitality Workers

BMA Offers Appointments for Small Groups

Baltimore Hotel Industry Could Take Years to Recover

Local Breweries Release C&O Canal Themed Beers

Visit St. Mary's MD Gears Up to Help Local Businesses Recover

Baltimore-Maryland Group Partners on 2026 FIFA World Cup Initiative

Summer travel reservations already booking up, experts say

***Maryland Minute***

Each week, the *Maryland Minute* provides highlights and insights on this weekend's events around the state. *Maryland Minute* is featured on Entercom 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!](#)

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