

Maryland's African American Heritage Preservation Program Celebrates 10 Years of Grants!

[The African American Heritage Preservation Program](#) provides \$1,000,000 in grants each year for rehabilitation, new construction, and acquisition. Offered through a partnership between the Maryland Historical Trust and the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, this popular program has assisted over 70 properties state-wide.

Projects have involved African American schools, cemeteries, historic residences, churches, community centers, museums, and fraternal lodges. Two of this year's most unusual projects involve the restoration of a duck-pin bowling alley tucked away in a Baltimore church's basement and repairs to a public pool that was once the only African American swimming pool in Hagerstown.

Kennard African American Cultural Heritage Center Before & After



Kennard High School (Centreville) was originally built for local African American students, but was closed in the 1970s and stood vacant for decades. The Kennard Alumni Association succeeded in their dream of rehabilitating the building for use as an event space and museum of local African American history. The Alumni Association received financial support from many sources, including the African American Heritage Preservation Program and the Maryland Historical Trust Capital Grant Program. The center celebrated its grand opening in 2019.