



March 28, 2018

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INSIDE INSIGHTS

TFA NEWS IN BRIEF

First Lady Yumi Hogan
Hosts Youth Art Gallery
Reception

Light City Returns to
Baltimore

Recent Film Shot in
Maryland Debuts at South
by Southwest Film Festival

Layton's Chance Donates
Proceeds from Tubman
Wine to Visitors Center

Land Preservation &
Recreation Plan Survey
and Public Input Sessions

Register Now for Rural
Small Business Lending
Workshop

Next OTD Regional
Planning Session is in
Solomons

The *Maryland Tourism
Monitor* is Here

IN THE NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS



First Lady Yumi Hogan Hosts Youth Art Gallery Reception

First Lady Yumi Hogan hosted the annual spring exhibition of artwork by Maryland students in the House of Delegates gallery space in Annapolis. The First Lady's Spring Student Artwork Exhibition reception included Mrs. Hogan's presentation of Governor's citations to four students for visual arts in three grade categories. The students' works will be on display in the House of Delegates gallery through September.

Pictured: (Left to Right) First Lady Yumi Hogan; student poet Sara Miles; Elementary School First Place Winner Lucia Owens of Calvert County; Middle School First Place Winner Noor Chehab of Montgomery County; High School co-First Place Winner Tony Herrera of Wicomico County; High School co-First Place Winner Rebeca Fuquen of Anne Arundel County; and Dr. Karen B. Salmon, State Superintendent of Schools.

Light City Returns to Baltimore

Light City, the nation's only large-scale international light and ideas festival returns to Baltimore. This year, the festival kicks off April 6-8 with "Neighborhood Lights," where 12 neighborhoods, Brooklyn/Curtis Bay, Belair-Edison, Bromo Tower Arts & Entertainment District, Federal Hill, Hamilton-Lauraville, Highlandtown, Hollins Roundhouse/Southwest Baltimore, Locust Point, Patterson Park, Pigtown/Washington Village, Remington, and Waverly, will each host light installations and events of their own. Then, from April 14-21, Light City will feature massive, immersive light installations around the harbor, and free performances by JaneliaSoul, Grandmaster Flash, The Bedlam Brass, G. Love and Special Sauce, and more. The festival also features the Labs@LightCity innovation conference April 18-21. For more information, [go to Lightcity.org](http://go_to_lightcity.org).



Pictured: "Our House" by Tom Dekyvere; Photo courtesy of Crystal Whitman

Recent Film Shot in Maryland Debuts at South by Southwest Film Festival

"All Square," which was filmed in Dundalk, Maryland last summer, premiered at the South by Southwest Film Festival on March 10. Described by *Variety* as "a casually profane and frequently uproarious working-class dramedy," the film went on to win the Narrative Spotlight audience award at the festival. Directed by John Hyams and starring *House of Cards*' Michael Kelly, "All Square" tells the story of a down-on-his-luck bookie who befriends an ex-girlfriend's son and begins taking bets on his Little League games. "It's a nice little slice of life. It's a feel good movie and it's got a lot of laughs," Kelly said in the *Baltimore Sun*. Slated to screen at a few more film festivals, negotiations are underway for general distribution. You can [read the full review in Variety here](#).



Pictured: Michael Kelly; John Hyams, director; Janet Pierson, Festival Director, SXSW

Layton's Chance Donates Proceeds from Tubman Wine to Visitors Center

Maryland Wine Month and Women's History Month came together as Layton's Chance Vineyard & Winery made a donation to the Harriet Tubman Visitor Center in Church Creek. Layton's Chance is located in Vienna along the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Scenic Byway, and after taking part in OTD's Harriet Tubman Certified Host program, made "Freedom," a wine inspired by Harriet Tubman. Layton's has dedicated \$5 from the sale of every bottle to the center. In advance of the center's one-year anniversary, the winery presented a check for more than \$5,000 from wine sales to support the center's education efforts.



Land Preservation & Recreation Plan Survey and Public Input Sessions

As part of the update of the Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan, the Department of Natural Resources and GreenPlay LLC invite you to share your thoughts for improving outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences for residents and visitors across the state. Do you have ideas making public parks and natural areas better, or enhancing outdoor amenities, programs, or services like boating, hunting, camping, or trail sports? Let them know your thoughts by taking [this easy online survey](#) by May 1, and/or [attending an in-person stakeholder workshop](#) with other outdoor enthusiasts. There will be eight sessions, with two sessions held per day on the following dates: March 26 at Fort Frederick State Park; March 27 at the Talbot County Recreation Center; April 18 at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum; and April 19 at Soldiers Delight NEA Auditorium. All are welcome, and RSVPs appreciated. To RSVP, email Adam Bossi, Project Manager, GreenPlay LLC at adamb@greenplayllc.com.



Register Now for Rural Small Business Lending Workshop

You're invited to the Rural Small Business Lending Workshop being held May 10 in Salisbury. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, USDA Rural Development, and the Rural Maryland Council will welcome you, as well as community bankers, community development experts, community development financial institutions (CDFIs), municipal



government representatives, and community and economic development partners, to learn about credit enhancement and direct subordinate loan opportunities to assist businesses and community development projects. This half-day session will focus on the state of rural small business development, highlight the various lending products offered by each participating organization, and discuss how their respective lending products are leveraged to meet evolving small business development needs. There is no fee to attend the event, however advanced registration is required as seating is limited. [Follow this link to register.](#)

Next OTD Regional Planning Session is in Solomons

In order to build and develop programs between state agencies and other partners involved in arts and tourism, OTD is hosting a series of regional planning meetings to convene state, county, and local groups that are using tourism and arts to bring economic vitality to their jurisdictions. Ideas and programs that are generated from these sessions will be included in the Fiscal Year 2019 work plan and marketing efforts.



The meetings are held in each of the state's five regions and include Commerce's regional representatives, agency partners, destination marketing organizations, arts councils, Arts and Entertainment District Managers, Main Street Managers, Scenic Byways Coordinators, Heritage Area Managers, and tourism-and-arts-related businesses.

The Regional meetings are being produced by the Maryland Office of Tourism and its sister agencies sponsored in part by AAA. There is a \$20 registration fee for each workshop, and lunch is provided. All meetings are held from 9:00am – 3:00pm. The next meeting is April 10, 2018 at the Holiday Inn Solomons Conference Center and Marina, 155 Holiday Drive, Solomons MD 20688. Please R.S.V.P. by April 3, 2018 [by clicking here.](#)

Future meetings are:

May 3, 2018 – Central Region, Doubletree by Hilton Columbia 5485 Twin Knolls Road, Columbia, MD 21045. [Please R.S.V.P.](#) by April 17, 2018

May 15, 2018 – Western Region, Rocky Gap 16701 Lakeview Road NE, Flintstone, MD 21530. [Please R.S.V.P.](#) by May 1, 2018

The Maryland Tourism Monitor is Here

The latest *Maryland Tourism Monitor*, with data through January of 2018, shows strong growth in Maryland's social media platforms with a 20.3 percent growth in followers year-over-year, and digital referrals from our website to industry partners has grown 30 percent to 227,740. Welcome center visitation continues to grow as well, with more than a



quarter-million visitors, a rise of 15.5 percent over 2017. These strong numbers correspond with a revenue increase from all tourism tax categories to more than \$277 million, a 2.1 percent rise year-over-year. To see the *Maryland Tourism Monitor* in its entirety, [follow this link](#).

 [Back to Top](#)

IN THE NEWS



NY Times Features Southern Maryland Stuffed Ham



WCSC-TV Previews Ocean City's 45th Annual White Marlin Open



National Geographic Features Maryland's Winter Birding



Travel Channel Face-Off Puts Ocean City MD against Ocean City NJ



Savage River Lodge & Yurts, "A Perfect Destination for Family Vacations," according to *Huffington Post*



What's Up! Magazine Features Annapolis Film Festival



AAA Magazine Names Baltimore One of Seven Awesome Amtrak Day Trips



Maryland Travel Tips

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

Maryland Minute

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

 [Back to Top](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

THROUGH
APRIL

1

Find Easter Events Across the State

Find egg hunts and egg rolls, bunny breakfasts, Peter Cottontail train trips, and more great holiday fun [at the Easter Events page at Visitmaryland.org](#).

APRIL

6-7

Bethesda Film Festival

Enjoy a slate of great local films, filmmaker Q&As and more during this annual favorite. [Get ticket information and more at Visitmaryland.org](#).

APRIL

6-8

Maryland Day Celebrations, Annapolis

Celebrate four centuries of the greatest state in the Union with Maryland Day events in the state capital. Annapolis rolls out the red, gold, black and white for this annual favorite. [Find out more at our website](#).

APRIL

7-8

Eastern Shore Sea Glass & Coastal Arts Festival, St. Michaels

Experience the magic of this amazing folk art form with two days of sea glass events, vendors and more. [Go to our website for details](#).

APRIL

7

Maryland Chicken Wing Festival, Crownsville

You don't have to go to Buffalo to get the best wings anywhere. Just head to Crownsville for the annual Maryland Chicken Wing Festival, featuring great craft brews to cut the spice. [Find out more at Visitmaryland.org](#).

APRIL

9-15

Salisbury Restaurant Week

Foodies delight to special chef's creations, prix fixe menus, and more during Salisbury's amazing annual restaurant week. [Get the details here](#).

[↑ Back to Top](#)



TOURISM, FILM, & THE ARTS